

## Descent 1011

### Chapter 1011 Stone

The groans resounded throughout the Segmented Cube to Leonel's laughter. He was quite used to his teammates groaning like this, but usually it was thanks to the expert hands of a beautiful masseuse. However, this time, it was for something much less satisfying... And rather than groaning, it could be said that they were screaming.

The Bone Burning Rose was truly working its magic and because Leonel hadn't allowed them to heal even the smallest bit, the results they were gaining were excellent.

As though that wasn't bad enough, Leonel had thrown them all into the Sixth Dimensional Cleansing waters at the same time. And, in a feat of true sadism, the Bone Burning Rose concoction that Leonel had given them had Cleansing Waters as part of the ingredients, making it feel as though their throats, stomachs and intestines were being burned from the inside out.

Not only were the impurities of their bodies being weeded out one after another, but their foundations were being strengthened inch by inch.

If Leonel wanted to help his brothers blaze through the Fourth Dimension, he didn't need to go through all these problems. After all, with the Silver Tablet, he could loosen any bottlenecks they faced.

However, Leonel knew that the Silver Tablet wouldn't be able to help them to the very end. After all, even now, it had its limitations.

For example, the amount of energy it took for Leonel to undo a bottleneck versus someone far less talented were vastly different. The less talented a person was, the more energy it would take. After a certain point, the effort put in wouldn't match up to the rewards gained if things continued like this.

Thus, the best course to take wasn't relying solely on the Silver Tablet, but rather instead combining its use with natural treasures that could keep their foundations firm and steady.

Leonel had learned first hand the benefit of patience and consolidation. After staying in the Third Dimension for so long, his foundation had greatly benefited and his strength displayed that in spades. He wanted the same for his brothers so they would have to experience a bit of pain first.

After checking that their situations were stabilized, Leonel nodded to himself.

Under lesser circumstances, the harsh reality was that his teammates would be in danger of dying. But, with all the equipment of the Segmented Cube, Leonel didn't feel the need to worry about this at all. There were too many fail safes in place.

'It seems like Franco will gain the greatest benefits from this, but that makes sense. His ability is physical and he really pushed himself to the limits. He'll probably be the first to break into the Fifth Dimension...'

Leonel swept one more gaze before walking away and entering a different lab.

The Segmented Cube had so much space now that Leonel hardly knew what to do with it all. The Lab Setting was more like several Lab Settings with technology from civilizations Leonel had never even heard of, let alone would understand how to use.

He decided to keep things simple and stick with what he knew.

Not long later, he found himself standing before the tentacle womb whose wounds were still slowly healing. Leonel had plans but a lot of it would revolve around this tentacle beast, the koi fish and the Segment Cube working in tandem. However, currently, the tentacle womb was the weakest link.

While it seemed like its abilities were astounding, when Leonel really thought about it, it wasn't all that impressive. Considering the resources he would need to pour into it, he might be better off just pouring it all into his Crafts. It was easier to make, say, an automated machine gun.

The worst part about the tentacle womb was that its energy consumption didn't stop at just its creations. After all, what it produced were living, breathing creatures. They would need to be fed and taken care for.

Even though the Segmented Cube had more than enough room to accommodate such things, whether it was worth it was an entirely different question.

Simply put, using the tentacle womb to spam out weak creatures was a waste of time and resources.

Just take the swordfish as an example. Leonel could create a gun and hundreds of bullets in less than an hour that could take out an entire school of them. The best part about this gun with his current skill is that it could be wielded by a human not even in the Fifth Dimension yet.

When things were put into this frame, it could be said that the tentacle womb wasn't as ground breaking as it seemed, nor was its ability particularly unique either.

Just from a cursory thought, Leonel could already think of two people with semi-similar abilities to the tentacle womb. One was Apestus and his swallow ability. He was able to ingest creatures and make their abilities his own if he ate enough of them. A second was Simeon who could genetically modify the ability of both people and creatures.

If Leonel wanted to make this tentacle womb a trump card, it would have to be far stronger than it was now, and such a thing would take time and patience.

However, he had a trump card in this regard: The Silver Tablet.

If there was anything that could help this tentacle womb evolve, it was the Silver Tablet. The key to unlocking this path, though, would most definitely be the golden scaled koi fish.

A far distance away from the pressure cooker Earth was becoming, a murderous aura hung, sinking deep into the walls of the office space.

Rychard sat at his desk, his hands clasped before him and his face expressionless. But, the bulging veins on his forearms painted a completely different picture. It was clear that he was pissed off, and how couldn't he be?

It had been two weeks since he met Aina in that odd state and he had immediately guessed a few things. He had tested his conjectures on multiple occasions and concluded that he was about 90% correct while the remaining 10% were miscellaneous details he would never grasp unless Aina herself told him.

He took advantage of this opportunity to try and court Aina, but despite receiving no resistance from her father or her friends, he was stone walled time and time again...

### Chapter 1012 Competition

Rychard was a man who was very good at controlling his emotions. In fact, his patience had been displayed for a long while now. He had practically taken over what remained of the race to Heirship without lifting a single finger. In fact, now that he had Gradeyr's brother in his possession, it could be said that it was all over now. Gradeyr had been his only real competition and he no longer dared to fight against him.

However, those that saw him as a weak man now simply didn't understand just how infuriating the last two weeks had been. He had never experienced such a continuous and relentless assault on his ego. It was mind numbing.

At first, he had tried to be cautious and beat around the bush with Aina, but then she had caught him completely off guard.

"Are you trying to court me?"

Aina stood in her courtyard, a faint sheen of sweat on her face. She had learned 'modesty' during the past few days and now dressed in a new flexible armor. According to her, modesty was important for a woman, but not to the point where she should hide her beauty completely. Surprisingly, this was a conclusion she had come to without either Savahn or Yuri saying so explicitly.

However, Yuri still felt that she took some responsibility in catalyzing this due to how she had covered Aina's body previously. This experience made her realize that even the smallest push could lead Aina in a particular direction, it made her hesitant as to whether she should take action or not.

Now, she could only watch as Rychard visited daily as though trying to imprint himself onto her mind. Without a choice, Yuri could only drag Aina out of the estate to experience the world. If all she knew was this small corner, her awakened personality would be far too negatively affected, or it might never reawaken at all.

