Descent 1421

Chapter 1421 A Month

Aina's frown was even deeper than Leonel's, her palm pressed down harm on the counter, applying enough pressure to make the marbling tremble. And yet, her voice was as calm and cold as ice.

"Goldenglow Root. White Azolla Oak. Silkworm Grass. These are all Fifth Dimensional Herbs priced at barely a few dozen kilograms of Urbe Ore.

"Itchweed. Crimson Hair Skunk Root. Queen Spruce Bushel. Poison Thistle Plum. These aren't even medicines, they're quite literally poison. I wouldn't have allowed you within a mile of him if you had entered with these things.

"Do you take us for idiots?"

The green-haired woman continued to look toward them, not looking away in the slightest. There wasn't a hint of embarrassment on her face.

"The price is as stated. 1 029 293 Void Points and 2 Void Merits."

Aina's irises flashed with a golden glow, the marbled counter cracking.

The green-haired woman looked down at the result, her eyes narrowing. It took far more than just a bit of strength to cause such a thing to happen, especially when there was no wind up.

"The price is now double," The green-haired woman reached forward with lightning speed to take back the invoice, catching Aina off guard.

But, before she could succeed, she found her wrist lightly gripped. The strength wasn't too strong and it could even be said that the hold on her hand was more comfortable than not. And yet, she couldn't seem to budge even a single inch.

"Her name was Rosomon, I believe. Is that right?" Leonel said lightly.

His anger seemed to have vanished into the wind.

Rosomon was the very same woman who had manned the medical center at Village 0012. Truthfully, Leonel hadn't done much of anything to her. In addition, after displaying the strength he had during the True Selection, and subsequently within the Void Tower, even if what he did past floor nine was ignored, he had already proven himself to be more than worth of the Amethyst Token.

In doing that, the reason Rosomon should have had for being disgusted with him should have likewise vanished. But, it seems that Rosomon was the type of person who didn't like to take losses.

Leonel had left her medicinal center alone because he didn't want to be the reason other people didn't get treatment, but she had taken his actions to be out of fear of her. So, he had blatantly stated that if she ever became the reason one of his friends or brothers couldn't get treatment, he wouldn't care about the Void Palace's rules and would directly kill her.

Clearly, she had taken these words very personally, even to the point of trying to retaliate in this way.

With the way the Void Palace worked, everything run on the power of its students. There was a reason why Vega could offer Aina free discounts from stores, and that was because they were controlled by her faction to begin with. Every establishment was either owned by a Faction or an individual student!

This was for an obvious reason, they were raising the future leaders of the Human Domain and as such, treated them with the proper freedom—within certain parameters, of course.

So long as they remained within the Void Palace, didn't have children, and didn't kill, they could practically do as they pleased, all the way up until even running the daily functions of the Void Palace through the Void Senate.

These rules weren't too oppressive at all.

They had to stay in the Void Palace so that they could constantly be under a state of duress and training. If they could leave as they pleased, who would choose to remain here? By then, the effectiveness would plummet.

As for children, they couldn't have little brats running around the Void Palace, right? And killing was an even more obvious measure that protected everyone from being pushed too far.

However, it was also because of this approach that this was happening at all.

Inwardly, Leonel smiled. He didn't believe that only this family controlled all of the hospitals and medical centers of the Void Palace, there were definitely others.

Signs pointed toward the fact that Sceio had brought Aina and him here on purpose, knowing the prices would be inflated. As for how he knew that Leonel had a grudge with Rosomon, that was something that Leonel would have to find out on his own.

Still, it was clear that this Fourth Cousin of his was schemer. It was just unfortunate that he had already touched past Leonel's bottom line because as of this moment... he was playing with Aina's life.

However, Leonel managed to keep his calm, sliding the invoice off of the table and taking it into his hands.

He didn't care for the green-haired woman's answer to his question, he already knew the truth.

"This is the invoice, huh? I'll be taking my copy. Be sure to charge that to that cousin of mine."

Leonel handed the invoice to Aina. Since he didn't have a spatial ring anymore, he'd have to rely on this girlfriend of his.

As they walked out, his mind was spinning.

There were too many loopholes in the contract. Just with a glance, he could see dozens. If Sceio was determined to take advantage of them, he could do so. In fact, he could just hide for the next coming month and show up 31 days later claiming that Leonel never paid him, using that as an excuse to sweep Aina away.

With this contract, Sceio could even go as far as to force Aina to fight in the Heir Wars for him. While killing amongst Heirs was prohibited, killing the helpers of Heirs was a different matter entirely. If not for this, why would Valiant Heart Mountain have been so scared to pariticipate.

Or, there was the possibility that if his mind was more sinister...

Leonel shut his mind down from continuing down that path as quickly as he thought it, but with his current thinking speed, he had already plunged down a seemingly endless rabbit hole.

The more he considered it, the more enraged he would become.

There was only one option. He had to find a way to void this contract. And, for that, he needed to read the rules. To make matters more difficult, he needed a method that didn't rely on the Void Senate and he only had a month to both find it and put it into action.

Chapter 1422 Wide Grin

Originally, Leonel wanted to avoid the Void Senate because he had a feeling that it was likely that Sceio would have someone to rely on that could make things difficult for him. However, when he caught up to speed with everything that had happened, he was even more assured in the fact he couldn't rely on them.

The fall of the Stalwart Polearm Party, the rise of the sword factions as a result, and his dad... Well, being his dad.

Leonel rubbed his forehead. "This old man is always giving me problems. Can't go one day without ruining things."

If Velasco could hear Leonel now, maybe he would have to smack some sense into his son. It was clearly the other way around, why did this brat suddenly sound so exasperated?

Aina, who had been in a bad mood, couldn't help but giggle.

Much of this information she had just filled Leonel in on were things she had fished out of Vega. The knowledge of a Gold Faction Head was quite invaluable, so though Aina never had any intention of joining Vega's Faction, she still gained herself a large well of information just by listening and asking questions.

