

Descent 1111

Chapter 1111 Three Inches

Leonel's blade flashed, his Bronze Runes blazing to life as a silver armor covered him from head to toe.

The pupils of the three constricted. They could tell that this wasn't an armor Leonel summoned, it was rather one that was perfectly integrated with his body. The first possibility was that he had constructed this armor out of exceptionally rare materials that could be fused with organic material. The second possibility was that this was a second Lineage Factor.

Regardless of which the truth was, the objective reality was one thing: Leonel was powerful. Very powerful.

As though to agree with their speculation, a strong spatial domain suddenly descended. The three youths felt as though it took twice the effort to move the same distance as it had in the past, forcing their expressions into an even more serious state. There was no doubt in their minds that this was an ability of this armor Leonel had just brought out.

"You want to fight now? Fine." Kian's expression settled down, his own Force beginning to roll forward in waves. "You must really think that I'm some sort of pushover."

Kian's palm flipped over, revealing a glaive almost an entire meter taller than himself. Its polearm was a sleek black and its blade was a striking, venomous green. The blade itself was somewhat transparent and even seemed refined of a special sort of glass. However, the instant Kian's Snow Force erupted forth, it lost all its dullness and began to glow to the point its transparency vanished, leaving behind a blade that was not only almost double the size it had been originally, reaching almost three feet in length, but also one that shimmered as though it was made entirely of light.

An uncomfortable feeling began to hang in the air. Leonel didn't need to think very much to know that this stickiness on his skin was a poison warning. However, as though he couldn't sense this strangeness at all, he shot forward, his spear drawing an elegant arc in the air.

Kian sneered, his own blade swinging downward. But his pupils constricted at the result.

Kian had been certain that his weapon would be beyond Leonel's. He currently had a Tier 7 Bronze Grade glaive in his possession and it perfect synergized with his abilities. One would be hard pressed to find a youth with a better weapon than himself.

However, the instant they clashed, Kian realized he couldn't have been more wrong. Leonel's spear was actually of the Quasi Silver Grade!

Kian's approach instantly changed.

With a skill rarely seen, the instant their blades clashed, he pulled back, his stance shifting. His movement was so swift that it made it difficult to tell anything had happened, but Leonel himself felt as though he had just swung into a target made of cotton.

Kian's glaive continued to glide backward, dispersing the strength of Leonel's blow and sweeping it to his back after a sidestep.

His gaze lit with greed, but he reined it under control. Leonel might have wielded a spear, but the mechanics and design of it wasn't far from his own glaive and the length was about the same. He could easily see himself using it. And, even if he decided that it wasn't worth his time, he could easily sell it to afford to upgrade his own weapon.

Since Leonel had chosen to make an enemy out of him, he didn't mind taking him for all the money he was worth.

'He is more skilled than anyone I've battled before...'

This was the thought that Leonel had almost instantaneously. Leonel had never had any formal training in the spear and much of what he knew came from himself and cobbling together the insights of the masters of the Spear Domain. Compared to Kian who had clearly been wielding a glaive since he was a child, there was a bit of a gap...

At least, there was a gap until he activated it.

Leonel didn't hesitate, his forehead beginning to pulse with a golden light. Through the visor and helmet of his armor, the shimmering print of a golden spear made itself known.

In unison, Leonel pressed forward, wild Spear Force suddenly erupting around him. In one moment, Kian was effortlessly gliding Leonel's force to a harmless location. In the next, Leonel's spear had flipped in his hands, a second blade cutting toward Kian's neck with a violent momentum.

Kian's expression changed. 'Impossible!'

Vaan and Ren no longer remained seated, realizing that this would be a problem instantly. Vaan and Ren both flipped their palms to reveal two swords. As though by tacit agreement, they pincerd Leonel in from both sides. If Leonel dared to continue his strike, he would definitely end up fatally wounded.

On one side, Vaan's swordsmanship was like a rocky avalanche, erratic and alternating between soft mudslides and harsh, rolling boulders.

On the other, Ren's swordsmanship was akin to a rippling wave. A single flick of the wrist caused fluid and sudden movements. There was something decidedly beautiful about it all.

The differences were both reflected in the size of their sword. Ren's was barely two fingers wide while Vaan's was easily four. One used a single hand while the other insisted on two.

At that moment, though, the three were suddenly shrouded by an oppressive aura. Fear gripped their hearts and sweat coated their palms, nearly causing their weapons to slip from their hands.

"Duality."

The flickering image of a small man barely three inches tall appeared above Leonel's head. The instant it did, Leonel's Domains seemed to become like unshakeable laws of the world, so ingrained into reality that they became as fundamental as gravity itself.

All the strength that Kian, Vaan and Ren had mustered in that moment was suddenly sapped away, flooding Leonel's own body and filling him with a raging power.

Kian's gaze flickered with despair as Leonel's blade reached his neck, drawing blood.

The crimson droplets sprinkled to the floor, leaving the hotel roof beneath an eerie silence.

[More coming]

Chapter 1112 Excommunication

Leonel's blade just barely nicked Kian's skin, the cold glint in his eyes obvious beneath his visor.

The three youths were shaken. Even though Kian was the only one with a blade to his neck, Vaan and Ren who were practically trapped in space were just as fear filled.

Vaan and Ren had never stopped piercing their swords forward. It was just that so much of their strength has been sapped by Leonel's Duality Domain that what once was twice the effort to move the same distance had become over a dozen times the effort. If one didn't look closely, it would seem as though they had been frozen in time.

The three had been able to pretty much ignore Leonel's spatial Domain by diverting their Force to counter act it. But, when it was paired with this second Domain, it felt as though they were small fish swimming against the ocean's tides.

But this was only the tip of the iceberg.

'He used... He used Natural Spear Force...'

Spear Force. Natural Spear Force. Enlightened Spear Force. These were Leonel's so-called Level One, Level Two and Level Three weapon Forces. He might not know their true names due to purposely keeping himself ignorant, but this didn't mean that the same could be said for others.

The moment Leonel's Natural Spear Force erupted, Vaan and Ren knew that they had still underestimated Leonel.

To put these matters into perspective, even in the top three branch families of the Luxnix, not a single soul of the younger generation had awakened to their Natural weapon Force. In fact, each of them could count on a single hand the number of Sixth Dimensional old monsters who had accomplished this in their families.