Still, even Yuri almost choked on her drink when she heard Aina's words, let alone Rychard. However, Rychard, who felt he had an 'understanding' of Aina, regained his composure quickly.

Previously, he had put Aina into one of two categories. She was either a block of ice that could be easily convinced to marry him or she was a block of ice that would never marry anyone. Such cold beauties were the kind that were either logical to a fault or stubborn to a fault.

In the time he had known Aina, it had seemed like she was the latter and couldn't be budged from her position. But, now that this change had occurred, and even the fact she was being so straightforward, made it seem like she had now somehow transitioned to becoming the former.

"Indeed." Rychard said confidently. "I am the Heir Apparent of the Viola family and all of this will soon be mine. I would, of course, need a wife of your caliber by my side."

"The Viola family? Isn't that just a Sixth Dimensional family?"

If Rychard was a lesser man, his facial expression would have already warped at these words alone. What the hell did 'just' Sixth Dimensional mean? Did she understand what such a family represented?

What Rychard didn't know was that Aina did and she felt like Rychard had a cap on his potential. Rychard would be shackled by his Sixth Dimensional Lineage Factors, but Leonel had been born with a Seventh Dimensional Lineage Factor. The difference was large.

Luckily, Aina had learned in her lesson on 'modesty' that thinking out loud wasn't a good thing either, so she hadn't said this. But... She also wasn't quite good at filtering what she should and shouldn't say either... Something that would become very apparent to Rychard very soon.

"Yes. My Viola family sits at the very top of Sixth Dimensional families and can be considered to be a hair's breadth away from the Seventh. What we're lacking is a generation of talent that can lead us to leap over this final hurdle. This is a task we can take on together."

"I see, that is a decent argument." Aina nodded. "After all, building something on your own will be more reliable than relying on others especially with how important lineage is. I can be considered single right now, I think... So I can allow you to court me."

Rychard's internal frowned disappeared when he heard this and a light smile spread across his face.

"But, though I'm single right now and he might be very angry with me, according to my calculations, because I held onto this, there is still a chance between us," Aina spoke, looking down at a broken bracelet she couldn't stand to take off of her wrist for some reason. "So, it could be said that you are in competition with my ex boyfriend."

Rychard almost choked on air.

This cold woman had an ex boyfriend? What the hell kind of nonsense was this?

That was when he remembered a conclusion he had made himself long ago... The only way to break into the heart of such a cold woman was by knowing her from a young age. Thinking of this, he relaxed. A childhood friend might have an advantage, but women usually became more realistic as they grew older. With Aina acting like this, it was clear that he wasn't so difficult to erase.

Rychard looked at the bracelet Aina had pointed out. 'A broken Fourth Dimensional treasure? How pathetic. If this is my competition, this will be easy.'

Famous last words like these had never been spoken before.

"If it's a competition, I believe it's proper to let you know what the parameters are, correct? I can only tell you that you are far behind. Even setting aside talent for a moment... There is value in being attracted to your husband as this would represent strong genes for rearing children.

"But... You are shorter than my ex boyfriend by half a foot and are even an inch or two shorter than myself. Your shoulders aren't as broad, your skin isn't as healthy, and your eyes aren't as pretty. Your hands are smaller, your smile isn't as appealing, and judging by the silhouette of your robes pressing against your lower body..."

Aina looked down toward Rychard's crotch and shook her head.

"I believe commenting on that would be inappropriate so I will refrain."

Aina's 'oh so kind' words had nearly turned Rychard blue.

Chapter 1013 Coming

When Rychard had left that day, for the first time in a long time, he almost wanted to destroy everything around him. It had taken all of his self control to leave that place with a calm smile and a nod, maintaining his image as a noble young man. But, being told that he was inadequate in the face of the woman he was courting was enough to make several of his blood vessels pop and snap.

Rychard regretted wearing the latest fashion trends now.

Much like Earth, there was a certain appeal women across the Dimensional Verse got from looking at the silhouette of a man's lower body. For Leonel who liked to wear sweatpants so much, Aina had seen it many times before and had quite liked it even though she never voiced it aloud.

Rychard's robes worked much the same way and were even designed to accentuate that portion of his body both subtly and aesthetically. And yet, without so much as a filter, Aina had pointed it out without reserve or holding back.

No, she had been 'polite' enough not to say it so clearly. He was so 'grateful' for her grace.

'DAMMIT!'

He had almost wanted to say that he was a grower and not a shower, but he knew whatever last bit of face he had left would have been completely destroyed the moment he said anything to that effect. The more he thought about it, the more infuriated he became.

As though that much wasn't bad enough, after displaying her 'grace', Aina had gone on to point out several other things, saying that his jaw wasn't as sharp, that his voice wasn't as deep, she had even said that his butt wasn't as round. Yet, he had had to stand there and take it from start to finish.

It took Rychard several days to calm himself, but he had returned everyday to hear Aina's 'scrutiny', only to come back to his estate more and more dejected. He should have been entering the happiest phase of his life, but instead he was having his ego stamped down one 'polite' insult after another.

He was so caught off guard by these things that he hadn't even registered that Aina said that her ex boyfriend was more talented than he was, too wrapped up in the other more deliberate blows to his ego.

Rychard forgot all the ridiculous tricks he had used to try to get Aina to change her mind, but the ending of each was more painful than the last.

"There's something to be said about just feeling good and doing what's right in the moment, right? I believe that everyone should be free." Rychard spoke with a light smile.

"Feeling good is an easy way to get swept up in indulgence." Aina replied. "Plus, such talk of freedom would only work if I was a man. My reproductive burden is higher than yours and it will also make it more difficult for me to find an appropriate husband should I indulge due to the widely accepted societal norms.

"In addition to this, a woman feeling good isn't necessary for copulation and birthing the next generation, it is only an added bonus and is not as important as other things. It will be the last thing I consider.

"This is a good thing for you, though. It would be impossible for you to make me feel better than him."

Rychard left that day almost coughing up blood.

"What do you like in a man?" Rychard asked.

"I like a man who can take charge and protect me. Unfortunately, you lost points in this aspect by sending me on a dangerous mission you didn't want to do yourself.