She had to find a way to distract herself from the frozen screen that loomed above her head, after all. There was only so much worrying she could do if she didn't even understand exactly what was happening.

It was a good thing that Aina had done this as well, because everything in the Void Palace cost some sort of price. Everything.

Living accommodations, food, water, even information, all had a price tag. There were several information networks in the Void Palace controlled by various families. Just basic information would cost you hundreds of Void Points, let alone something as sensitive as the overturning of a Shared Majority in the Senate.

This saved Leonel a lot of time, though, because now he didn't have to walk around aimlessly.

The Void Palace, on a normal day, wasn't too much unlike a college campus, if you could get over the heavy perpetual fog and the lack of sun at all times. However, it also felt very... unorganized.

There were buildings of all sorts of shapes and sizes, serving all sorts of different functions strewn around without any sort of real city planning of any sort.

Restaurants were right by clothing shops which were right by residences which were also right by medicinal halls and libraries... There was even what looked like a small farm randomly irrigated between what was a butcher shop and a clothing shop that displayed animal furs. There was no order at all.

Alongside these odd choices in building and in land use, there were what looked like kiosks every block or so. Aina told Leonel that those were locations to exchange Void Points for things from a virtual library of sorts. But, the situation was more complicated than that.

Apparently, according to Aina, there were 'Zones'. The level of the Void Point Kiosk would be decided by the level of the Zone. This meant at lower level Zones, you could only trade for things of a certain level, barred off from higher levels.

These Zones were mostly divided into the level of students that could enter them, and there were further special Zones controlled by Factions as well.

Regardless, outside of the lower class Zones which could be entered for free, higher class Zones with better accommodations, and assumingly better city planning than this, all cost Void Points to enter as well.

"This Zone, what is it?"

"Well..." Aina bit her lip, looking away. "It's the lowest class Quadrant Zone there is."

Leonel raised an eyebrow. "Quadrant? Oh, did I not climb high enough to make it to Galaxy? That's unfortunate..."

Leonel didn't really know what happened after he got trapped, so he just assumed what must have happened. He thought that Aina's reaction was to spare him from the embarrassment.

In truth, he didn't like the fact he had failed, but the experience with Amery had already forced him to humble himself a bit. He still didn't like the fact he had to use his bow that day.

"No, well..."

Aina took a breath and just explained what happened.

Leonel's brows jumped when he heard he had climbed to the 74th floor. How was such a thing even possible? There should be something wrong with the tower, right? Maybe his Dream Force had affected its output.

This was the best explanation Leonel could think of. There was no way he could output Seventh Dimensional power. If he could, he might as well forget all of this and start conquering the Human Domain right away.

"... Ah, so it's like that ... "

Leonel sighed.

Someone had come to bring Aina her verification as a Galaxy Ranked Disciple while he was in a coma. But, when Aina asked about Leonel, the person only shook their head, not having an answer.

It was likely that the higher ups were still deliberating on what exactly had happened. So, as of now, let alone a Galaxy Rank, Leonel didn't technically have any Rank right now.

Leonel couldn't blame them. Even he didn't believe he had climbed to the 74th floor, so why would others?

Leonel suddenly came to a grinding halt, his eyes flashing. And then, he grinned like a madman.

Aina, who had continued to walk ahead, paused when she realized Leonel's arm was tugging at her hand.

"Leonel? Are you alright?"

Seeing Leonel grin when she knew that he would usually be sad in this sort of situation made Aina a bit worried. Was his head alright?

"If I'm right, I just found our loophole." Leonel's grin widened.

Even if this didn't get Leonel out of the Void Contract, he was certain that there was some rule or loophole he could take advantage of in his current Rankless state, he just had to find what that rule was.

And, if he was even luckier, this much would be enough to void Fourth Nova's Void Contract with Aina.

"Aina, bring me somewhere where we can read all of the Void Palace's rules in excruciating detail. I'm sure there has to be a place like that."

Aina blinked and then nodded slowly, thinking of a place.

Chapter 1423 527

The best location that Aina could think of that would meet Leonel's requirements was a branch of the Void Senate.

The Senate's main duties were related to setting laws that governed everything from the lowest to the highest levels of the Void Palace. But, there were also many smaller tasks, at least relatively speaking, that they also had to deal with.

These branches were in place to deal with these smaller functions.

For one, the Senate branches were where missions could be taken up and rewards for said missions could be accepted. It would also be the place where Leonel and Aina would have to go in order to receive their monthly stipend for remaining on the leaderboards, so long as they could maintain their top three positions, that is.

The second function of the branches was as a sort of asylum. A lot like the embassies found within a country, a branch functioned as the one location in the whole of the Void Palace where fights and battles were not allowed.

Most likely wouldn't use the branch for this purpose, but it was still a rule that everyone was aware of because the penalty for breaking it was especially harsh. Simply put, the dignity of the Senate could not be infringed upon for any reason.

The third function of the branch was as a sort of disciplinary squad. There were very few rules on the Void Palace other than the main three always mentioned, but there still had to be a semblance of order.

Those who took up positions in the Senate branches were tasked with making sure any commotion remained to a level that was manageable.

This didn't sound like a big deal on the surface, but when things like Faction wars reached a fever pitch, only the Senate could be relied upon to settle tensions and make sure no one crossed any lines that couldn't be come back from.

Likewise, the branches were here to ensure that no one died. No, more accurately, they were here to ensure that no one was killed or murdered. And, in the case that someone was, they would be swiftly brought in and put on trial for what would likely be an inevitable execution.

Death in the Void Palace was more common than the no killing rule seemed to imply. Most would die on the Void Battlefield. However, among those that wouldn't, there were any number of ways.

Poison, succumbing to injuries, being ravaged by Cursed Beasts that roamed these lands... There were even cases of people starving to death.

In an Anarchic Force rich environment, even higher Dimensional beings were in a constant state of fight or flight, their Force always working. As such, their hunger and thirst were no different from mortals.

