

Descent 341

Chapter 341

“Another fugitive, tsk.”

“Technically no, that was just a mark of suspicion. They’re only monitoring him. Poor guy probably just got caught up in something that was over his head.”

“Whatever it is, he’s pretty stupid to leave the city. He’s just asking to die. He hasn’t even stepped out of the Third Dimension yet but he wanted to survive outside of the City Walls? Who do you think he’ll fall to, an Invalid or a beast? Let’s place some bets.”

The guards spoke as they pleased. To them, it was impossible for Leonel to hear them from so far away. And, even if they knew he could hear them, it was highly unlikely that they’d even care enough to stop.

“Well, what’s his alternative? He probably couldn’t find a place to stay and he was probably stupid enough to come here with a one way ticket. You think someone like him could even afford a ticket back to his own world?”

Leonel smiled bitterly. That was true, he had no way back to Earth for now. Though, that wasn’t because he couldn’t afford it.

Unlike Earth, Terrain had teleportation pads. This meant that Leonel didn’t need to enter a Zone to earn a Tier 9 Black reward to go back. He just had to pay the appropriate fee.

There were only two issues with this: first, he needed Earth’s coordinates.[PANDA-NOVEL.COM](http://PANDA-NOVEL.COM)

This was simple enough, he could just ask the dictionary about it.

The second issue was much harder to deal with: he had to actually be allowed to leave.

Even though no one had ever said anything about his travel being restricted, the teleportation pads were still owned by the cities. Just like he could be rejected from entering their hotels, he would be stopped from using their other services as well.

As for why people who apparently couldn't stand his guts would stop him from leaving, that had an explanation as well... No one wanted to be complicit in the escape of a 'suspicious' entity. There was no way they'd help him.

The guards laughed amongst one another.

"Still, who do you think those fugitives they're looking for are?"

The guards fell into silence. All of them looked toward the rookie that asked such a stupid question as though they couldn't wait to skin him alive. PANDA NOVEL

The rookie, seemingly realizing he said something wrong, lowered his head. He didn't even mumble an apology, hoping that no one acknowledged what he had just asked.

They all knew that Terrain was currently in a state of turmoil, a crossroads of sorts. Some wanted to ensure their world reached the Fifth Dimension while others felt that doing such a thing was useless.

As though the internal conflict wasn't bad enough, there were people pulling strings from the background... and it could be said that those who were pulling these strings were quite invested in ensuring that Terrain abandoned its chances of becoming a Fifth Dimensional world.

Leonel found the sudden silence of the guards to be quite interesting. It seemed as though this was another open secret everyone was aware of but didn't dare to speak of.

“Anyway!” The rookie tried to change the subject. “I heard that another power suffered a loss at the hands of the Sword Monstress.”

The guards looked at the rookie weirdly.

“What kind of name is that supposed to be?”

“How am I supposed to know? I’m not the one that came up with the name. I hear she’s a woman and a monster, so they call her the Monstress. They say she’s built and looks like a gorilla and wields a three-meter-long sword, thus Sword Monstress.”

The guards looked at one another all simultaneously sent a kick toward the rookie. What a lame story.

Leonel shook his head and left. They weren’t talking about anything he was interested in any longer.

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A long while later, the road Leonel traveled along began to grow less and less well kempt.

It slowly became narrower and less paved. Soon, weeds and grasses began to spring up all along it.

By now, Leonel had left the range of the city. Anyone who was hoping to reach the City Gates within the next half hour before closing had long since passed him by. It was safe to say that he was fairly alone at this point.

Soon, the flat land began to turn into a forest that quickly grew in density.

After reaching this point, Leonel entered a state of high alert.

On his way here, he had crossed two groups heading toward the city. But, both of them had had individuals he felt could squash him like a bug. If it wasn't for his rags and his weakness, there was no telling if he would have been robbed and killed or not.

This told him two things.

First, this meant the Fourth Dimension was a completely different animal. Leonel didn't know why he didn't feel the pressure of this world, but he knew that he couldn't underestimate it just because of this.

Second, Leonel realized that having such powerful people in your midst was practically a necessity if he wanted to travel through this world...

Of course, Leonel had one advantage: his Internal Sight.

He could trust it in most cases and dodge danger before he even reached it. After Crystallizing his Spirit Pressure, he could see up to half a kilometer away even in this Fourth Dimensional world. Back on Earth, his range was easily over a kilometer.

Leonel could only hope that a half kilometer and his instincts were enough to keep him safe.

After he traveled a decent enough depth, Leonel began to sink into the ground.

'... It takes more Force now..'

Leonel frowned, but he could only keep pouring his Force out. He had already been aware that multiple things would be more difficult after coming to a Fourth Dimensional world. He could only accept it.

Soon, Leonel's head had disappeared from the surface, completely vanishing.

He had one main goal in mind. He had to finish his Force Crystallization and complete his Tenth Node.. Only then would he have some more assurance in staying in this backwards world.

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Leonel sunk deep into the ground and summoned the Segmented Cube.

Truth be told, he didn't feel 100% safe in this region. There was no telling what kind of powerful beasts could burrow through the ground. In addition, as things stood now, he was still being tracked. There was also no telling what those people would do with that information.

Leonel shook his head and entered the Abode Setting. He had no idea how he could possibly get so unlucky to land himself in this situation. But here he was, he could only make the most of it.

'Could it be that something like this happened to Aina too?'

Leonel's heart suddenly clenched. He remembered that when he sent Aina here, they had quite literally just survived a bombing. It could even be argued that her state was worse than his current own. On top of that, she was severely injured and a beautiful woman alone in this world. There was no telling what could happen.

Leonel thought back to that bad feeling he had had and clenched his teeth.

A murderous aura seemed to still the air around him. Leonel hardly noticed it, nor did he realize when he could suddenly exude such bloodthirst. But, all he knew was that if they dared to touch one hair on her head'! He wouldn't care about what consequences going against them could bring.  
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Leonel stripped himself of his clothes and began to slowly wash himself.

It was hard to tell if he was being deliberate or not, but his movements were paced and methodical as though each and every one of his actions had the utmost importance.

After a long while, he was cleaned and refreshed. Then, he took entered his room and sank into his bed, falling asleep once again.

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Leonel awoke feeling better than he ever had. His body felt like a powerful spring, ready to launch itself into the skies. His injuries were completely healed, even ones hidden well within the depths of his being. And, his mind was clear, even clearer than it had been after his first nap.

With that, he entered the Lab Setting and set his sights on the many blueprints his father had left behind. PANDA NOVEL

Truthfully, these blueprints didn't have some powerful, nation rending treasures depicted on them. Rather, they were mostly written as guiders to Leonel's training. As such, most of them were actually related to aspects of forming Divine Armor as it was an outrageously complicated process.