"You are too cunning and too scholarly. You have no edge to you and you lack a kingly air. You would rather be on the backline of a battlefield than on the front line and that's not very attractive.

"However, that doesn't mean you don't have redeeming qualities. After all, I love to battle. So, if I have your child, you can stay home to rear and guide them while I fight. I can give you half a mark for that."

He tried everything but nothing seemed to move her in the slightest. In fact, it only buried him into a deeper and deeper hole. By now, it had been half a month of this and it only seemed to get worse everyday. By this point, whatever attraction he had for Aina had whittled down to a pure and condensed rage as though he would sooner stab her through the heart than walk down an aisle with her.

Rychard's hands clasped together hard over his desk as he slowly attempted to regain his bearings. He took deep breaths causing the vibrations of the room to cool down bit by bit.

Right then, there was a knock at the door.

He looked up and unclenched his fingers, patting down whatever wrinkles might have appeared on his robes.

"Come in."

Rychard was expecting a normal servant, but what he actually saw left his pupils constricted into pinholes.

A skinny middle aged man no thicker than a broom's pole entered with light steps. He had a thick mustache on his upper lip and aftershave covering the rest of his face in a thin shadow. His head, though, was completely bald.

Rychard recognized this man immediately and shot up to his feet. He was none other than the current head of the oldest Vassal family their Viola family had and was probably the most trusted aid the of the current family Head: Vassal Obrien.

"Vassal Obrien, please forgive this junior for his rudeness."

Vassal Obrien looked Rychard up and down before chuckling. "No need to be so stiff, young one. I've come with good news."

Rychard's heart sped up. Was it that time already? Would he be officially appointed?

"They're coming."

These words weren't what Rychard wanted to hear the most, but it could be said they were most definitely the second thing he wanted to hear the most.

They had known for a long time that Myghell had purposely held back from entering the Sixth Dimension and that he had a purpose for doing so... It seemed like it was time.

'This is an opportunity, one that no one would want to give up. I'll see how she escapes from my palm now.'

Chapter 1014 Pure Neutral Force

Leonel's palm flipped over, revealing a snowglobe. Within, the half dead body of Monkey, the third Savant, lay. A sort of internal struggle took hold of him, but he eventually shook his head.

'Little Blackstar still hasn't woken up yet... This is a decision I'll be forced to make later.'

Shaking his head, Leonel pushed this thought away. He knew that there would be a lot of tough decisions he had to make on his road into the future and he had to be mentally prepared to make them. For now, though, he still had time to think about this one.

Instead, he focused on the less morally existential issues.

'Energy Purification will make things much easier on me.'

Energy Purification was exactly what it sounded like, it was the process of cleansing Force into a higher form. This pure Force was not only easier to absorb, it was marginally more powerful than Force of normal kind.

To understand how this worked, one needed to understand how Force worked normally.

After a Metamorphosis descended, physics would gain a new law not present within the Third Dimension and those new laws would revolve around Force. This new law was why Leonel had gotten so lost in the weeds when he was comprehending his first offensive technique back in the Joan Zone.

When Leonel learned more about the Dimensional Verse, he eventually allowed these overly complicated and verbose explanations fall into the background. He used his understanding of these intricacies to understand the nuances of techniques, but it was no longer at the forefront of his mind.

What was key to understand was only that in addition to atoms, Force also made up the existence of everything. Everything in existence beyond the Third Dimension had Force attached to it and the characteristics of this Force was what changed the fundamental laws that governed the world.

This truth was why the concentration of Water Force was so great on the ocean and why James was so shocked that Leonel was able to gather up Earth Force so quickly in a region it shouldn't have been so easy.

However, it was exactly this that made most Force impure. The fact Leonel could gather up so much Earth Force in an environment that wasn't conducive to it at all spoke volumes. Often, in nature, it was impossible to find a single pure Force of a singular kind without influence of other Force.

Just taking the ocean as a continued example, were there not countless particulates that made up its being? Setting aside the most obvious in salt, there was oxygen content within water, countless other gases, and that didn't even mention the numerous microscopic organisms.

This was all to say that there was never any true 'Pure' Force and this was exactly why Neutral Force was the most abundant of any kind. This was because Neutral Force represented the amalgamation and balance of countless different Forces into one.

The natural inclination of Force was to amalgamate and enter this balanced form and it took effort, affinity and power to separate this Neutral Force into its individual parts.

And this was where the abilities of the golden scale koi fish truly began to shine. Not only could it separate out Neutral Force into its individual parts, but it was also capable of producing Pure Neutral Force, the pinnacle Force that all Force tended toward.

The individual parts of Neutral Force were easy enough to understand, but Pure Neutral Force was a somewhat novel concept but it didn't take much explanation to grasp either.

While all Force tended toward fusion, there would, of course, be less stable and less perfect fusions. These forms of Neutral Force were everywhere, they had reached a 'good enough' balance, but there



would definitely be clashes within its structure that would lower its power. This imperfect Neutral Force could be akin to regular gas at a gas station while Pure Neutral Force could be akin to premium gas.

The gold koi fish was able to gather up this Force and help it to enter a perfectly balanced state. This was the shocking ability of its Energy Purification.

But why was this useful? What good was this Pure Neutral Force?

The answer to that was simple. Pure Neutral Force went further in the energy it could produce. A single Unit of impure Neutral Force was worth maybe a hundredth of Pure Neutral Force, and that was at the lowest Third Dimension. The higher the Dimension, the wider the gap became because the formation of Pure Neutral Force also became more difficult.

In addition to this, the energy that Invalids released upon their deaths was actually a form of Neutral Force a step above impure Neutral Force but a step below Pure Neutral Force. It had already been seen by Leonel long ago that this Force was able to loosen and undo bottlenecks one might experience in the future... So just how much better would Pure Neutral Force be at this?

In truth, Leonel knew the answer to this because Pure Neutral Force was exactly what the Puppet Master Variant Invalid had released upon its death! Thanks to that single Variant Invalid and single absorption of Pure Neutral Force, Leonel's bottlenecks in his Metal Body had loosened by three or four stages.

By now, the prowess of the little koi fish should be obvious. If Pure Neutral Force was worth so much more, and this little one was actually able to produce Fifth Dimensional Pure Neutral Force, then wouldn't that cut down the amount of Force Leonel needed to awaken his former army?