If they went a few weeks without food, or even a week without water, they would already find themselves toeing the line of life or death, just like any other Third Dimensional existence.

This was a problem that Leonel had in the back of his mind already. He hadn't been worrying about it at all because he would always have water with the Segmented Cube and cleaning Cursed Beast meat to consume wasn't an issue so long as he had Cleansing Waters.

But now, this was a problem he would have to contend with and deal with as soon as possible. But first...

Leonel and Aina walked into the Senate branch. Much like the hospital, it was completely out of place.

While it wasn't a large building, it was still prim and proper. The grass out front was a lush and almost obsidian black, the foundation and walls had been laid of evenly cut brick, and the inside smelled of fresh pine and a hint of citric.

There was only a single person as the counter, but there only really needed to be one.

"State your purpose," the young man almost commanded.

Leonel gazed toward this person, feeling that they were quite powerful. Even the weakest member of the Senate was in the latter third of the Sixth Dimension and this young man was definitely no different. He probably made more Void Merits just sitting here than Leonel would gain risking his life for months.

Probably.

As for whether or not that was true, Leonel actually had no idea and he didn't like wasting time speculating on things he had no real tangible information about.

"I would like a complete record of the Void Palace's rules."

The young man, who was mostly disinterested, narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

"Are you trying to fuck with me? I don't have the patience, kid. I'll give you one more chance, but that's only because I'm in a good mood."

Leonel refrained from laughing. If this was him in a good mood, he'd hate to see the opposite.

Toward these words, Leonel only smiled.

"Senior, I recently got swept up into some Void Contract troubles and I want to see if there's any method of getting out. I don't want to leave any stone unturned, so I'd like to go through all of the rules to see if there's anything I can do."

Hearing such an explanation, the young man's stance softened somewhat, but he still shook his head.

"The ignorant truly are fearless. Fine, fine. You live and you learn. Good luck, kid."

Clank.

The young man brought out a pendant that looked quite similar to the one that had held the original contract. But, the jewel on it was a different color. Aina's had been a really pale silver, but this seemed much brighter. It was a detail Leonel noted.

"Than—"

Clank.

The young man brought out another pendant. Then another. Then another. Then another.

By the time he was finished, the whole counter was covered in what Leonel counted to be 527 such pendants.

"The Void Palace was founded over 500 thousand years ago. Each pendant represents a thousand years of laws and amendments. Have fun."

Chapter 1424 ... Maybe?

Leonel's lip twitched. Even for him, this was a lot. He could tell with a glance that the brightness of the gem on the pendant was likely a function of how much information was within.

'The contract between Aina and Sceio had been about a thousand words. If it was multiplied by the difference in brightness, then that would mean that there would be about 100 billion words since it functions on a logarithmic scale.

'If it was multiplied by a further 500, it wouldn't take me that long at all. In fact, I would probably finish each one in a few minutes, especially since I don't have to read with my eyes.

'But, that wouldn't be too hard for any Fifth Dimensional existence to do. A hundred billion words is only a Petabyte of information. I highly down what looks to be a Sixth Dimension device would max out at that quantity. For this Senior to be acting like this, it has to be even worse than my estimates.'

Leonel took a breath and picked up one of the pendants, restraining his Starry Spirit Domain so that it didn't act on its own again.

"I would be careful if I were you. The Memory Pendants work by projecting all of the information into your mind at once using a small bit of Dream Force. Even Seventh Dimensional existences don't bother memorizing all of these rules, it's easier to just look up exactly what they want when the issue comes up."

"Dream Force?" Leonel blinked.

The young man smiled. "Even if you have some Dream Force affinity, I wouldn't advise it. I already assumed you had some sensory type ability since you dared to ask for this. Only sensory maniacs like you guys would ask for something so ridiculous. But, a small amount of Dream Force affinity isn't going to help you with that amount of information.

"Unless you're a Savant or at least in the Seventh Dimension, I wouldn't advise it."

Hearing these words, Aina began to get a bit worried as well.

"How about we find another way? Or, maybe you could try to narrow down the search a bit?" She probed.

Leonel exhaled a breath, looking at the pendant.

"What's the worst that can happen if I use the Memory Pendant, senior?"

"Well, it isn't life threatening. But, you'd be forced to stand there until your mind processes all of it. Since you're in the Fifth Dimension and have some Dream Force affinity, I'd say it would probably take you anywhere from a week to a month depending on a few factors. So, you can imagine how long it would take to go through all of them...

"Plus, that would only really work if you really needed to find very specific information. It sounds like you want to memorize all of it by your tone. That mountain is even taller. Even though the Dream Force will help you memorize a bit easier than you otherwise would, it's not to the point that you'd become an overnight genius.

"You'll easily become overwhelmed and by the third pendant, you'll already start forgetting things. By the seventh pendant, you likely wouldn't even remember anything from the first.

"And... That doesn't mention the fact that my shift ends pretty soon. I might be willing to let you stand there, but I can't promise that my colleagues will too. Some of them are pricks and entering a state like that is dangerous if there's no one around to protect you."

"I see..." Leonel's gaze narrowed.

He had already decided to gamble. He had forgotten about the new way in which his brain worked. If he really went at this, he believed he could do it.

Leonel's Internal Sight surged. As though expecting this, the young man shook his head. He already knew this would happen, that's why he had said the ignorant were fearless.

Never mind, it didn't matter. He would be harmed a bit and when he came out, he would have learned a lesson.

The young man moved to put the other pendants away. He had only brought them all out for dramatic effect to begin with, but it had fallen on blind eyes since neither Leonel nor Aina seemed to understand what kind of heft these pendants had behind them.

But, before the young man could finish packing away even a single pendant, a sharp intake of breath caught his attention.

He looked up curiously, but his expression changed when he saw that Leonel's gaze had regained its clarity.

"How long has it been?" Leonel asked Aina.

Leonel had already expected that he would find a different person at the counter, so he didn't even look in that direction. The largest reason he had dared to do this was because he trusted that if he was wrong in his evaluation, Aina would protect him.