However, even with that being the case, none of the three of them could take their eyes off of the three inch being sitting above Leonel's head. They felt as though their souls were being sucked out of their bodies every time they laid eyes on it, their knees threatening to collapse beneath them.

It felt like that small little being was the antithesis of all that was life. It embodied pure death and destruction as though it wouldn't stop until everything was eradicated.

Just looking toward it made them all feel a piercing pain in their heads.

Leonel slowly retracted his spear and pierced one end into the ground.

"I think the result is pretty obvious now and we don't need to continue, correct?" Leonel swept a gaze over the three of them.

Kian, Vaan and Ren all remained silent, their jaws clenched. By now, Vaan and Ren had lowered their swords. They realized that there wasn't much of a point in continuing. Even if this technique took a lot out of Leonel, something that was very clearly not immediately obvious, it was still more than enough time for him to take them out.

Even after several moments of thought, none of them could think of a counter. In all likelihood, even if there was some sort of counter to this, they simply weren't privy to it.

Of course, this 'small figure' was the manifestation of Leonel's <Dragon's Might>. Rather than taking the form of something else, it took the form of himself and gave his King's Might a tangible representation.

In truth, even Leonel hadn't expected his King's Might's artistic conception to be so powerful. But, he was well aware that this was only one part due to his King's Might itself but at least two to three parts due to the artistic conception he had chosen.

Leonel couldn't help but take another subconscious glance toward his right hip. He felt that even now, he hadn't quite understood just what was in his body and what it represented.

Just as Leonel was about to nod and leave, not particularly needing the response of the three of them, a sudden surge of Force caught his attention.

Leonel's brow furrowed as his head snapped in a certain direction. From this vantage point, he could just barely catch a glimpse of a corner of the long pathway leading up to the ten hotels. Near the front, there was a large community square laid of stone. Under normal circumstances, such a location would be used for the in and out traffic of vehicles. But, with this being the private property of the Luxnix, it wasn't truly used in this way.

In that moment, a platform rose up and the large fountain that had taken up the center of the square became a teleportation pad upon which several individuals appeared.

Leonel's gaze immediately narrowed. He couldn't see the others because his own hotel blocked the view of them from this view point, but the one he could see left Leonel feeling a tangible pressure. Leonel had no reference for how powerful those of the main branch were, so he had subconsciously believed that the gap between them and the like of Kian, Vaan and Ren couldn't be too far apart. But, it only took this single experience for him to understand just how wrong he was.

The gap was enormous. In fact, it was akin to night and day. The two groups might as well have been completely alien to one another.

'Is that so...'

Right then, the sound of a sonorous bell resounded. The battle between Leonel's brothers and the people of Earth against those of the 5th, 7th and 8th Branch families came to a halt. Though, unfortunately for the latter group, their sudden stop resulted in many of them getting sucker punched. But, who could blame the youths of Earth? After all, they didn't understand the significance of that sound.

Whatever rage the branch family youths had about this though could only be quickly doused in water.

"This is an edict of the Luxnix. All those with Bloodline Densities of 0.10 and higher are to report here within the next ten minutes. Failure to do so will result in ten lashes and excommunication from the family."

Chapter 1113 Ignorance

Leonel's brow raised when he made eye contact with Noah. There was something particularly shifty about Noah's gaze at the moment as though he wanted to say something or was regretting something, but he also seemed to realize that it was too late to do so.

The both of them had been making their way to the front of the hotel after hearing the announcement when they crossed paths. It was immediately obvious to Leonel that Noah was holding back something.

'It makes sense. Noah probably knows more about the Luxnix than I do, but he isn't a very talkative person to begin with so he probably didn't know how to start the conversation.'

Leonel smiled and shook his head. He couldn't decide whether this cousin of his was a block of wood or an adorable teddy bear. Either way, whatever it was, Leonel didn't think it would change much. The fact that those presents had been left for him gave him a clue to something... At the very least, he didn't think that his life would be in danger.

He would just greet what came with a smile until it warranted a frown. As for what happened from here on out, there was no point in worrying about it as he couldn't change it anyway.

Leonel patted Noah's shoulder. "Don't worry about it."

Noah's brows arched up. For some reason he felt better after Leonel said this. But, he still smiled bitterly on the outside. Leonel could only be so carefree because he didn't have any idea what would likely happen over there.

Noah didn't know the full story of what happened back then and had only ever learned some snippets, but he knew enough to know that this was a sticky situation. But, much like Leonel, after seeing the gifts left on his bed, he had a bit of confidence that at least their lives wouldn't be in danger, that was why he chose to come anyway.

"Hm?"

Noah's gaze turned back to find Kian, Vaan and Ren. It wasn't only him who noticed this, but the youths of the Mueter, Yunia and Cuvan Branches did so as well. Seeing the pale state of their faces, many of them were confused, but Noah gave a deep look toward Leonel who just grinned back.

Noah shook his head and didn't say much of anything. It seemed that Leonel had benefited from those gifts far more than he had.

The group of youths suddenly froze in place, their eyelashes trembling as their breathing became shallow.

The few of them had rounded the final corner to finally lay eyes on the group that had come from the Luxnix. But, the instant they did, it felt as though all the oxygen in the surroundings had been sucked away.

There were only three individuals present.

Each of them wore white leather armor, beautifully tailored and perfectly fitted. It followed the curves of the two women to perfection and outlined the broad shoulder and chest of the man immaculately.

Each had a twelve point star on their lapels and gorgeously embroidered and delicately detailed golden feathers on their tall collars.

This was a uniform recognized throughout the whole of the Sector, a sign of one of the mightiest and strongest fighting forces of the Luxnix... The Feather Sword Warriors.

"Ah, such cool uniforms."

Leonel's words almost made Noah fall over. Whatever heavy momentum the Feather Sword warriors had faltered as they all looked toward who spoke through the silence with incredulous expressions.

The three Feather Sword warriors had no idea how to respond to this. Technically, Leonel had complimented them so there was nothing to fault him for. However, couldn't he read the atmosphere? And wasn't he supposed to be awed into silence? This wasn't part of the script at all.

The male Feather Sword warrior cleared his throat as the two women covered their lips.

"Line up." He said coldly.