Rather than allowing the Silver Tablet to absorb the Force directly, why not allow the koi fish to do so instead? Upon creating the Pure Neutral Force, Leonel would allow the Silver Tablet to absorb it and the benefits would be even greater.

On top of this, this was the high level Force that the Silver Tablet needed to awaken Normand's former fiancée, the very young woman whose blood had fed and awakened the Silver Tablet to begin with!

Objectively, when it came to undoing bottlenecks, the Silver Tablet was better than even Pure Neutral Force was. But, if the abilities of the koi fish and the Silver Tablet were synergized, just what kind of impact would that have?

The best part was that this was just the tip of the iceberg.

To now, Leonel had only been following a single train of thought, one that followed the benefits of Pure Neutral Force. However, what he hadn't yet touched upon was the opposite path.

Just what were the benefits of the dissection of Neutral Force to form other Pure Forces?

Chapter 1015 Pure Force

The path of Pure Force was what Leonel might have been the most excited about and it was also the path he believed just might be the way to making this tentacle womb more useful to him.

As one might expect, Pure Force was most definitely linked to Pure Force Crystals. Only with Pure Force could Pure Force Crystals be formed. This was why Leonel had originally thought that the koi fish would be useless to him. Why keep around a creature he would have to feed and raise, not mention worry about its betrayal, if he had a perfectly fine and loyal machine that could do the same exact thing? It didn't make sense.

The koi fish had already exposed itself to have intelligence no less than that of a human. Though it couldn't communicate with Leonel, Leonel didn't believe it didn't have the ability to. If it could put him in an illusion, then it could most definitely convey its thoughts through said illusion.

Without appropriate benefits, Leonel wouldn't keep such a dangerous thing around.

But, Leonel had been wrong.

The Segmented Cube was much like the Silver Tablet. Its ultimate function was better than the koi fish alone, but what it put out was dependent on what went in.

The Silver Tablet could produce an energy that seemed to be even above Pure Neutral Force while the Segmented Cube could produce Force and Pure Force Crystals, however it was still all dependent on what they took in. The Silver Tablet needed to absorb the relative purer Neutral Force of Invalids while the Segmented Cube needed Force dense environments of a certain level or caliber.

Due to this, the koi fish essentially became a branching point that allowed both objects to display their true abilities with far less drawbacks.

This was where the first ability of this path came into play: The koi fish would allow Leonel to form Pure Force Crystals much faster and with much greater ease. It had already been over a month since he learned of the Segmented Cube's ability and had even gone to the energy dense region of Planet Solara, yet he had yet to form even a single one. Clearly, this wasn't as easy as it seemed to be.

With the koi fish, though, so long as Leonel gave it some time, this would be a matter of ease. Very soon, he would gain the Force Crystals he needed. And, once he found the perfect Light Elemental Force to replace his Snow Force, he would then be able to upgrade his Snowy Star Owl Lineage Factor relying on the Force Arts displayed by the Pure Force Crystals.

However, this was just the beginning.

Why were Pure Force Crystals so valuable? It was because they could do the same thing Pure Neutral Force could do in loosening bottlenecks, but it was far more targeted.

When Pure Neutral Force is taken into the body, it cleared away impurities and cleanses one's foundation. This lays stronger ground work to take the next step forward and it works this way for everyone regardless of their affinities.

However, Pure Force in general is usually tied to a particular ability or a particular Lineage Factor. The root of these powers comes from Pure Force. So, when one absorbs Pure Force, rather than increasing one's overall foundation in a general sense, Pure Force targets what it is familiar with and bolsters this instead.

Take Supreme Monet, for example.

She has an Elemental ability and it falls under the Unique Elemental category. It had to be remembered that the three forms of Elemental ability were either unique in that it gave a special ability, neutral in that it gave general control over Elements, or evolutionary in that it allowed onto to improve the Element into higher and higher forms.

Supreme Monet could use her flames to heal herself, not much unlike a phoenix, so she falls under the unique category.

Under normal circumstances, there are only a few ways for Supreme Monet to increase the strength of her ability. She could swallow a Beast Crystal, she could be patient and wait for it to mature through her training, she could increase her Dimension and finally, she could wait for her home world to increase Dimensions as well.

These latter three options all took time and patience while the very first option was a crapshoot. There was a very low probability of a Beast Crystal taking effect and it might cause a varied mutation that wouldn't be exactly what you were looking for.

However, Pure Force Crystals were different. Not only did they take near immediate effect, but there was no unpredictability factor. It would work 100% of the time and it wouldn't mutate your ability, it would only allow it to progress along its designed path.

By now, what Leonel wanted to do was obvious, then.

All he needed to do was understand the underlying Pure Force that governed this tentacle womb's ability. Then, he would use the koi fish to create and feed the tentacle womb these Pure Force Crystals. Over time, the tentacle womb would eventually strengthen to the point investing in its reproduction was worth it for Leonel.

It only took a few questions from the dictionary for Leonel to understand exactly what the tentacle womb needed to evolve.

'Life Force and Blood Force had already been guessed by me, so this much was obvious... I can probably gather up the two Forces just from killing beasts since I'll have to do that anyway. But, this third Force... What is Breaking Force?'

Leonel was intrigued. This simple matter had seemingly become complicated once again. This so-called Breaking Force was something Leonel had never come across before, nor had he expected it to be so fundamental to how the tentacle womb functioned.

'Interesting...'

Leonel suddenly felt he had stepped into a new world. This Breaking Force, the tentacle womb only needed a small portion of it, only a single crystal for every thousand Life and Blood Pure Crystal it consumed, and yet... It was the core part of its ability.

'Is it really above Life Force...?'

Just as Leonel was thinking about this, a wailing siren reached his ears. This was definitely something new as he had no idea what it meant, but he had a good guess.

Was Earth being attacked again?

Chapter 1016 cold

Leonel frowned lightly and turned. With quick steps, he made it to the pool he kept the koi fish in.

Almost immediately, the fish jetted away, trying to get as far from Leonel as possible. However, its efforts were meaningless. It didn't have a strong body to begin with and the only thing it could do with the energy it purified was inhale and exhale it, it didn't seem possible for it to use it personally.