But, instead of getting an answer, all he got was a beauty looking back at him with a blank expression.

The young man abruptly rose from his seat, not understanding what he was seeing.

If he could wave a hand and say Leonel just faked it, everything would be fine. But the problem was that he most definitely couldn't do that. His own senses were too sharp. He had felt Leonel's Internal Sight sink into that pendant. There was no way to fake that. The moment Internal Sight touched that pendant, the process would start and there was no easy way to extricate yourself without completely reading through its contents.

There was simply no way to fake this.

"Aina?"

"It's... It's been a few seconds, maybe?" Aina's voice tinged with uncertainty.

Leonel blinked for a moment before he grinned ear to ear. This was excellent.

Without hesitation, he took up a second pendant, then a third, then a fourth. He blazed through them one after another, not stopping for a single moment.

Then, just 10 or so minutes later, he had gone through them all, each word, letter and punctuation mark perfectly memorized.

Chapter 1425 Green

Leonel exhaled, his mind rolling. He slid through the half a million years' worth of laws and regulations as though he was flipping through the pages of a book, his mind assimilating it all with an ease that astonished even himself.

Most of it was completely useless, nonsensical laws that no longer meant anything in the current day and age. But others were far more interesting.

Leonel organized it all, crossing out what was useless and also throwing out rules made redundant or toothless by later amendments. And, eventually, he came to exactly what he wanted.

Leonel grinned, this was exactly what he needed. The Void Contract was one matter, however how he could take advantage of his limbo-like status was a different matter entirely. Since the Void Senate would likely try to play games with him, let them. He would enjoy his short period of free reign while they twittled their thumbs.

As for the matter of the Void Contract, it was surprisingly easy.

The rule was under a set of amendments put into place about 400 thousand years ago when the Void Palace's Anarchic Force concentration had weakened enough to allow lower level Dimensional beings in, the free for all rules began to weigh too heavily.

As of right now, the only rule seemed to be no killing. But, what would one do if a higher Dimensional being insisted on crippling you? There was really nothing much you could do at all.

That was, until these amendments were put into place.

There were many provisions put in place, but the only one Leonel really cared about right now was a clause related to Void Contracts.

According to the stipulations, so long as a contract involved a deal including a lower Ranked disciple, said disciple could use 3 Void Merits to remove themselves from responsibility.

One would think that Leonel was out of luck. He couldn't simultaneously try to use his limbo-like status and hope to get treatment as a lower Ranked disciple at the same time, that wouldn't make sense or be possible.

However, it had to be remembered that the contract wasn't signed between Leonel and Sceio. It was signed between Aina and Sceio! Leonel had been in a coma at the time, meaning he couldn't consent to a contract even if he wanted to.

Luckily, Sceio should be a Sector Ranked disciple, just like Leonel's mother, while Aina was a Galaxy Ranked disciple.

In addition, even if Sceio wasn't a Sector Ranked disciple, there were divisions among Ranks that could be used as well. There were nine divisions within each level, which was why climbing Ranks was so difficult. So long as Sceio wasn't a Level 1 Galaxy Ranked disciple, Aina would still be able to break free.

Now, the only question was one of getting Void Merits. If Leonel was lucky, he might be able to kill two birds with one stone and take advantage of his limbo status at the same time.

However, Leonel had also deduced days ago that Void Merits were far more valuable that Void Points. It likely wouldn't be easy to get them even if he went all out in the next month. And, according to the rules, while Void Points were transferable by anyone, only Factions, Parties and the Void Palace itself could hand out Void Merits.

This meant that if Leonel wanted to get Aina the merits she needed, they would either need to do a mission that paid them both equally, and was thus work a total of six Void Merits—a mission that would without a doubt be incredibly dangerous—or, Aina would need to somehow earn them on her own.

But, it was exactly then that a spark went off in Leonel's head.

'That's it! For every top three spot you have on the leaderboards, you gain an equivalent number of Void Merits.'

"Aina, how many leaderboards are you on right now?"

The young man's lip twitched when he heard this question. What the hell was going on here? First this kid flashed through the pendants like they were nothing, and now he was treating leaderboards as though they were nothing?

If he didn't know better, the young man would have checked these pendants personally to make sure they weren't broken, but even if he wouldn't get stuck here for a month like Leonel should have, it would have still been a day. He didn't feel like doing that.

Plus... All 527 couldn't possibly be broken... right?

"Um... I believe that I'm on 20."

The young man sputtered and coughed.

"Ten? Ten leaderboards?"

Aina and Leonel looked toward the young man as though he was the weird one. Eventually, they looked back toward one another as though he wasn't there.

"I assume that's ten current leaderboards and ten all time ones, right?"

Aina nodded.

"And what placement do you have on them? Only the top three matters."

"I'm second of three of the current leaderboards and first on the rest of them. Same for the all-time leaderboards."

Leonel grinned. "Sounds like my girlfriend is pretty amazing."

"Just a little bit." Aina smiled, her amber eyes glistening.

"The current leaderboards give 3 Void Merits for first place and minus one downward. The all-time leaderboards are more complicated. They give out a pool of 30 for top 10 and it ticks down by one for top 11-20 and so on. Either way, only top 10 matters for you. Depending on how many active members of the top 10 there are currently in the Void Palace, you'll split those 30 merit points with them.

"So you have 27 Void Merits from current leaderboards plus 300 Void Merits divided by however many people you're sharing them with. Do you know?"

Leonel thought the answer might be zero, initially, but after hearing her previous explanation, he knew that wouldn't be true

"There's one. Her name is Treanna Viror."

Leonel nodded. "In that case, you get 66% of the amount you're in first place for and 33% of the ones you're not.

"So 27 plus 150, so 177 Void Merits in the end. It looks like you'll have more than enough."

•••

While Leonel and Aina were happy about this change, there was a young woman whose monthly Void Merit quota had taken an enormous plummet thanks to this change...