The general rule of Force Crafters was that treasures with more parts tended to be more complicated. So, one could imagine how difficult forming one's Divine Armor was. Even the simplest designs would have upwards of 40 to 50 parts, something that was far beyond the current Leonel.

That said, Leonel wasn't looking toward these blueprints to start on his Divine Armor. As things stood now, that wasn't a valuable use of his time.

Leonel scanned through and picked out a blueprint before unfurling it on his Crafter's table.

The design that revealed itself was a simple set of clothes that could provide decent defenses. At the very least, they wouldn't break so easily in battle and would also help Leonel stand out less. After all, the sweatpants of Earth looked quite odd in this new world.

One of the most important parts about forming Divine Armor was understanding the human body and how it moved in relation to its parts. Tailoring clothing was one of the first steps that his father had laid out for him. PANDA NOVEL

Leonel memorized the blueprint and imprinted it into his mind using Dream Sculpt. Then, he began to choose materials.

Leonel's snowglobes were filled with Third Dimensional beasts thanks to his time on the Project Hunt Island. Picking out beasts with sturdy hides was just a matter of reaching out a finger and pointing.

Like this, an odd scene of a naked boy tailoring his first set of clothing could be seen.

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FUU!

Leonel patted down his robes, causing them to slam down against his body in a whipping motion.

They had a heavy, leathery texture to them and were a deep black. They followed a similar design to the clothing of that star and cross organization and split at his waist. But, since Leonel didn't want to get into any unnecessary trouble he only split it down once from just below his belly button. That way, the robes wouldn't obstruct his movements despite their heft.

Compared to the robes, Leonel's pants were much looser and freer. They were made of an exceptionally light material and fluttered with the slightest movement. If one looked closely, it was clear that it wasn't the material that was light as much as the Force Arts Leonel wove into it made it so.

'Good enough.' Leonel nodded to himself, slicking his hair back.

His long hair was really getting to be a problem, but cutting it was even more difficult. In fact, as he progressed through strengthening his body, it only got tougher and tougher. Leonel no longer had the means to cut his hair even if he wanted to as it seemed to be even more powerful than his body.

Toward this issue, he could only shake his head and let his bronzed hair sway toward the small of his back. He could only hope he didn't become a male Rapunzel in the future.

Leonel took off his robes, leaving him shirtless. Now that he had some real work to do, there was no need to leave such heavy protection on.

Little Tolly shot up excitedly, bouncing across the table like a little silver basketball.

Leonel smiled. Ever since Blackstar went into a deep sleep, this little one had been feeling lonely. Even though the two were always at each other's throats, Leonel could tell that they were a bit fond of one another.

The main reason Leonel left his Zone later than Monet and Violet Rain was because he had used his remaining time with Uncle Montez to infuse the mimicry blood into Little Blackstar. That way, he could assure that absolutely nothing went wrong.

So, right now, Little Blackstar was assimilating with the blood. But, by the time Leonel finished, the little guy should be up and raring to go.

Leonel took a deep breath and began to meditate. He was very close to reaching perfection in his Crystallization.. Once he did, it would be time.

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The days slowly ticked by, but Leonel hardly noticed them. His body was as light as a feather, following along a natural progression that didn't even seem difficult to him.

Then, one day'!

BANG!

SHUUUUUUU!

A hot steam shot all around Leonel's body.

Well, at first look it was just steam. But, upon second inspection, one would be shocked to find that it was actually Force. Tangible Force!



This wasn't the kind of Force only those with Internal Sight could see. Even mortals who hadn't come into contact with Force a day in their lives would very clearly be able to see it. This sort of shocking Crystallization was the likes of which even King Arthur hadn't reached!

Leonel took a deep breath.

All the dense fog around him seemed to surge into his body, entering through his pores and boring into his soul, leaving him feeling incomparably refreshed. [PANDA-NOVEL.COM](http://PANDA-NOVEL.COM)

'I did it' ! This should also be the Strong Stage' !'

Leonel realized that when his body suddenly sucked in all his Force like that, his body broke through another shackle and reached the Strong Stage.

It had to be remembered that refining one's Metal Body in the Third Dimension was split into five phases. The Weak, Standard, Strong, Superior and Perfection stage. This could be considered the foundation one laid to enter the Fourth Dimension.

This was another reason Leonel wasn't worried about not having the rest of [Dimensional Cleanse] just yet. Even if he couldn't progress to the Fourth Dimension with his Force, he could still do so with his Soul Force, he could still comprehend the Four Seasons Realm, and he could also bring his Metal Body into the Fourth Dimension as well.

Regardless of which of these three paths it was, each of them would give him the strength of a Fourth Dimensional entity. So, what did it matter?

As things stood now, if Leonel wanted, he could bring his Metal Body to the Fourth Dimension this very instant. But, as a person who opened all Nine Doors, how could he waste his potential like that? He had to reach Superior Stage at worst before progressing.

Leonel flexed his forearms.

'My body is already nearing the strength of a Pseudo Fourth Dimensional Ore. It wouldn't be easy even for Fourth Dimensional entities to harm me'' PANDA NOVEL

Leonel took a deep breath. This gave him even more assurance to form his Tenth Node. He knew that no matter how much he planned it all out, the process would still be impossibly painful. After all, he was trying to break through restrictions set by the universe itself. Even if this could be considered to be a minor restriction in the grand scheme, to the current Leonel, it was an insurmountable mountain.

Leonel took a deep breath to adjust himself. Then, he took another long bath and deep sleep before finally returning, his body brimming with vitality.

No matter how you looked at him, Leonel seemed to be a pointed spear. All the hatred, humiliation and grievance he had suffered those few days ago seemed to become his whetstone, sharpening his edge to unimaginable degrees.

"Let's begin." Leonel spoke to no one in particular.

His breath shot out like an arrow, trembling the space before his lips.

He sat crossed legged, a vial of thick, milky liquid in his hands. This was none other than the Dew he had collected in the several months he had the stalactite for. Just a single drop was more than enough to form a Node, but Leonel actually had almost a dozen.

In that moment, Leonel began to circulate [Dimensional Cleanse] in full force. The speed of his rotation his Stars experienced accelerated and his body suddenly felt bloated.

Leonel split his mind in two directions, both focusing in on his kidneys. p??J??????

Leonel had calculated everything out. If he tried to form his Nodes one at a time, he would get stone walled when he tried to form his Tenth. The only chance he stood was to form them both at the very same time.

For the current Leonel, splitting his mind in two directions was as easy as breathing. After Crystallizing his Spirit Pressure to perfection, he could already split it over eight ways. So, how could two possibly be an issue?

Leonel guides his Force, stimulating his life energies, rearranging the cells of kidneys.

The kidney was an extraordinarily important part of the body. It was responsible for cleaning away many of the impurities of the blood. However, for anyone who had ever suffered a kidney stone before, they would know that even the smallest particle could cause everything to go wrong.