The branch family youths didn't dare to be as nonchalant as Leonel. In the end, they all formed a line facing the three Feather Sword warriors. Though there were thousands in the hotels, most of them were subordinates that didn't meet the 0.10 threshold and relied on the geniuses of their branches for a spot. So, in the end, there were only just over 20 who appeared.

In the distance, many peeked in on what was happening, but the Feather Sword warriors didn't seem to care as the male began to speak.

"Today, I will be taking you to the Luxnix family estate."

The moment he said these words, a sudden bubbling of excitement took hold. But, when he raised his hand to stop it, silence fell once more just as quickly.

"My task today isn't just to escort you, but it's to also act as a reminder.

"In one month's time, the recruitment of the Void Palace will begin."

The excited murmurings returned, but this time they hushed on their own. Many gripped their fists, their eyes lighting up with their hopes and dreams.

"You all seem very excited by this prospect, but it's clear that this is only because you have no idea what sort of weight the Void Palace name has. There is nothing to be excited about. The Void Palace is a place where those far more talented, far stronger, and far more valiant than you all go to die."

The heaviness of the atmosphere amplified, many beginning to choke on their own attempted air intake.

"The Void Palace is the line of defense that protects the Human Domain from those who seek to cause us harm. Being chosen by them means a lifetime of glory, but it also represents a lifetime of responsibility.

"Today, the Luxnix family will give you a chance to prove yourself and gain their nurturing for the coming month, but what you receive will still depend on your ability. Your Bloodline gets you this far, and the rest will be up to you.

"Step forward."

The group of youths did as they were told and the teleportation platform began to flicker.

When the lights faded, they too had vanished.

Chapter 1114 Golden Gates

When Leonel's vision cleared, he was greeted by grand golden gates. Unlike the day when the envoys of the Void Palace arrived, they were firmly shut this time around.

Familiar motes of light still hung about the skies, illuminating even the day with both a delicate light and a refreshing fragrance. Standing here made even mundane air taste better than usual, the intoxicating feeling filling your lungs to the brink.

Leonel's hands slipped into his pockets, his expression hard to read. It was already normally difficult to tell what was going through his head, but at the moment it seemed to be even more so than usual.

The three Feather Sword warriors stood at the helm waiting beneath the tall gates. The guards on either side of the it stood at attention, their faces obscured by their golden armor and their bodies as rigid as statues.

Leonel found this situation to be a bit odd. Since the Luxnix should have known they were coming why was it that the gates were closed?

Leonel swept another glance over the surroundings, leisurely taking it all in before his gaze once more landed on the Feather Sword warriors. They still stood beneath the gates without movement but they seemed to be silently communicating with one another. It didn't take a genius to guess that they were 'confused' about what was going on as well.

"This policy seemed to have changed." The male Feather Sword warrior spoke. "Ever since that attack security has been a bit tighter."

"You know that it's not that simple. It was Lady Fluttering Star Order who commanded us to do this."

The three fell into silence after they heard these words.

Fluttering Star Order was part of the Wisdom Arm of the main family, but her identity was a bit more sensitive than this. She had also been experiencing the suppression of her other family members for a long while now and it only seemed to have increased after the envoys of the Void Palace returned.

The three Feather Sword warriors had expected to face some resistance, but they weren't in position to ignore the orders of a Star Order Elder, especially since they were only Zero Point Feather Sword

warriors, they didn't have as much leeway as their Four, Eight and Twelve Point superiors. To many, they were only considered to be trainees.

Knowing the sensitivity of the issue, though they could do so, the three Feather Star warriors didn't dare to command the guards to open the gates.

Though their status was low, that was only relative to the true big shots. Anyone who could become a Feather Star warrior was an elite among the main family's geniuses. Mere Gate Guards couldn't ignore their orders at all.

However, whether one could do versus whether one should do something were two completely different matters entirely. To reach their position, these three didn't only have to have combat talent, but they were also very intelligent. They knew how to toe the political line.

Fluttering Star Order had informed them to bring the Branch family members to the estate, and they had done so. They had even gone out of their way to speak flowery words and made these kids feel like they truly had a chance to snatch greatness. They had done enough.

If the gates were shut here, Fluttering Star Order couldn't blame them.

Leonel continued to silently observe this awkward atmosphere as the minutes began to tick by. However, on the inside, his displeasure was already growing.

He could make a guess at what was going on. Clearly not everyone in the Luxnix family were willing to welcome them with open arms and these Feather Sword warriors were caught in the middle of this strife. However, this didn't stop Leonel from disliking the situation in the slightest.

"Yip!"

Little Blackstar, who had found his way back to Leonel's head, patted his forehead with a small paw. At least the little guy had a conscience, Leonel had almost assumed that he would choose letting those girls play with him over following him.

The little mink actually seemed to be warning Leonel about his temper, something that made Leonel himself chuckle lightly. Which of them was the older one now? You would think that Little Blackstar would have come back more bestial after absorbing all that Void Beast blood, but he was actually like this now.

'Alright, alright, I know. They're a big Sixth Dimensional family, I won't cause trouble.'

Little Blackstar's paw patting Leonel's forehead again, but the look in the little guy's eye made it obvious that he didn't believe Leonel's words even for one moment.

Leonel smiled and shook his head. 'Maybe I should just leave. How long do they expect to have me wait at this gate?'

Leonel hadn't come for the Luxnix to begin with. He had only come here because his grandfather had told him his mother was waiting for him, it was only after coming to this place that he learned about all of this Void Palace nonsense and realized that this situation might be more complex than he thought.

Unfortunately, his mother was nowhere to be seen and he had no idea how to find her. In fact, it even seemed from those gifts that she didn't want to be found for whatever reason.

In that case, why was he wasting his time here, then?

Having lost his patience, Leonel looked over to Noah. He planned on explaining his thoughts and then Noah could decide for himself whether to stay or not. However, just when he was going to do so, something caught his attention.

On the road on the opposite side of the closed golden gates, a white robed old woman was walking her way forward. Though her gait seemed slow, her every step took her tens of meters. In just a few blinks, she had made it to the gate with a light smile on her face.

"Open the gates." She spoke lightly, her tone leaving no room for negotiation.

"Yes!"

The Gate Guards didn't dare to hesitate. This was a Star Order Elder before them, the now infamous Fluttering Star Order!