And her hair also happened to be green.

Chapter 1426 What Can Stop Us?

Leonel and Aina left the Senate Branch after completing a few other things. But, Leonel still seemed lost in thought as though he was still trying to work something out.

"What's wrong?" Aina asked.

From what Leonel had said earlier, it sounded as if all their troubles were dealt with.

"Did my cousin say anything else to you? Anything that might sound suspicious? Anything that stood out?"

Aina fell deep into her thoughts but after a moment, she shook her head. She couldn't think of anything like that. Back then, she had been very focused on the contract and negotiations, so she had practically memorized every little thing Sceio said. But, even then, she couldn't come up with anything like what Leonel had asked for.

"Is there a problem?"

"I'm not sure." Leonel said honestly. "It just feels too easy. On the one hand, the Void Merit rule should be rarely used. Void Merits alone are difficult to gather in the first place. Although you'll have almost 200 at the end of this month, there are very few people who could boast such a thing. The number of individuals on the leaderboards to begin with are barely a fraction of the number of students in the Void Palace, and that doesn't even consider the fact that only the top three get to enjoy Void Merits in return in the first place.

"Then there's the fact that anyone who could earn Void Merits through any method to begin with wouldn't normally be people that would need to get out of a contract. They would be geniuses that would be easily taken in by a Faction or Party without issue. Something like selling themselves in exchange for help would never happen.

"So, that would make the use of this rule even rarer."

"Then that should be a good thing. Why are you worried?"

"Like I said, it just feels too easy. If my cousin is intelligent, he'll look at things from all angles. He should know both how valuable Void Merits are and the fact that you'll earn a lot in just a couple more weeks.

"If I was him..."

Leonel's gaze went into a daze for a moment as he activated an ability he had only just created. He called it Dream Perspective.

With Dream Perspective, he could 'forget' the things he knew and only 'remember' the things his target would. This way, he wouldn't have his thoughts colored by bias and matters he already understood.

One of the most difficult things for people to do was look at matters from the perspective of someone else. However, with Tier 4, Control, Leonel could create a Dream Clone in his Dream World that had the exact knowledge of whoever he chose. Then, he could simulate how they would think about a situation.

The more understanding he had of a person, the more accurate it would be. He could adjust his intelligence and deductive ability, as well as factor in personality and tendencies as well. But, since Leonel knew so little about his cousin, he could only draw conclusions with about 20-30% certainty, using an 'average' Sixth Dimensional existence as his Dream Clone.

"... I would be cautious. With the importance of Void Merits, why give a chance for this variable to pop up and bite me in the ass at all?

"There are too many ways to circumvent that problem. The easiest way to do things would be to shrink the deadline. Rather than a month, I would give you two weeks. Two weeks is still semi-reasonable, especially since neither of us would be aware that the clinic would mark up the price so much just because of a grudge they had with me.

"Now that I think about it, a month is overly nice."

"It's possible that he's greedy," Aina supplemented, "though he didn't say anything that could give away his real goal, he did say: "I never touch the women of my brothers. However, I will take their money." to me."

Leonel's brows raised as he fell into thought again.

"There are too many possibilities."

The problem wasn't that Leonel couldn't think of what Sceio might do. The real issue was that he could think of too many. And, without knowing exactly what Sceio knew, it was impossible to pinpoint which path he could take.

For example, it would be all too easy to close the loophole he and Aina planned on using. Sceio would only have to be demoted back down to Aina's level, then she wouldn't be able to use Void Merits to escape the chains of the contract.

Of course, whether Sceio would go so far, Leonel didn't know. But, if it was Leonel, if he could force a talent like Aina to work for him, that would be worth exchanging whatever effort it took for him to raise his level. Aina was someone who had entered 20 leaderboards in her first attempt, where else would you find a talent like that?

In fact, now that Leonel knew the rule book inside and out, he could even think of some methods where demoting your rank would be a benefit rather than a detriment!

"Since there are too many possibilities, disregard them all." Aina suddenly said.

"Hm?"

Aina blinked and looked up at Leonel with a smile.

"I told you before that your battle style isn't like mine. You like withholding your trump cards and only using them when you can get maximum benefit. But, I just give everything I have right from the very beginning.

"So what if you know what's coming? You can't stop it anyway."

Leonel's gaze glowed, his heartbeat speeding up.

That was right. Instead of trying to think of a counter for everything Sceio might do, he just needed to find a method he couldn't block no matter what.

It's no wonder his Spear Force was so lacking. He had the disposition of an archer, not a spearman.

"Thought of something?" Aina's smile widened.

"Maybe. But it will be difficult." Leonel responded.

"What could possibly stop us if we do it together?" Aina asked.

Hearing such words, what else could Leonel do other than grin?

Chapter 1427 Sly Brat

Leonel and Aina returned to the Senate Branch, finding that the young man had yet to leave.

"You two again? I already warned you, you know. You can't return missions you've already taken. You're going to have to bite the bullet. If you fail to complete a mission, you not only fall in debt for ten times what the reward would be, but you also get assigned manual labor. The time scope of the manual labor is fairly harsh, though it can sometimes be lenient. It all depends since you'll be on duty until the mission you failed is completed."

Leonel's expression flickered. He could think of a ton of ways to abuse rules like that, especially if he was the head of a powerful Faction. But, he also didn't plan on failing any missions, so he ignored those thoughts for now.

These days, his mind worked faster than he even wanted to, so he winded down paths others wouldn't even consider before said individual could even begin deducing much of anything.

"We know, we just thought we'd pick out another mission to save on some time so that we can complete them all at once."

The young man, who Leonel knew by name now as Dmitry, raised an eyebrow. But, he didn't question it.

After Leonel and Aina had left, he looked into them to see what he had missed and he learned that these two were two of this year's only three Amethyst Token wielders. Aina's performance was shocking enough, but Leonel's was especially... well, eye catching.

Though many felt that Leonel's performance was definitely fake, some more analytical individuals felt that there was more to this than met the eye.