For Leonel to rearrange his cells, though it wasn't as dangerous as when he had done so with his brain, the immediate pain was definitely far more potent.

However, from the outside, one would never guess that Leonel was in pain.

In just an hour, Leonel had already rearranged a hundred cells worth of space, creating a nice pocket for his two Nodes. To this point, despite the pain, everything had gone perfectly. All he had to do now was form his Node within the pockets he had created and connect them with his others. By then, his foundation within the Third Dimension would become perfect.

Leonel's chest expanded, his thick Force building.

In one swift motion, he unhesitatingly swung his head back and gulped down the whole vial of dew.

BANG!

Leonel's body suddenly expanded by a size. However, it wasn't proportional in the slightest. He looked as though he had suddenly gained a hundred pounds and that his body would burst at any moment.

However, under the strength of his Metal Body, he kept himself together as his face contorted.

Blood leaked from his lips, but he willed himself to focus.

In that instant, all the Force in his body rushed to two locations, carving out a Node Pathway with impunity.

Leonel's brow trembled, but he bit down on his teeth hard.

He compressed his bloated body, squeezing his muscles and flexing with all his might.

Cracks began to spread not only across himself, but even the floors of the Lab Setting. It seemed that he might implode at any given moment.

But it was exactly then that he felt the Node Pathways complete. One to his left kidney and the other two his right.

Just when Leonel was about to feel ecstatic, he suddenly felt as though someone had stabbed through the right side of his body and twisted the knife.

In that moment, a scar Leonel had hardly thought about his whole life suddenly lit on fire. From a faint mark near his liver, it suddenly exploded, radiating out with a blinding light.

“AGH!”

Leonel couldn't control his roar. The pain was so excruciating that his eyes rolled back until only their whites remained. His body convulsed uncontrollably.

There was no need to even mention his breakthrough attempt. He had completely lost control of his Force, his body bursting apart at its seams.

He flopped to the ground, his body spasming as blood leaked from his orifices. The scar continued to burn brighter and brighter, stretching up the side of his body as though to swallow him whole.

Leonel could have never thought that the reason he felt nine Nodes weren't enough was precisely because of this scar his father mentioned in the note he left to him all that time ago'!

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Leonel felt as though a blade was twisting through his organs. He had never experienced pain on this level in his entire life. It was to the point that no amount of will could keep his mind clear. Whatever semblance of control he had had over the process of his body had completely collapsed, resulting in a rampaging Force surging throughout his body.

Anyone else in this sort of situation would have long since died. In fact, the moment they swallowed that amount of dew, they would have exploded on the spot.

That said, Leonel's current situation had little to nothing to do with the amount of Force he had swallowed. In fact, it had nothing to do with him trying to form a Tenth Node either. It was entirely related to the twisting pain at his hip.

To this point, Leonel still had no idea why his father ever mentioned the scar above his hip. Leonel had never been aware of where it came from. Considering he played football, he had never thought much about it to begin with. Injuries always seemed to pop up randomly for anyone who played the sport. He had even broken his ribs during the last game he played, why would he think so much about a barely visible scar?

However, Leonel could have never imagined that such a small matter would blow up to this level.

Leonel's mind was completely blank. His eyes had rolled back, making his vision completely black. It felt as though the only thing he could feel was pain, the only thing he could hear were his screams, the only thing he could smell was the metallic stench of his own blood. [PANDA-NOVEL.COM](http://PANDA-NOVEL.COM)

Then, it all began to turn faint. As though his life was being pulled along by a string completely out of his control, he stalked closer toward death. And, maybe the worst part was that Leonel wasn't even aware.

Maybe it was because his will wasn't tempered enough, maybe it was because this pain was truly beyond the limits of his body, but there was nothing he could do to change his own fate.

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As Leonel was straddling the line of life and death, Scithe had finally gotten the report he had been waiting several days for. After reading it, he furrowed his brow.

With the level of their organization, digging up information on a mere Third Dimensional existence was too easy. However, Leonel's information was too weird. PANDA NOVEL

For one, his grandfather was the Emperor of his world.

Having a world unified beneath one force was incredibly rare to begin with. It was an extraordinary feat and it was impossible for any simple existence to accomplish this, especially when it was a world with so much talent like Earth.

This alone wasn't enough to cause Scithe to frown. Who cared about the Emperor of a Pseudo Fourth Dimensional world? He might find it troublesome if Earth was a Pseudo Fifth Dimensional world, but they were very clearly far from this.

What made him raise an eyebrow wasn't the information, but rather, the lack of it.

Firstly, there wasn't a single hint of information about Leonel's maternal grandmother and Emperor Fawkes' wife. It was to the point they hadn't even managed to find her name. No birth records, no name, no death certificate' | nothing. ρ??∪???????

As though that wasn't enough, his mother had vanished off the face of the planet. She hadn't been heard of in decades. In fact, the time she had disappeared for far outstripped Leonel's own age which was more than enough to raise some eyebrows.

Then, there was Leonel's father. Rather than vanishing, the issue with him was that he appeared out of nowhere. There were records that were very clearly forged of his birth and early life, but it was all too simple for Scithe's organization to find out how fake these things were.

On top of that, he suddenly vanished after the Metamorphosis began. There wasn't a single record of him, nothing.

Even this aside, there was Leonel himself.

To summarize the boy as a troublemaker was an understatement.

The near destruction of a Fort, the murder of several hidden family members, the falling out with the rebels of Earth' ;

Of course, none of these things were enough to move Scithe. What did he care what a teen did against such weak organizations? The real issue was how all of this fit together.

There were a lot of organizations eyeing Earth right now. In fact, even without the mission he was given, Scithe already had Earth on his radar. This was simply one of those things the public was in the dark about while those with some real weight to them were already taking advantage of.

What Scithe wanted to know was whether or not Leonel and his mysterious family was part of those eyeing Earth as a pie they wanted a slice of' ;

If this was the case, then Scithe might very well become a scapegoat in a power struggle simply by virtue of the fact he was unlucky enough to be saddled with this mission' ;

Thinking to this point, Scithe' sunken eyes narrows, his already pale features growing a shade whiter. When he entered such deep thought, his blood seemed to slow by a measure, making him appear to be even more ghost-like.

'No matter what actions I take now, they have to be done with the utmost secrecy' ;'

Scithe knew that he didn't have the option to reject this mission. This was simply the plight of the weak. However, he also knew that his organization wouldn't throw him out to dry either. If they set such a precedent, it wouldn't be long before no one was willing to work for them.

This ultimately meant that he needed to set a seed of appropriate amounts of doubt. As long as there wasn't conclusive evidence that he was the one who acted, he should be able to keep a certain level of protection for himself.

“Where is he now.”

Scithe finally turned the attendant who still knelt on the ground.