[More coming :) 08/04/22]

Chapter 1115 Tour Guide

Fluttering Star Order waited patiently as the large Golden Gates opened. Despite their size, the maintenance performed on them was impeccable. They swung open without the slightest noise. Even the wind itself seemed to still as they moved.

The instant the Gates opened, the three Feather Sword warriors dropped to a single knee.

"We greet—!"

Fluttering Star Order waved a hand and the Feather Sword warriors shot to their feet before they could realize what was happening.

"There's no need for so much formality. I'll have to thank you three for bringing over these children to me, I appreciate it."

The Feather Sword warriors opened their mouths to say something, but in the end they closed them once more and sighed. The fact that Fluttering Star Order didn't allow them to pay respects to her seemed like an act of humility on the surface, but in practice it was her drawing a clean line between the two of them.

On the one hand, this would protect them from the rage of the other Star Order elders. However, it would also mean that whatever relationship they had had with Fluttering Star Order would end from this day forth.

The Feather Sword warriors couldn't help but feel complicated at this point. Fluttering Star Order had always been kind to them, but now that she was in need, they had essentially turned their back on her. However, what else could they do? They were just small rowing boats amidst a storm of black waters.

Even if they braced themselves for the storm and helped Fluttering Star Order out to the best of their abilities, they would only sink along with her.

It was better to have no backing at all than backing that would guarantee your death.

Bowing apologetically once more, the three rushed into the estate, quickly vanishing. All the while, Fluttering Star Order hadn't spared them another glance. With a kind smile, her focus had been turned to the branch family youths.

Leonel's gaze narrowed somewhat. He could sense the tension and could feel that this interaction entailed more than their simple words and actions would make it seem.

'It's clear that their actions made this elder somewhat unhappy. For them to dare to do such a thing, it seems that the situation of the elder isn't very good. That doesn't bode well for the rest of us, it seems.'

"Hello, I am Fluttering Star Order, you may call me Elder Fluttering for short. I've heard that the branch families have produced quite some talents in these recent years, it seems that this wasn't incorrect."

Fluttering Star Order swept a gaze over them all, but her words felt a bit empty. It was unlikely that an elder of her status would know much about them. Usually, the branch families would be lucky if even a Feather Sword warrior came to visit their families, let alone a Star Order Elder.

When the Feather Sword warriors had come to pick them up, it had already been greatly surprising to a few. But, the sharpest among them could tell that this wasn't exactly something they could be happy about right now. In all likelihood, they had just unwittingly become chess pieces in a game of political struggle.

And, to make matters worse, since this Elder Fluttering had to stoop so low as to use them of all people, it was clear that her back was against the wall and she didn't have many other options.

Unfortunately, they had even less options than the Feather Sword warriors did. Even if some of them knew, they could only allow themselves to be used.

Leonel suddenly felt the distinct lack of Riah. He wondered if she knew that this storm was coming and chose not to participate on purpose. But, this was fine too. Unlike the others, he and Noah weren't very afraid of what might happen. In that case, they might as well go with the flow.

Fluttering Star Orders expression didn't change from her cheery smile.

"Good, good. Come with me."

Fluttering Star Order turned and walked into the estate. Without a choice, the youths could only follow to her back, many of them wearing heavy expressions. However, Leonel's smile had returned as he strolled forward.

'This will be interesting...'

"The Luxnix family Estate is quite large and covers about a hundred thousand kilometers squared. You can find everything you could ever want or need here without much issue, but there are also many restricted areas you have to be mindful of. Rather than listing them out, though, it will be much easier if I point out to you all the areas you can enter..."

Like this, a mighty Star Order elder suddenly became the tour guide of 20 odd youths, walking through the family estate while attracting the weird glances and looks of several passersby. Luckily, none of them dared to question the actions of a Star Order Elder. As such, the group travelled deeper and deeper into the Luxnix family estate, eventually reaching a particular section of guest rooms Elder Fluttering had likely prepped for them.

However... There was only so long a cover of paper could hide a smoldering fire.

"Fluttering Star Order! You've grown bold!"

The voice was a cross of shrill, crass and hoarse. If Leonel didn't know better, he would have thought that this old woman's vocal cords was forged of a fork and a steel plate. If it wasn't for Leonel's mental fortitude, his spine would have shivered beside itself.

The old woman wore a white robe not much unlike Fluttering Star Order and she had the lingering marks of a beauty in her old age as well, something both shared. However, this woman's face was far more twisted and there was the mark of a flickering flame on her forehead.

Had Leonel been there the day the Void Palace envoys arrived, he would have recognized this woman as Sparking Star Order. It seemed that the Star Order Elders were still at a head.

Even now, the matter only seemed to have grown worse.

Chapter 1116 What Do You Have?

The furious aura swept out like a torrent. In that instant, several of the branch family youths shivered and fell, their faces paling with fear. How could they possibly match up to the momentum of a Sixth Dimensional expert? Even someone who had just stepped into the Sixth Dimension would be enough to shake them to their core, let alone Sparking Star Order who was just a few steps from the Seventh Dimension.

Fluttering Star Order frowned, releasing her own momentum to counter Elder Sparking.

One side was like a raging wild fire and the other was a delicate breeze. They met in the middle and clashed, shooting up and dispersing into the air.

However, the result was enough to sent hurricane force winds spiraling into the surroundings. The leaves of several tall trees and the well kempt grass pastures fluttered wildly, much of the greenery nearly being ripped from their branches to fall to their deaths.

Fluttering Star Order turned back first to see if the youths were alright. She hadn't thought that Sparking Star Order would be shameless enough to directly target them from the very beginning, so her guard hadn't quite been up. She had been ready for a war of words, but it seemed that she had underestimated the vicious nature of her opponent.

Several of the youths lay on the ground coughing up blood. But, Fluttering Star Order's pupils constricted when she realized that there were two youths who were standing amidst the wild winds as though nothing had happened. Toward this result, even Sparking Star Order frowned lightly, not having expected this either.

Of course, these Star Order Elders didn't know that Noah and Leonel were fairly immune to such coercive attacks, at least within a certain threshold. Now that Leonel had a better understanding of Emperor's and King's Might, he too understood this as well.

Because of this Lineage Factor, their focused states had always innately placed pressure on others and it also gave them a boost to their mental defenses. The Lineage Factor born of Earth's Fawkes family was clearly not simple.