The reason was quite simple: the Void Senate and the Void Elders never attempted to close down the Void Tower.

If there was something wrong with the Void Tower, wouldn't they at least close it down for a while to see what could have gone wrong? And yet right before Leonel's run and right after, everything was business as usual. It made one wonder... Did he really climb to the 74th floor?

No matter how Dmitry scanned Leonel, he could find nothing special about him. He couldn't fathom how a Fifth Dimensional kid could climb to even the 20's, let alone the 70's. It just didn't make any sense.

Of course, this was one of the other odd changes Leonel had undergone. The more time he spent in this "new" body of his, the more subtle changes he noticed. For example, his aura and his temperament seemed to have been greatly refined, not even the tiniest bit of his aura leaked anymore.

In the past, when he focused, he used to leak out King's Might, causing everyone around him to feel strained and heavy. But now, he focused and nothing at all happened.

He hadn't noticed earlier because Aina had always been unbothered by his King's Might. But, with Dmitry here, he should have sensed or felt something. But, Leonel could tell that he hadn't.

"We will take the goblin Sub-Dimensional Zone Void Mission."

Dmitry was speechless as he had flashbacks to just before Leonel and Aina had left the first time.

They had already had this talk once before, but Dmitry never thought that these two would come back only to ignore everything he had said the first time. He almost felt like banging his head against the wall, had he been talking to air?

Void Missions could appear at all ranks from Quadrant to Domain. They were essentially missions that hadn't been completed within a ten year span.

Usual missions were ranked 1 to 9. Level 1 Galaxy missions were designed for Level 1 Galaxy Ranked disciples, so on and so forth.

A One Star Void Mission was one that hadn't been completed in ten years of activity. A Two Star Void Mission hadn't been completed in a hundred years. A Three Star Void Mission hadn't been completed in a thousand. And a Death Void Mission was anything beyond that.

The goblin mission wasn't yet a Death Void Mission, but it wasn't far from that. And, even before it became a One Star Void Mission, it had been a Level 3 Galaxy Ranked Mission. That level was already suicide for the likes of Leonel and Aina, leaderboard prodigies or not.

For reference, a Level 1 Galaxy Ranked Mission was already designed for Sixth Dimensional existences. In fact, the only current Fifth Dimensional existence that could be considered Galaxy Ranked was Aina herself, with Leonel being unranked.

"... Didn't we already agree that..."

"We changed our minds." Leonel smiled.

"And you're aware that..."

"We know." Leonel smiled brighter.

"Fine, fine."

Dmitry tossed over the mission plate and shook his head, watching the two of them leave once again. If they couldn't complete both missions they had taken within a week, they would be off to do labor.

"Wait."

Dmitry shot up from his chair, finding the specific pendant he was looking for, he poured his Internal Sight into it. When he read what was on the other end, he laughed and shook his head.

"Ha... what a loophole ... "

Leonel had been certain to claim the mission himself, Aina never even touched the mission plate. The trouble was that as an unranked disciple, there was nothing for the mission to be registered to.

The penalties for completing a mission weren't universal, they were decided by the rank of the disciple and the rank of the mission in question.

If a Galaxy Ranked disciple wanted to claim a Sector Ranked mission, they would not only need to pass the test, but if they failed, the punishment was actually doubled.

In fact, not only were the punishments tied to your rank as a disciple, but even the location of our menial labor would be tied to it as well! After all, if they sent Galaxy Ranked and Sector Ranked disciples to the same place, all of the former would likely die.

This meant one thing: as an unranked disciple, Leonel couldn't be punished even if he failed a mission.

"A sly brat indeed... Well, good luck. Most who take on Void Missions don't even get to return to be punished in the first place..."

Chapter 1428 Goblin Race

Leonel and Aina quickly made it to the location of their first mission. They chose to get the easier one out of the way first just so that they could get used to what was happening. Then they would tackle the Void Mission.

Missions were separated into a few categories, but the main ones were land missions, Zone missions, and Void Battlefield missions, and finally, outside missions.

Land missions were missions that took place on Void Palace land itself. These could range from anything like Dmitry's job to clearing Cursed Beasts.

Void Battlefield missions spoke for themselves while outside missions were like what Leonel's mother had undertaken to oversee the Selection.

Finally, Zone missions happened to be the category both of their couple's chosen missions fell under. These were Sub-Dimensional Zones that were opened in Void Palace territory and those that fell under this umbrella tended to be the most complex to deal with.

Of course, all of the Sub-Dimensional Zones of the Void Palace had long since been cleared, they no longer needed to worry about their lands being swallowed or dissolved by history. However, there were many Unique Zones that the Void Palace kept open with methods similar to what Valiant Heart Mountain had done. The only difference was that the Void Palace did it on a much larger scale.

It had to be remembered that Unique Zones were defined as Zone that had been influenced by outside factors. This could range from anything like outsiders entering when they shouldn't, outsiders influencing the timeline of events, and even up to keeping Zones that should have been closed long ago, open.

Unique Zones that fell into the third category were used for their continual supplementation of resources. However, the issue was that the longer these Unique Zones remained open, the more twisted their inner worlds became and the more difficult they were to deal with.

In order to keep the Zones within manageable levels, missions were released to the disciples. So long as these missions were completed within a timely fashion, everything would be fine and the Void Palace would be able to continuously mine resources.

However, in case of failure...

Well, there was a reason why Void Missions were so dangerous.

Due to their inherent qualities, Zone missions tended to become Void Missions far more often than missions of other categories. And, likewise, they also tended to be the ones that most often became Death Void Missions as well.

Knowing this, it was no wonder that Dmitry had had just a fierce reaction.

Still, Leonel and Aina had made the decision and it was already much too late to back out now.

"Hello..." Leonel gave a small greeting to the senior manning the Zone and handed over their mission plate.

With a nod, the senior slotted in the Force Crystals necessary and opened the pathway.

"You have a week before the Zone closes. Be sure to complete the mission before then."