“From our information, he has long since left Earth using a teleportation ticket. But, since these tickets can only teleport someone within a quadrant, there were only about 200 worlds he could have gone to. After looking through the teleportation records of them all, there are 5 worlds that fit the timing and only one registered to Leonel Morales. He should be on Terrain, coordinate xx.xx.xx, at the moment.”

Scithe nodded. “Prepare everything. I want to leave within the hour.”

“Yes!”

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Scithe landed on the teleportation platform.

Instead of looking around toward his surroundings, he frowned for a moment and closed his eyes, slowly regaining his bearing.

Despite the fact this was a private teleportation pad in the most secretive location the organization had to offer, there were already two individuals ready to receive Scithe. Neither said a word as Scithe regained his bearings and neither did Scithe acknowledge them.

Had Leonel been there, he would have immediately recognized these two as the very same male and female pair that had branded him with the mark that now hovered over his forehead.

When Scithe finally opened his eyes, the two of them stepped forward.



“Officer Fin greets Commander.”

“Officer Thorn greets Commander.”

Scithe looked toward the two of them indifferently.

The title of ‘Officer’ was just another way of saying unranked in their organization, while these ‘Officers’ all referred to those above them as Commander. It was similar to how some cultures called even those unrelated to them ‘Uncle’ or ‘Big Brother’, but in this case, rather than being a polite address, it was a way of drawing a line between true members of the organization and those who weren’t worthy.

“I received information that a certain Leonel Morales came through this city. You have ten minutes to get me information about his whereabouts and other pertinent information. You may leave.” PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Fin and Thorn froze, looking toward each other with their heads still bowed.

Scithe frowned. “What?”

He could clearly see that there was something wrong.

The male officer, Fin, looked up carefully and explained everything from start to finish.

“‘! The most recent information we have of him is that he has left the city. If Commander wants, we can use the monitoring brand to retrieve him.”

The truth was that these two Officers hadn’t put much stock in Leonel. Though they branded him, that was a matter of convenience rather than necessity. They knew well that the matter was an inconvenience to Leonel and also knew that it was unnecessary to go so far, but so what? Who cared how Leonel felt about it?

Never could they have expected that someone like Scithe would personally descend for someone they put no importance on.

When Scithe heard the story, his frown couldn't help but deepen.

Now, this matter he had been hoping to keep under wraps was likely the talk of much of the city. PANDA  
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This alone might have been fine, but the real problem was that now Leonel's conflict with their organization was public. There was no getting rid of this stain.

Even if there was no direct evidence, if Leonel's mysterious backing was strong enough, they might not give a damn and kill those responsible anyway. This was the kind of power true strength could give someone.

Scithe's frown deepened, causing Thorn and Fin to break out into a cold sweat, even the usually expressionless Thorn couldn't help but tremble.

After a while, Scithe's frown smoothed out.

Since others could use him as a scapegoat, why couldn't he do the same? Who said he had to get directly involved?

It was already a problem that he had come here personally. But, there was good news as well.

For one, he had come through a private port. Secondly, because he was trying to be secretive to begin with, these two were the only ones who knew about his arrival. And, coincidentally, these two were the only ones with direct contact and interaction with Leonel as well. This made things as perfect and watertight as they could be.

"Good." Scithe suddenly spoke. "Make sure to monitor him closely, very closely. Should he show any signs of stepping out of line, don't hesitate to punish him according to the law."

“I will be doing an inspection on this branch for the next while. Do as you usually do.”

With that, Scithe walked by the two officers and disappeared down the corridor, leaving the two of them stunned.

They weren't sure how they were supposed to take this information. Was there a hidden meaning? Were they supposed to take it at face value?

“What! what do we do!” Fin's confident sneer was nowhere to be seen. He looked more like a wounded pup who had been abandoned by his owner.

“ ”

Thorn remained silent for a long while. Clearly, she too was confused. In the end, she spoke hesitantly.

“This may be a test! The first thing Commander asked about when he came to was about this Leonel character. It's clear that his goal in coming here was related to this young man. But, he became apprehensive after hearing we already had dealings with him.

“On top of that, Commander came through the private pad only used in special circumstances! It's obvious that Commander wants to use us as scapegoats! It's clear that this Leonel's background isn't as simple as we once thought.”

Fin shivered at these words. It seemed that he too had already thought of this, it was just that he didn't want to believe it.

“But! This is still an opportunity.” Thorn said slowly. “If we can kill this Leonel secretly, or manage to kill him in an above board manner without bending or violating any rules, I think there's a chance we can turn this disaster into a chance to rise up the ranks.”

Fin clenched his jaw. “It's already impossible to kill him secretly. The only chance is to use the latter option.”

“ ‘I Agreed.”

The only question was ‘I how could they manipulate this Leonel into making a mistake worth his life?

Deep within the corridor, Scithe, who the two thought had already left, curled his lip. It seems he was quite satisfied with the conclusion the two officers had come to.

With that, he turned and truly walked away completely.

‘This is still interesting, though...’ Scithe thought to himself. ‘This branch seems to be on high alert for fugitives, but why be on alert to the point of coincidentally arresting a Third Dimensional ant?’

It was quite the coincidence indeed. Their organization had two conflicts with Leonel, neither related to the other. It seemed that there was something interesting going on in this quadrant.

Since he was here, he might as well dip a toe in and profit as well.

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What the two officers and Scithe had no idea about was that as they were speaking, the young man they were plotting the death of was already at death’s door.

Leonel lied convulsing in a pool of his own blood.

By now, Little Tolly was hopping around anxiously, but the little guy had no idea what to do.

The scar along Leonel side seemed to be growing more and more vicious with each passing moment. From afar, it looked as though Leonel was boiling from the inside out. The scar was like a burning hot coal, shining with a blazing red-orange light.

It was as that moment that an already terrible situation seemed to get worse.

The scar finally stopped growing and began to rapidly shrink. But, with this shrinkage came a violent suction energy. Not only was Leonel's own blood suddenly swallowed from around him, but the vitality within his body was being rapidly drained.

Soon, Leonel went from a human that was bursting at the seams to a skeleton without an ounce of meat left on his body.

His eyes sunk in, their whites flickering about wildly.. He looked like he was truly at his end.

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Leonel's skin pressed flush against his bone. Soon, it began to crackle and dry like a thin piece of paper. It even seemed like it just might crack like fine glass and perish into a pile of ash at any moment.

It was only then that something changed..

**BADDUM! BADDUM!**

Leonel's chest jolted so violently that it seemed like his heart might leap from his chest. The outline of his ribs were so clear in his current state that it was even vaguely possible to see the sudden activity.

His convulsing body shook once more. This time, a projectile of black blood shot out from his mouth as a familiar heat spread all through Leonel's body.