"You have a lot of nerve targeting my guests like this, Sparking Star Order."

Fluttering Star Order quickly regained her bearings, her gaze sharpening. Her expression wasn't as ferocious as Sparking Star Order's had been, but the solemnity in her tone was more than enough to bring her point across.

Elder Sparking snapped out of her stupor, her shock settling into a sneer.

"Your guests? Do you take me for a fool? You're wasting valuable family resources on trash."

"Valuable resources? Never mind the fact that I have yet to give them anything, how valuable are treasures of the Fifth Dimension? You really have the face to say you worry about the scarcity of something the family has so much of?"

Sparking Star Order's expression darkened. In the past, Fluttering Star Order had never been so combative.

When the envoys arrives, Sparking Star Order and the others realized that Elder Fluttering's words were a bit more biting than they usually were as well. They had already decided that after the selection of the Void Palace was over, that they would find a method to expel her from the Star Order. However, it seemed that what they had forgotten to consider was the fact that maybe Fluttering Star Order was being so abrasive precisely because she was prepared to counter attack in the first place.

It was only after seeing how sharp Fluttering Star Order's reply was that this finally sunk in for Sparking Star Order. But... What gave Fluttering Star Order so much confidence? She was facing up against almost the whole of the Star Order Council. Even if the neutral parties were ignored, that still left about 60% of the council while Fluttering Star Order was practically all alone.

Sparking Star Order's gaze narrowed further. She wasn't a fool, nor did she believe that Fluttering Star Order was a fool either.

Right at that moment, the door to the building behind Sparking Star Order opened to reveal the head of a beautiful young woman with a strong jaw. Her red-gold hair was especially striking beneath the shimmering sunlight as her eyes blinked innocently.

Sparking Star Order looked back for a moment, the gears of her mind churning.

'Riah?' Leonel's brows arched, his own expression remaining placid, but the smile on his face curling all the more. He suddenly felt like this matter was only getting more interesting.

"What are you doing, Riah? Properly greet your elders."

"Ah, yes, right, grandmother!" Riah pretended to have forgotten basic etiquette as she scrambled to Sparking Star Order's front, bowing respectfully. "Greetings, Elder Sparking."

Sparking Star Order snorted, hardly acknowledging the greeting as her gaze shifted back to Fluttering Star Order.

"You believe that you can turn the tables by relying on the Void Palace? You are truly too naïve. Do you think that just anyone can gain a place?"

"Oh?" Fluttering Star Order chuckled. "Now you want to give the Void Palace its due respect?"

Just a few weeks ago, it was this very Elder Sparking who had raged about the Void Palace sending two Galaxy Ranked students to them. Now she wanted to paint a grandiose picture of the Void Palace? How two-faced.

Sparking Star Order didn't react much to this taunt. Much of her over the top temper was nothing more than a façade. The reality was that she was very good at controlling her emotions, it was just that sometimes the impact of a Karen was far better than a docile elder. This image also allowed her to step outside the bounds of the rules from time to time to get things done her way faster. After all, an emotional elder, especially an elder woman, gained a lot of leeway from many people by default. How could she not take advantage?

"Regardless of how I feel about the Void Palace, the fact you want to rely on branch family trash to dig yourself out of a hole of your own creation speaks for itself."

Fluttering Star Order inwardly sneered. Obviously these branch family members are just a cover so that she could rightfully bring her granddaughter in to enjoy the resources of the Luxnix. Sparking Star Order definitely knew this as well, but that wouldn't stop her from taking multiple digs.

"In addition..." Sparking Star Order continued unperturbed. "... What use is it? Will any of them rank higher than Myghell? By that point, won't all these petty games you're playing be meaningless?"

This time, Fluttering Star Order couldn't hold back her smile in the slightest.

"Myghell? What does he have to do with you? In fact, if I recall correctly, Myghell no longer has any close blood related relatives remaining. What right do you have to claim any piece of his success?"

"However..."

Fluttering Star Order's voice suddenly became so low that only someone as powerful as Sparking Star Order could possibly pick up on it.

"... I have an outstanding granddaughter and my grandson not only has 0.50 Blood Density while in the Fifth Dimension, but he is also the head of the Wisdom Arm's younger generation.

"What do you have?"

Sparking Star Order's body went rigid before she saw red. Her lack of descendants was her biggest reverse scale. Feeling it being pierced through with such venom filled her with such rage that she was about to erupt.

Chapter 1117 Not So Subtle Warning

[Author's Note: Fluttering Star Order is NOT Leonel's grandmother. She is simply someone who sided with Leonel's grandmother at the time and received backlash for it. Now, she's trying to carve out a path for herself]

Fluttering Star Order no longer held back with her words. She knew well what kind of scar this was for Sparking Star Order, especially considering how she had lost her descendants to begin with, but Fluttering Star Order no longer cared about these matters of decorum. Considering how far these matters had gone, even if she wouldn't lay all her cards face up just yet, she wasn't far from doing so either.

Sparking Star Order's rage suddenly became a dark laughter. The smoldering heat of her fury simmered almost tangibly.

For a moment, she truly almost lost control of herself. After she began to use this façade of a short tempered woman, it had ironically been a very long time since anyone had blatantly provoked her in this way, so she was unused to it. It seemed that her acting skills had gotten just a bit too good.

"Good, good." Sparking Star Order nodded. "I'll take your words under advisement."

Sparking Star Order lightly tapped her bulbous walking stick, her body vanishing in a flutter of butterflies formed of flames. Before they knew it, she was gone.

Riah, who had just been politely bowing to Sparking Star Order straightened out her body and looked toward her grandmother. She never knew that her grandmother had such a sharp mouth, but this only made her feel even more guilty than usual. For a usually mild tempered woman like her grandmother to act like this now, it could be imagined how much hardship she had experienced in these past several years.

Riah gripped her fists tightly. She had to claim a spot in the Void Palace for her grandmother, only in that way could she wash away the years of humiliation she had suffered.

Fluttering Star Order patted her granddaughter's head with a doting expression before turning back to the rest.

"For the next month, you all can stay here. As I've said before, there are many areas you cannot cross into. If you die at the hands of someone you offend, there will be nothing I can do for you.