With a wave of his hand, Leonel brought the koi fish out in a globule of Cleansing Waters and faced it.

"You like these waters, right? They're the best waters you've ever swam in?"

Leonel felt a bit ridiculous talking to a fish, but he didn't patronize it nor did he dumb down his tone of voice. Instead, he laced his Dream Force in with his words, conveying in intent with their subtleties. With this koi fish's Force affinity, it should be able to understand Leonel very clearly.

The koi fish released an air bubble that looked a bit adorable in Leonel's direction. But, when the Soul Force waves reached Leonel, his lips twitched.

'This little bastard just spit at me?'

Leonel wasn't sure whether he should be angry or if he should be laughing. It was so abnormal that he really wanted to do both.

Clearly, this not so little fish didn't want to admit how much it enjoyed swimming in cleansing waters. Just from a couple weeks, it felt like it had been reborn, its abilities even worked much faster and better than it ever had in the past.

On top of that, Cleansing Waters was the best medium for Force transfer it had ever come across. Normally, when it was stuck in water, it had to divert a bit of its energy toward creating a cleansing halo around it. This was why when Leonel first met it, it looked like it had a spotlight on it.

However, this took a lot of preparation and slowed down its efficiency in gathering up and converting energy by more than half. The Cleansing Waters fixed all of this with ease. Plus, it wasn't salty like the ocean it hated so much.

It could be said that the koi fish was a clean freak. It had been worried about where Leonel would put it earlier, but it felt at ease now. That said, it would never admit that to Leonel.

The koi fish obviously disliked humans, or else it wouldn't have done what it had done. Though, it could be said that it also disliked Invalids as well for clogging up its waters and always coming after it.

"So you don't want to admit that you like this water, huh?" Leonel smiled lightly. "Okay, I'll put you back in the ocean, then."

The golden scaled koi fish suddenly panicked, wiggling about the waters. It looked quite beautiful, its fins floating about like silk fabrics.

"Oh, so you want to stay, then?"

Another bubble.

Leonel grinned, but it was quite cold, cold to the point the koi fish trembled beside itself.

"Do you know how many people your actions killed? Do you know how many mothers will go without sons now? How many fathers will go without daughters? On my battlefield alone, there were almost 50 000 individuals defending a stretch of a couple dozen kilometers. Now, there's barely 40 000 remaining, and all their deaths are on your head."

The koi fish stood frozen in the globe of water, suddenly feeling suffocated. Fish needed to move to be able to breathe, but no matter how hard the koi fish tried, it couldn't loosen itself from Leonel's death stare.

"Did you think that just because you look beautiful, that just because you seem innocent enough, that I would be fooled? To me, you're a mass murderer that deserves death no less than if it was a human standing before me now. The only reason I haven't killed you is because my partner is in a coma and I can't extract your ability.

"However, I promise you, if you don't cooperate, if you don't make yourself seem useful, if you can't give me a reason not to kill you and put your ability within something else more beneficial to me in a year from now, I'll give you the most horrible death you can imagine.

"Do you understand me?"

Leonel was inwardly furious at the audacity of this koi fish. If it was before he had made his resolve to become a King, he would have long since slaughtered this koi fish and its companion. However, now, he felt like he had to make choices that were a bit beyond the scope of his own moral compass.

Objectively speaking, the koi fish would save more lives under Leonel's control than it had ever taken. This was the cold logic of it all, so it was the choice Leonel had chosen to make this time.

However, Leonel didn't have a beast control ability nor did he have anyone he trusted enough to hand over these responsibilities to. So, if this koi fish didn't cooperate, he wouldn't hesitate to toss it into a snowglobe and kill it once Little Blackstar awoke.

The fear the koi fish was palpable but it still forced itself to nod. Though it couldn't understand the intricacies of Leonel's words, it understood the gist of it enough to understand what would happen to it if it didn't cooperate. Ultimately, it was still willing to do what it had to do to survive.

"Good." Leonel said coldly.

With a motion, Leonel took out a familiar vial. This was none other than the Ocean Drop Vial that Kira had given him. But, it had been modified by Leonel a bit.

Of course, if others knew that Leonel was modifying a Silver Grade treasure as a Bronze Crafter, there would likely be an uproar. But, Leonel himself didn't find it to be that big of a deal.

Leonel hung the Ocean Drop Vial around his neck after siphoning large amounts of Cleansing Waters into it. Then, he transferred the golden scaled koi fish into the necklace vial.

After he did this, he also transferred the Silver Tablet before dropping in the Ores he would use to refine his Metal Body.

"Purify the Essence of these Ores and transfer them to me after you are done."

After issuing this command, Leonel shot off toward where his brothers were resting.

Chapter 1017 "..."

When it came to refining his Metal Body, the koi fish was also a godsend. The Essence of Ores could also be considered a type of Force, a variation on Earth Force. So, it could, of course, be multiplied as well.

This came with many benefits. Leonel would be able to use less Ores to temper his body to the same level, his bottlenecks would also become thinner now that he had less impurities to worry about, it would even be possible to create stronger Ores or start Ore Veins with the koi fish's abilities.

The possible applications for the koi fish seemed endless. It was no surprise it took so many Units to duplicate it.

Not long afterward, Leonel made it to the residential units. He had planned to let everyone choose whatever rooms they wanted. But, since they had been dealing with the pain of the Bone Burning Rose until recently, they had mostly chosen to stay together.

By the end of it, they ended up sprawled all over a patch of greenery and had been asleep for three days already.

Leonel jogged into the garden to find them still lying there. Seeing their ridiculous states, he couldn't help but shake his head and chuckle.

Suddenly, Leonel released a loud clap!

"Wake up!"

"Hey!"

"What the hell!?"

"Cap? Fuck! I was in the middle of at least three beauties!"

"In your dreams."

"It was my dreams!"

Leonel grinned. One after another, strong auras standing firmly within the Fifth Dimension began to blossom forth. It was a fantastic enough sight for Leonel to ignore the terrible smell that was coming from them for just a moment.

Truthfully, Leonel was pleasantly surprised. Though they weren't exactly far from the Fifth Dimension to begin with, Leonel still thought it would have taken at least a month or two.