If Leonel was conscious, his mind would flash back to the days he spent with his father and a disgusting green smoothie he had to force down his throat everyday.

Leonel had believed that he already understood the purpose of his father's concoctions. They had helped his body strengthen faster than others after the Metamorphosis despite the fact he wasn't born with an offensive or physical ability. Yet, he could have never thought that these benefits were just mere

lingering aftereffects. They couldn't even represent a single percent of what their true strength was. PANDA-NOVEL.COM

At that moment, three things began to occur in Leonel's body at once.

In his left kidney, a large Force Node of 100 cells had connected with the rest of his body and began to shimmer in full force.

In his Ethereal Glabella, a sudden surge of Soul Force began to spin violently around itself, quickly forming a Third Star that sent pulses of pure energy outward.

And' | In his right kidney, a golden-red stone began to form. No' | It was more accurate to say that it had begun to reform. And, it was much larger than any one of Leonel's other Nodes. In fact, it didn't seem like a normal Node at all.

Leonel hadn't realized it before, but a portion of his kidney had been cut out. But, it had been such a small portion that even when he swept his Internal Sight over it, he hadn't noticed a thing. It could be said that it only took up the space of a few thousand cells.

However, at this moment, not only was the space that had been cut out suddenly filled with a heavy, swirling golden-red energy, but it slowly matured, taking over the whole of Leonel's right kidney until it completely morphed. PANDA NOVEL

In a process that took several days, Leonel's right kidney turned from a normal organ of flesh and blood to a gem shimmering of gold and scarlet.

It was clear that whatever had been cut out of Leonel had not only recovered, but it had also strengthened by countless times compared to the past. But, what was most shocking was the fact it took the place of Leonel's Tenth Node, but was very clearly several times larger than his other Nodes.

The kidney might not have been a particularly large organ, but it was still formed of hundreds of thousands to millions of cells. Compared to the 100 cells that formed Leonel's other Nodes, there wasn't even an appropriate comparison.

In addition, compared to the Force that usually swirled about Leonel's Nodes and Nodal Pathways, this energy was several levels above anything Leonel had ever come into contact with before.

It seemed that Leonel's father had gone a bit overboard in helping his son to recover. By normal convention, Leonel would have eventually helped his kidney mature to this state over a long period of time, but it seemed like this would no longer be necessary.

At that moment, the violent changes to Leonel's body slowly came to a stop. ρ??∫??????

As his Three Star Constitution completed, a surge of black, putrid liquid flowed out from his pores and mouth, filling the Lab Setting with a terrible stench. At the same time, the golden-red energy of his right kidney seemed to connect with the rest of his body, causing a purification affect that even managed to match the formation of Leonel's Third Star in a casual manner. And, finally, Leonel's body, after going through so much, broke through another barrier and entered the Superior Stage.

It was within his body that the most drastic changes began to occur. Whether by design or coincidence, the golden-red energy of Leonel's kidney seemed to resonate with the residual red energy of his Runes.

Back when Leonel had almost failed and suffered Bloodline Deviation he had managed to turn back in the end, but that experience still left a small influence on him. This was why instead of a pure violet, when he entered his true battle state, his eyes would also contain a tinge of red.

This redness seemed to be beloved by the energy of Leonel's kidney and they became attracted to one another. Soon, the slight redness of Leonel's Runes became more pronounced. At the same time, the bronze color grew in luster and tended slightly more toward gold.

The changes weren't escaped by Leonel's hair which also became more gold as it actually managed to survive the formation of his Third Star this time around.

But, maybe the greatest changes occurred in Leonel's Ethereal Glabella. At that moment, the faint spirit of his Snowy Star Owl seemed to also be influenced. In fact, compared to Leonel's Metal Synergy Lineage Factor, it resonated with this scarlet gold energy on a much deeper level even to the point of causing faint changes within the 12-Sided Star' !

As all these changes continued to take place, Leonel remained in a deep sleep. During that time, the spirit of the Segmented Cube seemed to not like the fact its insides had been so dirtied. So, Leonel was swept up and thrust into the bath house of the Abode Setting while the mess he left behind was cleaned' |

\*\*

Leonel suddenly gasped awake, his hands erratically touching around his own body as though to make sure it was all still there. It was only then he sighed a breath of relief and realized he had somehow ended up in bed.

'Did I fail?'

Leonel sighed. Even if he failed, he thought himself lucky. After all, surviving in such a situation was likely borderline impossible.

'Hold on' |'

Leonel frowned.

If he had failed, why was he uninjured? Could it be that he had only managed to form one Node? That was worse than failing all together because that meant he had no chance of forming his Tenth now' |

Leonel couldn't help but feel a bit down.

He sat up, crossing his legs and sinking into meditation. He might as well check the state of his body. He had always known that this was a nearly impossible endeavor, but for whatever reason, he had never even considered failure.

“ ‘| Huh?’”



The first thing Leonel noticed was that his Force was somewhat tinged with red. At first, he thought that this was a product of forming his Third Star. But, when he checked on the situation of his kidneys, he was left speechless.

It became very obvious, very quickly, that the reddish gold energy was coming from his right kidney which shimmered like a gem within his body.

'What the hell' !'

Leonel's hand suddenly shot toward his scar, his gaze flashing with an imperceptible light.

The truth was that Leonel had never thought much about his scar. He had learned about it from his father's note, but that had been before he even stepped into the Mayan Tomb. By the time he went through so many life and death situations and got his hands on the dictionary "" something he could finally use to find out more about it "" it wasn't even on his mind any longer. As a result, Leonel never got around to asking' !

'Innate Force Node' ! ?'

When Leonel's mind landed on these words, he was suddenly jolted out of his stupor.

He remembered that the first time he learned about Innate Force Nodes he had been reading [Dimensional Cleanse]. The creator had mentioned them and even said that created Force Nodes were no weaker.

But, looking at his right kidney, Leonel had a hard time imagining that his self-created Force Nodes could match up. Whether it was in size, quality or robustness, his right kidney far outstripped anything he had ever come across. In fact, it was an even higher quality than his Light Elemental Force which was an exceptionally high-level energy to begin with![PANDA-NOVEL.COM](http://PANDA-NOVEL.COM)

Leonel frowned.

Did this scar mean that someone had planted this Force Node into him? But why had he not noticed it until now? And what was with it being so large? Are all Innate Force Nodes this large?

Leonel reached out with his Internal Strength and tried to communicate with his right kidney's Node.

"AGH!"

A searing pain suddenly shot through Leonel's body. Just a wisp of the Force made him feel as though his body would burn to ash if he continued for even a split second more.

Leonel broke out into a cold sweat, collapsing.

What the hell? He couldn't even use his own Innate Force Node? What kind of joke was this?

Leonel had no idea that he had reawakened his Innate Force Node much earlier than his father had expected. pANDA NOVEL

Leonel wasn't supposed to try and form a Tenth Node. That was simply suicidal. The fact he tried at all was enough for people to look at him as though he was a madman.

Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately depending on the perspective, his actions catalyzed the rebirth of his Innate Force Node. But, it also made it far more powerful than he was prepared to deal with.

Leonel gave up, taking out the dictionary. He really had no idea what was happening.

"What is going on?"

Leonel couldn't even come up with pointed questions, he could only ask this. Ever since he left the turbulence of Camelot, the dictionary had begun to work just fine once again.

[ \*Ping\* ]

[ ' ]

After a long while of listening and many more specific questions, Leonel came to understand' ;  
p??J???????

His Innate Force Node hadn't been planted into him. In fact, it was the exact opposite. Someone had operated on him as a child and taken it out.

When Leonel wanted to find out more about this, the dictionary practically cut him out. The only understanding he managed to grasp was that it wasn't his father's family that had done so and even that was only done through various deductions.

Still, in the end, the Innate Force Node was Leonel's to begin with, it was written into his very being. It just needed a catalyst to rebirth itself. In the end, that catalyst came much earlier than anyone could have ever expected.

Finally, Leonel learned about just what this energy was.

[ \*Ping\* ]

[ Scarlet Star Force ]

Leonel, who was still in a bit of a bad mood after learning he had been operated on without his knowledge as a child, raised his eyebrows.

“What is that Force?”

[ \*Ping\* ]

[ Replying to Seed, Scarlet Star Force is a mutated Light Elemental Force that has gained characteristics of Fire Elemental Force and Star Elemental Force. It's a balance of all three that creates an all new energy that ranks among the top of all three Elemental types. ]

“Oh? Where does it rank amongst the three?”

[ \*Ping\* ]

[It ranks top ten of Star Elemental Forces. It ranks top three within Light Elemental Forces. It ranks number one within Fire Elemental Forces.]

Leonel was shocked. This was the first time the dictionary had given him such a definitive answer about the strength of something. The fact its answer was so decisive and clear made Leonel realize that his Scarlet Star Force was likely something beyond his imagining.

After taking several deep breaths to calm himself, Leonel asked the final question he had on his mind.

“What abilities is Scarlet Star Force known for?”

[ \*Ping\* ]

[ Destruction. ]

Leonel plopped down on his bed, a hint of shock playing his features.

It was a clean, direct, and unconfusing answer. It couldn't have been more forcefully outlined. And, Leonel believed it with his very being.

His Scarlet Star Force wasn't as simple as causing damage with oppressive heat or strong power, Leonel quite literally felt his cells quake whenever he observed the energy as though they didn't even want to live anymore.

This level of Force'! this quality of energy'! it held a mystery to it that was far beyond what the current Leonel could grasp. Even after just observing it for a moment, Leonel felt as though shackles within his mind were loosening and the feeling was just as profound as the Fourth Dimensional Force Art within his Dream World.

The only exception was that this Scarlet Star Force was only trying to teach him one thing instead of a myriad of things'!

How to destroy!

Just when Leonel wanted to experiment to see what his true limits were, he froze, his gaze shooting up to the ceiling of his room.

Someone was above him'!

Chapter 348

“What is it, Uncle Zimo? Why did we stop?”

The voice of a young lady came out from the midst of an escort. In fact, it wasn't just any young lady, but rather Syl, the friend of the woman who was the cause of Leonel's current predicament, but also, ironically maybe the reason Leonel was still alive.

The escort was quite long, containing at least 50 individuals. Aside from one large chariot which Syl's voice came from, the rest road odd war horses with twin horns and an underbelly covered in thick scales.

Uncle Zimo was the very same older man with sparse hair that had taken Syl away from Rie just days ago. But, at the moment, he stood in place at the head of the escort, his hands folded to his back and his gaze narrowed. The issue was that he seemed to be staring into empty space. Other than an unkempt road before him amidst a thick forest, there was nothing else.

Just when everyone was beginning think Uncle Zimo had gone crazy, the ground trembled slightly and a young man slowly appeared.

For a moment, it seemed as though the whole of the world revolved around him.

The young man wore heavy leather robes that exuded the wild air of a beast. His hair, shimmering of gold and bronze swayed slightly beneath the wind, accentuating his sharp, handsome features.

Though his eyes were colored a dull green, they held a hidden sharpness within them that remained calm even in the face of such a large group.

It was clear that this young man was still in the Third Dimension. Anyone with Internal Sight could see the faint rejection of the world around him. Yet, somehow, the pressure he exuded was so far beyond that.[PANDA-NOVEL.COM](http://PANDA-NOVEL.COM)

Uncle Zimo's gaze narrowed.

"Is there a reason you called me out?" Leonel questioned.

Despite the numerous eyes on him, his voice was steady and calm. However, it seemed to break an illusion everyone had just been under.

Whether it was by coincidence or design, the aura of the previous Leonel had made everyone ignore a few things. For one, no one had noticed the little mark around his neck until now. And, most importantly, no one had noticed the black mark that hovered before his forehead until now as well.

Upon realizing this, Uncle Zimo's expression became more hostile than it already was, causing Leonel to frown.

Leonel was getting really tired of people being hostile to him just because of this mark on his forehead. He had even left the city, only for this nonsense to happen anyway.

The worst part was that Leonel was certain that he was no match for this man. He didn't know enough about the Fourth Dimension to properly measure this man's stats, but all he needed to know was that this Uncle Zimo was far stronger than his previous self. As for how his current self would stack up, Leonel had no idea, he hadn't even had a chance to measure his limits.

Uncle Zimo took a step forward, causing Leonel's furrowed brows to darken. PANDA NOVEL

"I suggest you watch yourself. I'm not in the greatest of moods." Leonel said coldly. "If you insist on attacking me without reason, I'll ensure that your whole escort is swarmed by beasts and Invalids."

Leonel's sudden words stunned Uncle Zimo. Maybe he had never expected someone within the Third Dimension to speak to him like this. There weren't many even within the Fourth Dimension who dared to say such words.

However, Leonel was clearly not in the mood to mind his feelings.

First, he was branded like a slave. Then he was forced out of the city without a place to sleep. Then he almost died during his breakthrough, only to find out that someone had snatched something that was his as a child. Even though he had gotten it back now, with Leonel's personality, he was still more than just a little pissed.

And now, instead of crossing over him without a word, this damned old man stopped the whole escort just to bring him out from the ground and suddenly wanted to target him for something that wasn't his fault?

Leonel found that his patience for nonsense was getting shorter and shorter as time passed. The longer he spent in this new world order, the more his charismatic, easy-going self was whittled away.

Uncle Zimo's shocked appearance suddenly gave way to a sneer and then laughter. It wasn't just him, many of the soldiers and warriors within the escort couldn't hold it in any longer.