Leonel nodded and took Aina's hand as he jumped in, the portal swirling close after them.

The senior manning the post couldn't help but blink and shake his head, trying to rid himself of the daze he fell into after noticing Aina.

••••

When Leonel's vision cleared, he found himself in the depths of a familiar forest. The soil was still a greyish-black, the surroundings were still layered in a dense fog, and the Anarchic Force was still thick.

The only difference was that the trees were all burnt to the ground, leaving a thick heat and smell of ash and soot in the air.

Up ahead, there was a looming castle built right in the face of a wall. Several sentries marched along and patrolled the area. Considering the situation, it wouldn't be long before he and Aina were found out. However, Leonel wasn't worried. This mission was the easier of the two and was only a Level 1 Galaxy Ranked mission.

The good news about this was that thanks to the mission details, Leonel didn't need the dictionary to find out what they had to do to clear the Zone. In fact, they even got a history of the situation.

Many of these Zones were back before the Humans conquered this region.

The Void Palace was located on the frontier of the Human Domain. So, as one might imagine, it wasn't always in human hands. In order to claim it and push back the line of defense to the Void Battlefield, many other races had to be cleared away first.

This mission targeted one of these former races and also happened to be related to the goblin race he and Aina would be facing in the Three Star Void Mission he had chosen.

The so-called 'goblin' race was just a nickname given to humans and it was honestly quite derogatory, though Leonel wasn't aware of this. The true name of the race was the Dwarven Race.

However, the Dwarven Race was unlike what Leonel was used to, they simply referred to small humanoids. Their females were known as Pixies and their males were known as Sparrows.

They had skin ranging from dull grey to dark green, transparent wings that seemed too frail to carry their weight, and they ranged from three to five feet tall upon reaching maturity. They were well known for their speed, cunning, and their ability to build into natural barriers and constructs.

This race was especially troublesome to deal with, especially when they had time to prepare. This was why the timeline of this mission was a week instead of just a day despite the fact the goal was very straightforward: kill.

Leonel exhaled a breath as a blaring horn sounded. It seemed that he and Aina had been found.

He subconsciously flipped over a palm, but he shook his head in the end.

His bows were in the Segmented Cube before the incident and his spears were all locked away thanks to the volatile atmosphere in the Spear Domain ring.

Readjusting himself, Leonel flipped a palm again, a familiar spear landing in his hand. This spear was the very same stinger-like spear he had gained after becoming a woman during his Spear Domain trial. He couldn't help but laugh when he remembered the ridiculousness of the situation.

Since then, he had experienced becoming a woman more times than he could count, but now was the time to linger on that.

It was time to see how this "new" body of his performed.

He turned to Aina and grinned before they both bolted forward.

Chapter 1429 Feel Lt

Leonel shot forward and his head almost snapped back as though someone had just pressed on the gas. His speed was so fast that he almost didn't believe that it was being generated from his own legs.

What was the most shocking about it was the fact that his weight hadn't been lowered in the slightest, unlike what had happened when his Snowy Star Owl Lineage Factor's Speed Branch reached its peak. Somehow, he managed to hit this pace with his weight being just as great as it had been before.

He appeared before the castle walls almost too quickly.

Realizing that he would crash if he didn't adjust, Leonel focused, his thighs bulging as he leapt into the air.

"Wah..."

Leonel let out a gasp. Before he realized what was happening, he was already 50 meters in the air, his eyes opened wide.

Jumping 50 meters into the air wasn't a big deal if he was in a Fifth Dimensional world. He might even be able to replicate the feat if he put his all into it in a Sixth Dimensional world.

But, just now, he thought he had already adjusted himself to his new strength so he used even less than he thought he should. And yet, the result was still like this.

Leonel suddenly understood. The speed of the Starry Tailed Fox was amazing, but somehow it was still secondary compared to its leaping, directional change, and agility abilities.

He laughed in the skies, making it to almost 60 meters before he began to fall downward.

Aina clicked her tongue, still quite far behind Leonel. She had adjusted her speed based on what output she was used to Leonel producing. This was clearly also outside her expectations.

She smiled lightly after a moment, her body becoming enveloped in a fog of crimson as she exploded forth, her palm flipping over to reveal her ax.

In the skies, Leonel's gaze flashed, his vision suddenly able to see through everything. His Internal Sight enveloped the entire mountain castle as several arrows shot toward him.

Leonel brandished his spear, its feather fluttering in the wind as he pierced forward.

Protected by his Spear Force, he met the tip of each and every arrow, his speed leaving afterimages in the air as he thought back to the style of the primitive woman.

It had been so long since he sunk into her thoughts, and yet he was back there again as though the first time he touched the spear was just yesterday.

He seemed to be able to grasp many subtleties he had completely missed back when he was just in the Third Dimension. No... he hadn't just missed them, it was like he wasn't looking for them at all.

The truth was that even now, he wasn't looking for them. It was just that his senses were so far superior to what they had been back then that he almost had no choice but to notice.

The subtle but powerful twist of her hips, the way her feet grinded into the ground as though to gain the support of the earth with her every strike, the almost insignificant flex and turn of her wrist just before her strike landed.

For a moment, Leonel was in a daze.

The process felt eerily similar to him. How different was brandishing a spear compared to throwing a football? Or, more pertinently, a javelin?

The mechanisms were slightly different, but the methods and foundation of drawing up and producing power were nearly identical.

He could draw on the same concepts, that natural motion that came as easy as breathing to him. He never had to think when he drew his bow or when he cocked his arm back to release the draconic power in his arm, but that was also because he had drilled the latter so many times that it came so naturally. When had he ever put so much effort into the spear?

And what about the former? With a bow, much of the mechanics were taken out of his hands, but now that he thought about it, there were many small tweaks he could make to his bowmanship that could take him to a different level entirely.

The bow was only more forgiving because he could make up all his mechanical flaws with his calculative abilities.