'It's probably the influence of Earth... Coming from a talented world really has such a large benefit. It's unfortunate, though... I also wanted to get them to practice [Dimensional Cleanse] too, but there's no time right now...'

"Alright, alright." Leonel finally put an end to the commotion. "There's a war about to start soon, you guys need to get ready."

"War?" Raj looked up from his comfortable spot in the grass with confusion. He seemed to have lost at least 50 pounds, but he was still a large mound of fat. It could only be said that he was still enormous. "Why haven't I heard anything?"

Of course they hadn't heard anything, the Segmented Cube was perfect at isolating sound. The only reason why Leonel knew is because his Internal Sight was paying attention to the outside world.

Plus, in the last two weeks he had been doing a lot of stuff on the outside world whether that be preparing his shop or fulfilling his promise to the Dove siblings. So, he had no choice but to pay attention to the outside world anyway.

One might argue that Leonel should be depressed that his store wouldn't be making as much money anymore, but was that even true? Now that there was a war, he could shake his grandfather down for some real funds.

There was no better Force Crafter on Earth right now than himself. If the Ascension Army wanted his help, they would, of course, have to pay.

After a brief explanation, Leonel kicked them all toward getting cleaned up.

Barely ten minutes later, they all stood spirited, their gazes glowing with battle intent. It seemed like they all wanted to take down the world together.

"I don't really know what's going on in the outside world right now, but we'll stick together as an elite squadron. This time, I won't go ahead on my own... Probably." Leonel touched his nose.

"At least tell us you brought back some goodies, Cap." Franco rubbed his hands together.

"I did." Leonel smiled. "For some of you anyway."

Franco's expression sank before he suddenly caught an enormous Beast Crystal Leonel threw at him.

"I happened to find one perfect for you. This one came from a beaver, but its physical strength was ridiculous. It should help to strengthen your muscle fibers to a next level. And for Gil..."

Leonel tossed over a Beast Crystal swirling with crimson lightning.

"I haven't really found anything good enough for the rest of you. But, what I do have are treasures.

"A halberd for Joel, a pair of gloves for Arnold..."

One after another, Leonel handed them perfectly tailored treasures, all of which were Tier 7 Bronze Crafts. They had no idea that Leonel's skill had already reached such a level.

Raj sniffled. "I always knew that Cap was the best. Give me a hug!"

Leonel dodged out of the way of Raj's fat rolls, a clear sign of laughter on his face.

The borders of Earth's Fold of Reality suddenly found themselves surrounded as it slowly stretched to its limits. Having swallowed up several solar systems, what was once 'Earth' had gone from a single planet to countless light years of territory.

After thorough investigation, there was no one who wasn't aware of Earth's greatest weakness: Population.

Having suddenly gained so much territory, it was simply impossible for Earth to defend it all. This was the best chance they would have to claim the talent of a future Eighth Dimensional world for themselves.

Among these individuals, there were many that were more than just a little familiar, many that Leonel had fought not too long ago... Including the Midas and Radix family.

However, if one thought that was the end of it, they would be sorely mistaken. The greed that such soon to be fertile lands represented was simply too much for anyone to give up.

It was amidst this chaos that Elthor sent Leonel a message.

"Imperial Father, the expansion of our Fold of Reality has reached a critical point. If they take advantage of this to send Sixth Dimensional existences in..."

Galaeron finished giving his report to Emperor Fawkes. However, what he hadn't expected was for his father to uncaringly continue meditating after speaking a few careless words.



"They won't." Emperor Fawkes said casually, not opening his eyes.

"... Why?" Galaeron asked.

"Because they're cowards." Emperor Fawkes said lightly.

Galaeron blinked but didn't quite understand how to respond to this.

"... Should we move out the Elite Troops?"

"No." Emperor Fawkes replied.

"But, Imperial Father... They'll be overmatched."

"So what? Just sic my grandsons at them. What the hell did I birth them for if not this?"

Galaeron: "..."

Chapter 1018 Forget

"Leo!"

A beauty jumped into Leonel's arms under the astonished gazes of his teammates. She was gorgeous to an extreme and had a mature charm that women their age hadn't quite refined yet. On top of that, she had a sort of Queenly air most women would never birth.

And yet, the moment she saw Leonel, she sprung into his arms as though she had always meant to be there.

"What the fuck? And to think I actually felt bad for this bastard. Cap's been holding out on us." Gil felt like he had been betrayed.

Leonel laughed and hugged Mordred back. It had been a long time since he had seen her and it seemed that she was living life well. At least, her relationship with her father and mother seemed far better now than it had been in the past.

After Mordred practically squeezed Leonel to death, she pulled back and pinched his cheeks with both hands.

"You brat, you just left us for years and disappeared. Where's Little Aina? I need to see if you've bullied her while she didn't have me to protect her."

Seeing the shift from love affair to brother-sister doting Leonel's brothers practically got whiplash. However, Gil's perverted mind worked very differently.

"So Cap has this kind of submissive little brother fetish, huh? What a scandal."

Leonel touched his nose when he heard Mordred's question before coughing lightly.

"About that... She isn't here right now."

Mordred raised an eyebrow and looked toward Leonel deeply. She had a unique perspective on the relationship between Aina and Leonel because she had been there at its infancy. If she had to be honest, she felt that this sort of crossroads between them was inevitable because their foundation was far too shaky.

Leonel had never been able to address all of Aina's insecurities not because he wasn't good enough, but because there were some forms of confidence that one could only give themselves.

On the other hand, Leonel himself was too good at detaching himself. Though he was good at reading people, he had blinders on when it came to himself and those close to him.

In some ways, Mordred felt that Leonel put these blinders up as a self protective mechanism. He subconsciously knew that it wasn't right to treat his friends and woman like they were numbers on a screen to be dissected. As such, he purposely ignored a lot of things...

In much the same way someone who could read minds wouldn't want those around them aware of such a thing for fear of making them uncomfortable, in a lot of ways Leonel was like this. It was yet another layer to the façade that was him...

However, Mordred wasn't quite certain of who the real Leonel was... Or if it was even a good idea for this version of Leonel to be the one who presented himself to the world... That hidden Leonel... Felt more dangerous than she had ever been and Mordred felt that Aina was the balance to him.

It was such a fragile and immature balance that could collapse at any time.