Yet, Leonel didn't seem to have heard their mocking chuckling. PANDA NOVEL

He flipped his palm over, a deep black bow appearing in his hand. Even the sun that peaked through the heavy foliage above could only be wholly absorbed by its surface.

The little mink on Leonel's shoulder bared its little fangs, growling.

Leonel's aura seemed to change once more, sharpening. A slightly cold wind circled around him, causing the dried leaves at his feet to swirl about.

He casually nocked an arrow and faced the escort, his indifferent gaze locking onto Zimo.

It was clear in an instant that he wasn't joking in the slightest. If this old man continued to piss him off, he really would do something.

Uncle Zimo stopped laughing and frowned.

“Do you really think any beasts would be attracted by your mere Third Dimensional Force? Do you think I would need my Fourth Dimensional Force to deal with you? Do you think this is a fairy tale?”

Leonel's gaze remained without expression. It was as though he hadn't heard Zimo's words at all.

His entire demeanor seemed to say 'try me'.

His own Third Dimensional Force wouldn't attract Invalids here, but what if he activated his Winter Four Seasons Realm comprehension? He had already reached the pinnacle of Crystallization, what if he broke into the Fourth Dimension with his Soul Force right here? And even if he ignored all of that, what about his Scarlet Star Force? Was there a beast or Invalid in the world that could withstand its temptation?

At this point, Leonel was truly daring Zimo to act. He would gladly bury this arrogant prick right here.

At the same time, Uncle Zimo was growing more and more pissed. A mere Third Dimensional ant actually dared to speak to him this way? The worst part was that he really didn't dare to call Leonel out on his bluff.



Even if he truly believed Leonel was spewing nothing but nonsense, he had a responsibility to protect Zimo. Even if there was only a 1% chance, he was trained to not risk it.

His gaze turned hard as he stared down Leonel, but the latter met his gaze without a worry.

“It’s you?”

Suddenly, a voice cut through the atmosphere.

Leonel frowned. Not only did he recognize the voice, just hearing it made him more pissed than he already was.

At that moment, two women peeked out from the carriage, one of whom was Rie, the very woman who caused much of Leonel’s troubles in this world.

The moment she spoke, Leonel’s glare landed on her, causing her trouble breathing to come back several folds stronger. She nearly collapsed where she stood.

Uncle Zimo suddenly took a step forward, but’

SHUUUUUUUUUU!

He had hardly moved when an arrow landed barely a centimeter before his foot.

In that instant, he froze. This wasn’t because he felt the danger of the arrow. It was slow and for someone like him, dodging it would have been possible. The issue was that he hadn’t even finished lifting his foot when the arrow landed before him right in the area he had wanted to step toward.

The awkward sudden stop shifted his momentum backward, causing an arrow that wouldn’t have been lethal to him regardless to make him look ridiculous.

Leonel's gaze left Rie and landed back on Uncle Zimo, his expression becoming even colder. Now that he knew this escort was led by that woman, his impression of them was even worse.

"Boy'!" Zimo's voice came out in a low growl.

"Uncle Zimo, stop." Syl's voice suddenly calmed the atmosphere once again. "Young man, how about we have a chat?"

Leonel frowned and looked away from Zimo once again. What did this woman want?

## Chapter 349

Syl was a bit off put by Leonel's reaction. What young man wouldn't want to have a talk with a beauty like her? What was his issue?

However, with her noble upbringing, it was impossible for such thoughts to cross her face. In fact, they were just fleeting thoughts of hers she didn't spend much time on to begin with.

"Did you not hear her?"

Just when Leonel was thinking of what he should be doing, a young man riding one of those odd war steeds glared toward Leonel. It was clear that he was very much unsatisfied with Leonel's attitude.

'What the hell is wrong with these people?' Leonel almost couldn't refrain from rolling his eyes.

It was as though everyone who he met made it their duty to piss him off.

"If you want to speak with me, there's nothing wrong with the current arrangement. I would hate to get attacked again just for breathing the same air as you." Leonel said indifferently. [PANDA-NOVEL.COM](http://PANDA-NOVEL.COM)

Syl was even more stunned by these words, while Zimo's expression darkened. As for the young man who spoke out, his hands slid to the sword by his side. It seemed that he too was losing his patience.

No one seemed to realize that Leonel's words were correct, even if they were somewhat rude.

He had just been dragged up from deep within the earth just because he happened to be along their way. Who knew what would happen if he actually accepted this advice? He didn't have a death wish.

The only reason Leonel set himself up so close to the road to begin with was because beasts tended to avoid the human population so they would be less likely to be near where humans frequented. But, he didn't expect this logical choice to land him in trouble.

Rie stomped her feet. "He's so rude, Syl. Just get Uncle Zimo to beat him up so we can leave."

Leonel's gaze swept over Rie once more, causing the rest of her words to get caught in her throat. Whatever she meant to say came out in a whimper, dying in her chest. PANDA NOVEL

Syl comforted Rie for a moment before peeking back through the window of the carriage.

She observed Leonel for a long while. She couldn't help but be curious, plus, she felt a bit guilty. She had happened to overhear some of the things Leonel had suffered through in the city thanks to the actions of her friend. The fact he was hostile wasn't too much of a surprise. It could even be said it was partly her fault for giving Rie an inside path toward a job she wasn't qualified for.

"I!" Syl hesitated. "I'm in need of a guard. The pay is quite good, if you're interested."

Zimo's expression changed. Guard? What better guard was there than him? Even if he failed, there were still 50 others. And, even if those 50 failed, there were still the hand selected youths for this important event. And, even if by some act of a god all of this failed, there were still the life saving measures she had as the young miss of a preeminent family.

What need did she have for a Third Dimensional guard?

The young man riding the war horse by Syl's carriage carried the worst expression. How did asking for a new guard reflect on himself? ρ???(???????)

But, Leonel's words made it all worse.

“I have no interest in being a bodyguard. I only want to leave this place without being targeted.”  
Leonel said plainly.

Though he was in need of an organization to gain information from, Leonel had no interest in this nonsense. He had to figure out a way to find Aina or at least get her to find him and joining a group with so much clear hostility toward him was the last thing he wanted to do.

Syl was once again stumped. She tried to be nice, but if Leonel didn't want it, there was no way for her to force him to accept her kindness.

Of course, if Leonel knew her thoughts, he would think she thought too much of herself. It was an act of kindness for him to act as her guard? Compared to those here, even if his physical strength couldn't match up, his Internal Sight was most definitely unmatched. His ability to keep her safe by avoiding danger alone would be better than everyone here.

Even if it wasn't about his Internal Sight, Leonel was starting to get a better and better understanding of his talent and how it matched up to others the longer he spent in this new world order. Maybe in a time as short as a month, Syl wouldn't have the face to ask him for such a thing.

After a moment of being flustered, Syl still didn't know how to respond. It was then that something no one could have expected to happen, happened.