Who cared if his arm wasn't straight, if his back wasn't tight, if his shoulders weren't steady, if he could always just adjust the angle or his Bow Force so that his aim was true every time?

Leonel went through all these thoughts in just the split moment it took for him to fall onto the castle walls. In just those small split seconds, his entire demeanor had shifted and changed, his approach changing entirely.

He had the perfect ability to perfect his mechanics to an absolute extreme, and yet he had never used it.

He would change that. Starting right now.

Leonel stomped down hard, his hair fluttering and his aura becoming restrained.

He pierced forward, his Spear Force jetting forward and leaving a hole in the heads of two Sparrows and a Pixie.

Their small frames and ridiculous speed and agility was exactly the kind of challenge he needed right now. Leonel restrained his aura even further, not relying on any Force other than his Spear Force and lowering his speed even further.

These were just Fifth Dimensional enemies for now. He wouldn't be satisfied until his skill alone could overwhelm them.

"Come!"

His base was steady, his wrists flexed and his back tall.

He walked forward like a mountain, his every pierce becoming more refined, the wind around him shifting as a slight Auspicious Air began to form as he became more focused.

By the tenth pierce, Leonel had reflected the skill of the primitive woman perfectly. Every twitch of the muscle, every subtle movement, even the angle she grinded her feet into the ground at.

But he wasn't satisfied. There was more here. He could feel it.

Chapter 1430 Whistle

Leonel's spear flew like a jet stream, leaving blurs in the air as he pierced through head after head. His lethality only increased, and yet his speed seemed to only become slower.

It wasn't a surprise that Leonel had only taken ten pierces to reach the level of the primitive woman. After all, his Ability Index was perfect for this and this was ultimately just a Black Grade weapon. But, he still basked in the feeling.

He could sense it, there was a level beyond. There was a level that represented why this woman's spear would be in the Spear Domain. This wasn't enough to gain the acknowledgment of the spear, there was something he was still missing.

Three Sparrows shot toward Leonel, each of them just four feet tall. But, because they were all flying low to the ground, their heights were no less than that of Leonel.

Two wielded short swords and the last was an archer who lagged behind. These three were most definitely more powerful than the ones Leonel had been fighting until this point, each of them in the latter third of the Fifth Dimension, beyond even Leonel's Tier 6 level.

However, Leonel didn't flinch, his pale violet irises twinkling with a hidden light as the Auspicious Air around him thickened.

His spear shot outward, releasing six streaks in quick succession. The wooden polearm bent and wove through the air like an elegant thread, matching the trajectory Leonel could see being projected onto the real world in real time.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!

The two swordsmen defended for their lives, their wings flapping hard as they were pushed back.

An arrow flew between their head, aiming for Leonel's head before he could follow up. But, with just as much ease, Leonel tilted to the side, his spear tilting upward from a low trajectory, piercing toward the chin of one of the Sparrows.

Leonel's eyes suddenly widened, his blood rushing through his veins.

That was it, that felt so good.

He was washed with a feeling of euphoria even before his stinger blade shot through the lower jaw of the Sparrow, exiting out the back of his skull.

It was almost like Leonel had felt the success before it landed, like it was a perfect move the skies had blessed him with. It was a sort of emotion Leonel had never experienced before and it left him on cloud nine.

He pulled his spear back, his attacks suddenly becoming less predictable and more erratic. His rhythm shifted and moved like an elegant dance to music that jumped and warped. Sometimes it was fierce, at other times calm, and at yet other times it was ignited with a fiery passion that almost made Leonel loins burn with the same heat.

He could remember the seduction of the primitive woman, how scantily clad she was, how much grace and beauty she carried through with her every movement.

Her pores oozed with charm, her steps fusing with her moving and leaving her enemies in a trance.

It was suddenly so obvious to Leonel. How was it that the primitive woman could make a spear that could do nothing but pierce so powerful?

It sounded quite ridiculous. Without any sort of variation, how could it be difficult to contend with her?

But now, it was before Leonel as bright as day. There were many ways to vary one's attacks without using a different attack at all. You could change your cadence, your rhythm, you could even shift how much power you used, pushing and pulling at the instincts of an enemy until you lured them to a cliff and blew them a soft kiss as they fell off.

Leonel's expression turned weird, breaking out of his trance.

He shot a hand away from his spear, snatching at the air and grabbing an arrow out of the wind before it could pierce his brows.

He laughed to himself, his laugh becoming louder and louder until the castle itself began to rock as the Earth Force that made up its foundation threatened to quake to the point the entire structure would come crumbling down.

Leonel had immersed himself in the thoughts of the primitive woman to the point that he truly almost blew out a kiss mid battle.

Suddenly, Aina let out a whistle to his back.

"Why did you stop, I was enjoying the show!"

Leonel looked back to find Aina's face red from laughter as severed corpses fell around her. She was wheezing to the point Leonel thought snot might fly from her nose at any moment now, yet she still somehow managed to remain gorgeous.

"Show me more of what those swaying hips can do!"

Leonel's lip twitched. It seemed that he had immersed himself more than he thought. But soon, a sly grin spread across his face.

"If you want to see what my hips can do, you only needed to ask."

"Sure, sure." Aina laughed. "Do you want me to be top or bottom?"

"Funny. We'll see if you're still laughing in the end or if you'll be looking at me with those puppy dog eyes again."

Aina coughed through her laughter before jumping over the side of the castle wall.

"You'll never get to see either of them if you can't keep up!" She shouted out as she fell.

Leonel flicked his wrist, sending the arrow he had caught through the brows of the Pixie that had shot it at him before rushing after Aina.

A smile was plastered all over his face, this was far more fun than he had had in a while.

Since Aina had already seen him in such an embarrassing state, he might as well also show her the flexibility technique he learned from Valiant Heart Mountain. Even though he hadn't used it in a while, he thought it would be a useful way to get that smug smile on her face to turn into a lustful scream.

Leonel's body flashed, a streak of gold being left in his wake, his spear's light severing everything in its path.