At least for now, it seemed that Leonel still felt that the relationship was mendable as he hadn't had a fierce reaction to Mordred's words. However, she could also feel that this tipping point wasn't very far away... If something went wrong...

"Alright, in that case, I can let you off the hook a bit. But, only a bit." Mordred replied.

Leonel suddenly grinned. "Really? But I come bearing gifts."

Leonel took out the Beast Crystal he got from the black swan. The moment it appeared, it radiated a powerful aura of darkness that attracted Mordred instantly.

Mordred's eyes twinkled, grasping the Beast Crystal with both hands.

"Not bad, not bad. I guess Big Sis can forgive you." Mordred giggled beside herself.

"Where's my gift?"

The sudden voice came from deep within the Throne room. Leonel had come to Avalon for the sake of taking hold of the vanguard. Since King Arthur was still only a Secretary Marquis, he wasn't able to take command of an army on his own as only Governor Dukes could do so.

Originally, Leonel had thought it would just be him and his brothers, but now it seemed he would have King Arthur at his back.

This would work excellently for them both. Mordred and Arthur both were very competent Generals and wouldn't need Leonel's constant support. This would allow Leonel and his brothers freedom while being able to rely on a backbone. It would definitely be a lethal combination.

At this moment, the group stood within a hallway of Camelot's castle, though it couldn't really be considered a castle any longer and was much more like a modern estate. The whole of Avalon had been modernized and the remnants of royalty had been expunged.

The so-called 'Throne Room' was just no longer this and was just a meeting place they should have been headed to. But, Leonel had gotten distracted reuniting with Mordred and forgotten this.

Unsurprisingly, the voice was from Arthur who accompanied by Guinevere and Lancelot both. In fact, there were other Knights of the Round Table present, but many of them weren't the original members that Leonel had become used to. Obviously, new talents had risen up in the time Leonel had been away.

With the new system of the Ascension Empire, the talents that Camelot had mostly neglected in the past due to their poor backgrounds were rising up one after another. And, as citizens of Earth, they were all extremely talented as well.

Leonel laughed. "I didn't manage to find anything you. But, if you still need help with your streaking problem, I might be able to do something to help."

Arthur, who had come with kind intentions, suddenly faltered.

He had gone through great pains to ignore the fact his bare ass had been bared for all his citizens to see during the war just four years ago, all for Leonel to pick at this scab the moment he appeared.

"... Forget I asked for anything..." Arthur grumbled.

An eruption of laughter followed his words.

#### Chapter 1019 Order

After pleasantries, the group got to business quickly. They were all aware that they were under the command of Leonel, but it was ironically Leonel who knew the least about what was going on right this moment. So, he listened patiently as things were explained to him by Arthur.

A star map was laid out on a large wooden table. It had a faint holographic character to it. Every time Leonel's eyes refocused, he would find a new layer to observe. It was definitely a clever piece of technology that left him a bit intrigued.

"... The situation is getting more complicated with each passing moment but we believe that we have a good grasp on where the borders of our Fold of Reality will stop. It will be defined as such..."

Arthur pressed a finger down and the star map changed. The instant the borders became defined, Leonel's Dreamscape went haywire, his pupils constricting. A bit of his aura leaked, causing the atmosphere to shift.

Arthur looked up from the map toward Leonel, his pupils also constricted. He couldn't fathom just how powerful Leonel had become in just a few years. He felt like a completely different monster.

"Is something wrong, Leonel?" Arthur asked.

Leonel narrowed his eyes and didn't respond immediately. But, he soon calmed and exhaled a breath.

"It's not important for now, you can continue. Sorry about that."

Arthur paused for a moment before nodding. Since Leonel had said so, there was no point in pressing him. Since he would be taking charge of this anyway, Arthur had confidence that Ryu would definitely put them in the best position to win. After all, it was thanks to his contribution that they had dealt with White City alone, something that gave them more than enough leverage to negotiate with the Ascension Empire. Thanks to that, they were able to maintain a semblance of autonomy today.

"... With the borders defined how they are now, as it's been explained to me, it isn't quite necessary to panic despite the large area we now have to cover, mostly because of two matters of importance: habitable worlds and suppression.

"Starting with the latter, it has to be remembered that these are people coming into our world, a Fifth Dimensional Fold of Reality. This makes it near impossible for Sixth Dimensional existences to appear. At the same time, our world has matured.

"Previously, we were attacked the moment we stepped into the Fourth Dimension and had yet to form our teeth. But now that Earth is in the Fifth Dimension and has matured greatly, those who invade our lands will experience proper suppression. It will be more difficult for them to use Force and also more difficult for them to replenish their Force.

"This aside, there is the matter of habitable worlds..."

Even though Earth's Fold of Reality was expanding and the planets within it were gaining massive benefits as a result, that didn't mean those benefits would be immediate, nor did it mean that all of these planets would become habitable.

In just Earth's main solar system alone, only Earth, the Moon and Avalon were habitable. The remainder of the planets either could not sustain proper life and were useless, or could not sustain proper life and were slowly becoming Disaster Worlds.

Of these planet, Venus and Neptune both were becoming Disaster Worlds while the remainder showed no signs of becoming useful. Only Mars seemed to show a small bit of potential in maybe becoming another habitable planet, but that would take several years to come to fruition.

This was all to say that what these Invaders needed was a foothold. Without a foothold, what good was it to claim a piece of Earth's Fold of Reality for themselves? They were all just waiting for the perfect moment, just before Earth's Fold of Reality boundaries solidified, to pierce through.

Luckily, these habitable planets were rare. And, not only were they rare, but there were levels of desirability among them.

For example, take Earth and the Moon. As evolved as the Moon had become, no one would choose the Moon over Earth as a desirable location.

"... We have reason to believe that the first wave will be those with true ambitions toward what is rightfully ours. As such, we've divided the planets into three orders of desirability, Order A, B and C, with C being the least.

"Our Fold of Reality will cover about a hundredth the size of the Milky Way when it is finished. There are about 43 habitable planets in this range. 29 are C-Order. 12 are B-Order and 2 are Order. We've been tasked with defending one of the Order Habitable Planets and also setting up a small scale civilization there.

"This Order Planet has been designated the name EarthX1. For reference, the B-Order Planets will be designated starting with the MoonX1, while the C-Order planets will follow after AvalonX1."