"For the duration of these matters, you'll be under the leadership of my granddaughter." Her expression turned far more serious as she continued. "So long as you can follow instruction and work hard, there will be benefits. If not..."

Fluttering Star Order didn't finish her words, but the branch family youths, many of whom were still on the ground wheezing from the earlier confrontation, felt that this woman might very well be far less amiable and caring than they had originally thought.

Riah swept a gaze over the youths and shook her head. It landed on Leonel and Noah before her brows scrunched up.

She remembered Leonel and Noah, and even remembered how they had met. But, for some reason, she felt fuzzy on some things. She shook her head and everything seemed to go back to normal.

'They performed better than the others. I think their Bloodline Density was above 0.20? That must be why I have a good impression of them.' Riah thought to herself before sighing once again. 'Grandmother might be being a bit too harsh with this approach...'

Riah shook her head once more and threw such thoughts away.

"I'll leave these matters to you, Little Riah."

With that, Fluttering Star Order vanished as well, a gentle brush of wind being left in her wake.

Leonel stared at where the elder had disappeared, his expression fused with a mixture of amusement and coldness. He didn't need to understand the full story to know that even if Fluttering Star Order wasn't so bold as to call them trash like Sparking Star Order had, she didn't think of them very much differently at all.

There was no doubt in Leonel's mind that their role here was likely to act as canon fodder for Fluttering Star Order's granddaughter and her grandson as well. As for what they were needed as fodder for, it was likely to be the Void Palace's selection.

Leonel wasn't entirely sure how it worked, so he could only guess this to be the case. But, he didn't believe that he was very far off either.

'So this is the Luxnix family, huh?'

Leonel's expression gradually lost much of its amusement to be left with nothing but indifference.

Now that things had come this far, Leonel knew he couldn't leave. Never mind whether or not Fluttering Star Order would allow that, but considering how frequently that woman had mentioned how they weren't allowed to roam about the estate randomly, even mentioning how they might be killed, it was clear that this was a not so silent hint at just how caged they were.

Fluttering Star Order's stance couldn't have been more obvious. She hadn't gotten their names, didn't ask about their abilities, and she hadn't even double checked if they really had 0.10 Bloodline Density or not. It was as though it simply didn't matter to her.

Leonel crossed his arm over his chest, entering a state of absolute calm.

"Ah!" Riah suddenly snapped out of her own thoughts. "Right, I will see if I can call someone over from the Healing Arm to help you all out. I will be right back."

"In the meantime, feel free to choose your rooms if you can move. The door that's closed and locked is mine, but you can choose from any of the other ones."

Riah rushed away after saying these words. Clearly, the previous restrictions Fluttering Star Order had mentioned didn't apply to her in the slightest. But, this much was to be expected. After all, if the grand child of a Star Order elder couldn't move around freely, then who could?

Of course, Leonel had no idea just how ironic this thought of his was.

Without moving, Leonel turned his gaze over to Noah. The both of them made eye contact and the displeasure hidden deep within their irises didn't escape the other.

"I feel like you had something to tell me before, right?" Leonel asked.

Chapter 1118 Slow and Deliberate

Leonel and Noah entered the building.

It was quite the luxurious place, even several levels above the hotel the two had just been in. Leonel could feel that there was a Force gathering Force Art embedded into the building itself, making him feel as though he gain twice the results with half the effort in this place.

The pair eventually realized that the so-called 'locked door' Riah referred to was the entire top floor. It would have been a bit naïve of them to believe after what happened before that their accommodations would be exactly the same, but after seeing the truth of it all, they couldn't help but laugh coldly.

The two ended up in the dining room. There wasn't a large spread of food, but there were some small servings of fruit and snacks. Leonel had never gotten the chance to finish eating, so he just took what he could get.

Noah sat across from him, seemingly hesitating on how to start. But in the end, he just shook his head.

"I don't know the full details of the story. All I know is what I've managed to pick up from the conversations of Imperial Grandfather and father. They also don't seem to like to talk about it often. Or, more accurately, Imperial Grandfather can't be bothered. Whenever Imperial Grandfather is finished with a topic, it's too difficult to get him to open back up again.

"To start... The relationship between Imperial Grandfather and Grandmother is quite estranged. Though Imperial Grandfather has never said that they are divorced, it's functionally no different. I have never met Imperial Grandmother, but from my understanding, she is likely somewhere in the Luxnix Estate, secluded from others. I'm not sure if she would even be aware of our arrival or not.

"As for what separated our Imperial Grandparents, I wasn't sure at first, but the matter is likely related to you.

"Some time in the past, not long after you were born, you were entrusted to Imperial Grandmother. Your birth was very hard on Imperial Aunt from my understanding and she very nearly died. This caught many off guard because it wasn't something even the Healing Arm of the Luxnix predicted.

"Mothers sometimes face trouble during childbirth when the father comes from a far higher Dimensional world, but it was thought that Imperial Aunt wouldn't have this issue due to her talent. Not only was Imperial Aunt already at the Sixth Dimension at the time, but she was also the wielder of Earth's World Spirit, the amount of life energy and vitality she had should have dwarfed most women even of Seventh Dimensional worlds.

"Regardless of what reasons there might have been, Imperial Aunt's condition was a matter of life and death after your birth. Imperial Grandfather couldn't do anything from Earth and Imperial Aunt had wanted to give birth by Imperial Grandmother's side, so she chose to do so in the Luxnix estate. The

result was Imperial Aunt's life hanging by a thread and your father having no choice but to take her away.

"I have no idea where your father took Imperial Aunt to be treated, but I do know that she came back healthy and feeling better than she ever had. The trouble, though, came in what happened while they were gone.

"Though I'm not certain of where your father took Imperial Aunt, it must have been either a very dangerous location or at least one greatly inconvenient to take a child. As a result, you were left with Imperial Grandmother.

"This is the point in the story where I have the largest gaps, I only have certain speculations.

"Something was done to you in the absence of your father and Imperial Aunt. Imperial Grandmother likely trusted the wrong people.

"Back then, Imperial Grandmother's status in the Luxnix family was very high, maybe only short of one or two people, if that. Due to that, she carried the weight of many duties. Your father and Imperial Aunt were gone for far longer than anyone expected, as such things reached a point where there were certain duties that Imperial Grandmother couldn't continue to put off.