“Zilar, your quota is revoked. Young man, I would like for you to take his place in representing out Keafir family, what do you think?”

The young man riding the odd, scaled war horse froze. All the animosity and hatred he had on his face was suddenly washed away by despair.

The delicate voice sounded from within the carriage. Though Leonel couldn't see who had spoken, he felt as though her words manifested into a painting of her image. It was gorgeous, pure and flawless, riding the cool wind like a fragrant breeze.

Leonel didn't know why, but he was compelled to say yes almost immediately.

However, everyone else was shocked beyond belief. Let alone Zilar, even Syl who had wanted to take Leonel as a body guard and Zimo who had wanted to kill Leonel just moment ago stood frozen.

Leonel might not have known who had just spoken, but they knew well who it was.

She was none other than the future Matriarch of the family, the woman both Rie and Syl called sister-in-law and the wife of Syl's only elder brother " Mistress Heira.

Compared to Syl, the word of this woman was practically law. Since she had spoken, things were practically final. It was to the point where even if Leonel wanted to run, Zimo wouldn't allow him to. In fact, it was to the point that any hostility Zimo had toward Leonel could only be buried deep within his heart.

Realizing the sudden change in the atmosphere, Leonel seemed to understand that turning this 'offer' down wasn't an option.

But, what was this quota this woman spoke of? What mess had he been thrust into this time?

Chapter 350

Leonel sat in the carriage completely expressionless as though he couldn't sense the numerous glares coming at him from the outside.

The truth was that if he was a bit less thick skinned, he would be embarrassed as well. He was currently the only man within the carriage and the reason for this was quite embarrassing as well.

... He really hated riding horses.

Leonel sat in a corner to himself, ignoring the fragrance that hung in the air. He had never been very moved by such things to begin with. Even the beautiful Mistress Heira only caught his attention for a moment before he didn't glance her way again.

Indeed, she was quite beautiful. In fact, it seemed that Leonel would meet a new most beautiful woman he had ever seen every other month. It was as though they all grew on trees and were being picked for him in terms of quality.

But, Leonel knew that the truth was that the more powerful the woman, the more beautiful they seemed to be. This was likely just a matter of evolution.

Heira, though, seemed to be particularly fairy-like.

A head of flowing white hair, two crystal-like, shimmering blue eyes, a delicately sculpted nose... Everything down from the slight blush of her cheeks to the slenderness of her fingers were all perfectly sculpted to enrapture a man.[PANDA-NOVEL.COM](http://PANDA-NOVEL.COM)

It somehow made Leonel think of Aina, not for their similarities, but for their differences.

Leonel's memory of Aina wasn't as beautiful. In fact, even when Aina wore dresses and portrayed the image of a shy, reserved lady, he had always noticed her tanned skin.

Of course, on Earth, women took tanning as a trend, at least in the western parts of the world. This was a trend that held strong from the 21st century even to this current point.

But, Leonel knew that Aina wasn't the type of person to artificially tan herself or lounge out in the sun. Subconsciously, he always knew that her tan must have come from something else. In fact, it was precisely because of Aina's tan that Leonel first became interested in her and his curiosity eventually got the best of him.

Lost in thought, Leonel suddenly smiled. It seemed he missed her quite a lot. He longed to fight side by side with her again.

Those warriors who caught sight of Leonel's smile through the window were stunned before feeling furious again, especially when they saw that Rie and Syl had entered somewhat of a daze.

Leonel didn't seem to notice the reactions of the others around him as he closed his eyes, entering a state of meditation as he allowed the little mink to cuddle in his arms. At that moment, it seemed as though the air around him had subtly changed. PANDA NOVEL

Though he wanted to ask about what he had just gotten himself into, since Mistress Heira hadn't said a word, he could only remain silent as well. With his Dream World, he could still improve himself without moving an inch.

As Leonel fell into meditation, Rie looked somewhat jealously toward the little mink in his arms, causing Syl to giggle.

"For someone who claims to be scared of him, you sure interact with him a lot." She said teasingly.

Rie pouted. "I just wanted to pet it, why couldn't I just pet it?"

Little Blackstar opened one of its eyes to look at Rie before closing it and ignoring her once again. This disregard almost made her stamp her foot in rage.

Heira remained silent throughout the antics of the two girls, sending a curious gaze toward Leonel.

'Interesting...' She thought, smiling to herself. PANDA NOVEL

...

Leonel's mind fully entered his Dream World. At the moment, he could split his mind nine ways, so he put one to the task of monitoring the surroundings of his main body while the rest immersed themselves.

'I've mastered 300 spears to now... If I want to completely grasp the Chain Domain, I still have 1700 more to go...'

Leonel sighed, it took him months to reach that 300 or so spear mark. It would probably take him years to finish comprehending just a singular spear domain, yet that wasn't even a single percent of the spears within the Spear Domain ring.

'If only I could breakthrough now...'

Leonel knew that his ability was directly tied to his Soul Force. If he broke through to the Fourth Dimension with it, his ability would definitely evolve to an all new level. But, it was simply too dangerous to do this in the wilderness.

This was the real reason Leonel swallowed all of that dew in one go previously. He didn't want to risk running out of Force and having to pull from the atmosphere. If he did, he would have probably been swarmed and died.

Unfortunately, he had no dew left. And, even if he did, the dew wasn't compatible with his Soul Force as it was normal Force. In addition, it was only of the Third Dimension, not the Fourth, so it was completely unhelpful.

Leonel shook his head. If he hadn't been kicked out of the city, this wouldn't have been a problem. But, life wasn't fair.

'Maybe I should just try to Dream Sculpt those Four Seasons Force Arts...?'

Leonel rejected this idea immediately. He would need to bring them out from the snowglobes in order to do this. Someone as sharp as Heira would definitely see through their specialness. By then, it'd be a wonder if he could even keep them.



Leonel wasn't foolish enough to simply believe Heira was a good person just because she was beautiful and had a pleasing voice.

'Then it seems my only option is to focus on comprehending the changes to my body and comprehending more spears...'

Leonel shook his head. There were really too many things limiting him.

'Wait...'

Leonel's gaze suddenly sharpened. He looked up toward the very top of his Dream World, locking eyes with a massive sphere of Force Arts.

With a thought, a spear manifested in Leonel's hands. It was adorned by feathers and seemed quite light to the touch. In addition, it was wildly flexible, waving about at the slightest movement of Leonel's wrist. It felt more like a loose string or a whip than a spear.

This was one of the spears that Leonel had yet to master.

Leonel locked eyes with the spherical Force Art and suddenly brandished the spear. He instantly fell into a state of enlightenment.

What he didn't know was that at the very instant he did, Heira's gaze suddenly shot open like an eagle. The air around Leonel had changed once again.

'Auspicious Air...?'