Leonel nodded. He remembered Aina explaining to him how this naming nomenclature worked. 'X' designated that this planet was in the same Dimension as Earth while 1 designated that it was the first world outside of Earth to earn this title. The second Order planet was probably named EarthX2.

Leonel didn't have a problem with this, but the others were shocked.

There were nine Governor Dukes, two Grand Prime Ministers, and yet it was them tasked with guarding EarthX1? Why did this seemed too ridiculous? Shouldn't they be guarding a B-Order planet instead? That seemed to make more sense...

Leonel, however, understood that this was just his grandfather being his grandfather again. In Earth's first defense against the wider Dimensional Verse, how could two Fawkes not take the helm?

"Finally, we have the reports on the potential threats..."

Leonel rose from his seat after Arthur was finished. He stretched slightly, a confident air hanging around him.

"I assume that the teleportation platforms have already been prepared? How many people can move out at once?"

"A single trip can take about a hundred..." Arthur said with a sigh. This really wasn't enough. If they were too slow, by the time they got there, instead of being the defending party they'd be forced into the attacking position.

"I'll stabilize this side then head over first. I should be able to improve on that number." Leonel grinned.

Leonel suddenly felt his hands itching. This war was an opportunity calling out to him. He had a feeling that what he gained from these battles would make or break the next ten years for him.

## Chapter 1020 EarthX1

If EarthX1 were to be described in a single word, it would be: Wet.

It felt like a light drizzle was perpetually falling from the skies and the thick canopy of rain forests were so wide ranging that it felt that every piece of land was covered in lush greenery. During the rare times of the day where this rain would stop, the sky would be filled with a beautiful bluish light violet color that radiated life and vitality.

EarthX1 didn't have any oceans, but what it did have were large networks of rivers that crisscrossed about its surface in raging torrents. It had three main river channels that were easily 50 kilometers wide and had lengths in the thousands of kilometers. All of the river networks found life from these three, filling the planet with a rich vitality.

Due to this ecosystem of rivers, EarthX1 only had freshwater systems. In addition, all of its soil was perfectly irrigated leading to the richness of its vegetation and greenery.

EarthX1 didn't have any polar icecaps because all of its water was quickly flowing from one place to another. As such, even its snowy caps had lush vegetation, albeit covered in thick layers of snow they had adapted to living in.

The planet itself was about 5% larger than Earth and despite lacking oceans, due to the large number of rivers, it was still covered by waters to a mark of about 70%.

These things made EarthX1 a very hotly sought after commodity. Such an environment practically made the entire planet a perfect garden. And, with it entering Earth's Fold of Reality so quickly, it would have many centuries and millennia to take advantage of Earth's talent and birth Force Herbs maybe never before seen in the Dimensional Verse.

It was this world that Leonel found himself and his brothers teleporting to. However, he didn't like what he saw almost immediately.

EarthX1 was such a beautiful world, but the instant they stepped foot onto it they were already destroying it. The teleportation formation alone had cleared out a large ten square meter space and it clearly looked like it was done in a rush or else there would be more destruction.

In fact, the moment Leonel appeared, he caught sight of numerous individuals preparing to clear the forests around them.

"STOP!"

Leonel's voice thundered, catching the workers off guard.

Let alone the workers themselves, even Leonel's teammates were confused. This was basically a necessity. If they didn't clear the forests, how would they build their base? If they weren't quick about building their base, they would go from having some advantage to having no advantage at all in the face of these invaders.

Leonel, however, couldn't bear to see this happen. He wasn't some save the forest activists, but he felt like if it wasn't absolutely necessary, why would they destroy something so beautiful? Plus, just from a cursory sweep of his Internal Sight, he had vastly better ideas than whatever these people were doing.

"Bring whoever is directing you all here for me quickly."

It didn't take long for the workers to recognize Leonel as a Prince and immediately follow his orders. They had all seen Leonel's face in the skies that day and they had all heard Emperor Fawkes act to protect his grandson. If anything, it was almost impossible to find someone who didn't know Leonel on Earth.

After giving these orders, Leonel immediately began to work on improving the teleportation formation. Rather than destroying the ecosystem like the others had, Leonel decided to work upward. Since they had already destroyed this patch of land, there was already no going back. So, Leonel used the materials he had been given to improve the formation and began to communicate with Little Tolly to build upward.

By now, Little Tolly had firmly stepped in the Fifth Dimension which had been the root cause of Leonel's skyrocketing skill. Without Little Tolly holding him back, the Crafts he could make were simply on another level.

In just a few minutes, Leonel had already completed three floors of a simple tower structure. His engineering principles were so sound that his speed didn't seem to impact the structural integrity of the tower in the slightest.

'If I build things this way it'll be slightly inconvenient for large amounts of soldiers to trek outward... Okay, I'll modify it. Every new batch of soldiers will immediately be teleported to the top of the tower then subsequently teleported down one floor at a time... They might get a bit dizzy, but this is the best I can do for now before a real base is built...'

By the time the temporary leader of the operation made it to Leonel, Leonel had already completed a tower with ten floors, increasing the number of individuals who could be teleported over by tenfold.

The temp leader, a middle-aged man sent from the Imperial Capital, stood in shock. He was a quite high ranking government official and was just sent to maintain order here and ensure that Leonel didn't do anything crazy. But, he suddenly realized that he would be nothing more than a figure head here.

He smiled bitterly. '... I'm in over my head...'

Hamon was a man who had held his position before the Metamorphosis but he didn't hold any exceptional talent all to his own. He was basically as normal as they came. Any pride he had in his position immediately deflated when he saw Leonel build a ten-story tower in not even that many minutes.

"Minister Hamon, right?"

Leonel hopped down from the top of the tower, softly landing in the soil as he used his Earth Force to disperse the impact.

Minister Hamon bowed deeply. "Your Highness, that is indeed my name and title."

Leonel nodded with a smile. "No need to be so overly polite. I only called you here so that we could get on the same page. I think it's a bit of a shame to destroy the makeup of this world. I have a few options I think would be better and could help us in the long run."

Minister Hamon looked up with a slightly relieved and partially curious light in his eyes. What did Leonel want to do exactly?