"As such, you were put into the care of people Imperial Grandmother thought she could trust and the result was something being taken from you. As for what that something was, I also have no idea."

Noah gazed into Leonel's eyes, but all he saw was a vast abyss looking back at him. From the start of the story to this point, Leonel hadn't spoken a single word, nor did he interrupt or show any sort of reaction.

However, Noah could feel it. That abyss in his eyes only seemed to be getting deeper. The fact Leonel had long since stopped eating spoke volumes.

"This middle portion of the story is too muddled for me to give you any great details. What I do know is that whatever was taken from you also placed you on the brink of life and death. You had gone from a very healthy baby boy, likely a size too big for a child your age, to practically a shriveled up corpse. Had Imperial Grandmother not found you in time, it was very likely that you would have died.

"I'm not sure where in this timeline your father and Imperial Aunt came back, but it was decided that the only way to save you was to bring you back to Earth. As for why that is, I'm not sure either.

"Unfortunately, Imperial Aunt had already become a student of the Void Palace. Under normal circumstances, she should have been executed for getting pregnant while having this duty in the first place. But, the Void Palace, for whatever reason, looked the other way. Having already bent their rules once, they couldn't allow Imperial Aunt to bend them again to remain by your side, so she was forced to return."

Leonel's expression didn't fluctuate in the slightest, however his mind was a different story.

When he first awakened his Dream Force, all of his memories had returned like a flood. And yet, he had only remembered his mother's face, but he didn't remember his grandfather or grandmother. Why was that?

"You actually brought us here to tend to branch family trash?! Do you think my time is so worthless?!"

A sudden sharp voice carried in from the outside to reach the ears of the pair of cousins.

Leonel gently placed a half eaten fruit down on the plate before him and walked out with slow and deliberate steps.

Chapter 1119 Plume of Soil

Noah raised a hand to say something but in the end he just sighed.

'Forget it. Imperial Aunt is probably somewhere, right? If not, Imperial Grandmother definitely is. Maybe if he makes a large enough commotion it'll alert her before we die.'

Noah rose up and followed after Leonel.

...

Leonel stepped out the building to find a fuming Riah and a group of three youths, each of whom wore expressions that were a cross of unhappy and sneering. Riah's height was shorter than theirs and it really seemed as though they were towering over her.

Leonel swept a glance over the situation before stepping past them toward the branch family youths. Before, after hearing that Riah was going to get help, Leonel had decided to leave them be. After all, he was in an odd situation and wasn't exactly sure whether he should be showing off his talents or not. The attitude of Fluttering Star Order was difficult to read. However, Leonel couldn't be bothered to care right now.

"Why can't you just do as I've asked?! They might be branch talents, but they still have Luxnix Blood. What would outsiders think if you just let them die?!"

"They still have Luxnix Blood? Don't make me laugh. How could 0.10 density garbage possibly be considered to have Luxnix Blood? I could piss out a stream with higher density than that."

Riah was immediately furious. He knew that if it was another Tier 8 talent on her level, or even if it was her cousin, they wouldn't dare to say these things. Even if her cousin asked them to treat a homeless man by the roadside they would do so without hesitation. It was only because she was she that things had devolved to this level.

They still had to give her respect due to who her grandmother was, but they didn't have to go overboard and bend their backs over either. The fact they had come here was enough and no one could criticize their action already. In fact, even if they had rejected her, nothing would happen.

Seeing the silence of Riah, the leading youth, a young man by the name of Alfin, sneered. However, his expression faltered a bit when he noticed Leonel.

After a bit, he sneered. "You're even stowing away more trash in your personal courtyard. To think that you'd waste the family lands like this."

Alfin was already unsatisfied himself because he had yet to earn such a place. He could only stay with his branch of the main family or in the collective housing of the Healing Arm. Only those of the Sixth Dimension or Fifth Dimensional talents with great contributions could have a courtyard of their own. It was no wonder he was jealous.

Leonel didn't even seem to hear Alfin, something that greatly displeased him. Though the branch youths on the ground tried to hide it, Alfin could sense their trembling rage toward his words. And yet, Leonel had treated him like he was air.

As though that wasn't bad enough, a second young man came out not long after and swept a gaze by him. However, Noah too didn't react much to the words of Alfin.

Leonel stopped before the youths and looked them over one by one. After a while, he made a decision.

'[Snowy Grace].'

Leonel reached out a hand and his Snow Force erupted. The pressure was so great that Riah's pupils constricted and Alfin along with the two that came with him took a step back.

At that moment, delicate snowflakes began to fall upon the 20 or so youths, mimicking the falling feathers of Leonel's Healing Branch talent.

Compared to Leonel's self created Mage Art, this technique was leaps and bounds more potent. With just a bit of effort, more than 20 geniuses who each had strength near and at Tier 7 felt as though they had been given a new lease on life.

"That's...?"

Alfin's brow furrowed as he watched Leonel help Vaan up.

"Thank you." Vaan said, feeling a bit complicated.

Leonel shook his head. "It was a small effort."

"You." Alfin's voice cut through what remained of the thank you's the branch family youths wanted to speak. "How do you know a core technique of our main family?"

Alfin's tone carried a hint of danger to it. If before he had just been here to poke some fun and throw out some insults, he was now deadly serious.

The technique that Leonel had just used was one of the very best of the Healing Branch. Just to exchange for it took many decades of storing up merit points. Alfin himself was still two or three years away from being able to afford it and he had only ever seen seniors much older than him or youths far more talented than himself cast it.

"Alfin!" Riah finally snapped. "Do you think you can just treat my people however you want? If you wanted to come up with a lie, shouldn't it be far better than that?! How could he possibly know such a technique?!"

Alfin's expression darkened. "Piss off, you know nothing." He continued to glower at Leonel's back. "That technique was [Snowy Grace], it's easily ranked top three among Fifth Dimensional healing techniques and is known for its area of effect ability. If I don't hear a proper explanation today, don't blame me for ignoring who your grandmother is."

Riah's face warped. She realized then that if Alfin was willing to bring up her grandmother, he definitely wouldn't be making up nonsense.

Her gaze couldn't help but turn toward Leonel. Just what was going on?

Who would have expected, though, for Leonel to completely ignore Alfin entirely?

He turned back, walking toward Riah's courtyard. It seemed for a moment that he was coming up to them, but it was exactly because of this that it was so shocking when he simply walked right by, not sparing Alfin a single glance.

Alfin was so infuriated that he began to laugh. Trash of the branch families actually dared to treat him like this?

Before Riah could awaken from her shock, Alfin had already moved.

The wind crackled and popped as his fist aimed for Leonel's back. He didn't reserve himself in the slightest. In fact, he had struck to kill. The death of a mere branch family member wouldn't even be a stain on his record.

For the crime of daring to ignore him and actually having the audacity to steal techniques from the Luxnix main family... This was exactly what he deserved!

BANG!

A cloud of dust shot into the skies as the surrounding grass and soil catapulted upward.

Riah's expression changed. "Ah!"

She rushed forward, cutting through the plume of falling soil. But, what she found on the other side froze her in her tracks.

Alfin's back bent and a mouthful of blood shot from his lips like a bullet.

Leonel stood over him, his fist still pointed downward and his gaze partially obscured by his dangling hair. Flickering Bronze Runes danced across his skin before they slowly faded, making them look no different from an illusion of the light.

Alfin's right arm was bent at a disgusting angle, but this was the least of his problems. With the way his back contorted as it pressed into the ground, it was clear that his spine was deformed and practically all the bones of his torso were broken.

Riah's chest heaved as Alfin's eyes rolled to the back of his head, looking into the sky with a face frozen of shock and fear.

Riah's heart stopped beating entirely. A member of the branch family had just crippled a genius of the main family...

It was all over.

Chapter 1120 Wait!

Leonel's fist dripped with blood that wasn't his own, his forehead flickering with the light of a golden spear.

In that moment, he had activated his Duality Domain and . Let alone harming Leonel, Alfin had had all his strength sucked away in an instant. Their exchange had become akin to a toddler throwing a fist at an adult.

With the difference in the toughness of their bodies, Alfin was crushed near instantaneously. However, the smoldering abyss of Leonel's gaze didn't seem to calm in the slightest.

He slowly rose to his full height as the loose soil fell back down to the earth and the true state of things was revealed to those beyond Riah.

In that moment, the snide sneers of the two who had followed Alfin froze, their expressions warping.

"You..."

Leonel's gaze didn't spare them a glance. He simply turned and walked away.

Riah was stunned. Why was he still acting like nothing had happened?

"Wai—Wait!" Riah called out, but she found Noah instead of her true target.

"I'm not sure if you want to be so eager to talk to him right now, honestly. He's not the biggest fan of you either."

Riah choked on air. What the hell did she do?

Her expression changed. She had felt a bit bad about what her grandmother was doing, but that was all. Maybe, on a deeper level, she felt that this was more of an opportunity for these branch family youths than a detriment.

In many cases, those that thought and acted like her were the worst kind of people. They had enough sympathy to understand, but ultimately their own goals superseded whatever inner moral compass they had.

Riah hadn't thought so deeply, so while she was off put by Noah's words in the beginning, a slight resentment and an unwillingness to accept them came soon after. Her lips downturned into a frown as she immediately took the moral high ground.

"Do you have any idea what your cousin has done?!"

Riah's head snapped back toward the two youths who still remained. But, they had seemingly long taken their cue to run, not wanting to be the next victim.

Riah immediately had thoughts of silencing them, but this was obviously not for Leonel's sake, but rather her own. The trouble that this event would bring wasn't something that her grandmother was ready to deal with just yet.

This area had just taken the clash of two Sixth Dimensional experts and yet no one had come to check up on them. The only reason why there was such damage here was because this soil was rich in nutrients and loose, its structural integrity was inherently not very high to begin with. That was to say that in such a sturdy Sixth Dimensional world, the ripples of battle didn't carry very far.

That seemed to make silencing these youth possible. But, the issue was that too many had seen Riah go over to ask for help. And, on top of that, these weren't nameless youths. They weren't anywhere near the topline geniuses of the Luxnix main family, but they still had quotas and responsibilities. Their absence would be noted.

At best, she would be able to hide this matter for two or three days before it blew up in her face. And, because she had silenced them, the backlash would be even worse.

'Dammit! There's no other choice but to let him take the fall for it. I have to inform grandmother so she can deal with the aftermath. If things aren't properly handled, grandma's enemies could use this to deal with us all...'

Noah simply gazed toward Riah and shook his head. Did the current Leonel seem like he cared about how much trouble he caused now?

...

Leonel walked through the dining room and entered into the kitchen.

"Hey! What are you doing here? This place isn't—!"

One of the many cooks of the courtyard frowned when they saw Leonel. They had all been preparing a large feast for the youths who were coming today, so they had already been working all day. All of them were Force Pill Crafters so it was safe to say that they had plenty of arrogance of their own. Though, whether this arrogance was right or not was a different matter entirely.

These were clearly still apprentice Force Pill Crafters. Why would Fluttering Star Order truly go all out for a bunch of branch family youths?

Leonel, though, completely ignored them. His hand reached into an open oven with billowing flames and took out an enormous beast spread.

The Force Pill Crafters' expression warped. Originally, they had wondered if this young man had a death wish. The flames in that oven were enough to incinerate a Fifth Dimensional beast to ash. Who in their right mind would reach their hands in there?

Yet, not only had Leonel come out unscathed, his finger flickered with Spear Force several times to cut the beast carcass into edible chunks. Taking a massive silver plate for himself, he placed the pieces down and began to eat.

From start to end, his slow and deliberate steps didn't seem to change. He walked out from the kitchen, his feet lighting up with sparkling lights.

Hidden Force Arts of Riah's courtyard began to activate one after another. But, after a subtle whirring noise, they calmed back down.

Leonel cleaned bone after bone, his stomach churning like a furnace of its own. He subconsciously circulated a digestion technique of the Luxnix, speeding up his already fast metabolism. One would have never thought that he was a person who had just sentenced himself to death. It was like he was truly strolling through his own home.

Noah saw this seen and shook his head. Others saw leisure, but he saw a war machine restocking its fuel. The eerie efficiency, the unemotive and lack of care for the searing heat touching his fingers, the bloody juices that fell from the uncooked meat...

A monster, indeed.

At that moment, a strong aura descended upon the courtyard.

"Grandmother!" Riah finally sighed in relief.