

Domain 971

Chapter 971

“If you don’t believe me, then I have something to say. I know about Femradiel’s secret because I have experienced that timeline as well,” Chronus said. “I had high hopes for the human called Arthur, but in the end, he failed. Even when he used a small fraction of my power, the only thing he managed to do was to accelerate the doom of this planet in another timeline.”

Until now, Femradiel managed to keep her cool, but after hearing that, her face turned pale, and she began to tremble. Ryan looked at Isis, and she seemed nervous like never before.

“I understand that many of you might think that this is nonsense. There is no way that the destiny of the universe is set in stone. It is what you are thinking,” Chronus said. “That is why I am going to summon your consciences from the future. You will see everything that will happen in the blink of an eye. You might be thinking that it will be an illusion to make all of you give up, but if the system doesn’t warn you of that, it will be proof enough.”

Ryan and all the elder gods Teleported to that region. They couldn’t understand why Chronus was doing all that. Still, they wanted to confirm that their allies wouldn’t fall for any trap. In the blink of an eye, Ryan and all the others saw the future. Soon after talking with Chronus for a while, the white group returned to their base since Chronus decided to just watch instead of intervening. After a couple of hours, Lucifer returns, and this time he doesn’t hold back and ends up killing half of the Holy Knights and Michael. Ryan joined the fight, but he did it too late. Thousands of humans began when Lucifer used his Greed to directly damage humans. Somehow, just by using coins, he managed to make thousands die.

Congratulations! The skill Time Skip has leveled up.

Congratulations! The skill Legendary Archery has leveled up.

Congratulations! The skill Mana Link has leveled up.

...

Ryan began to fight without holding back, and the three remaining angels worked with him. They managed to keep Lucifer busy, but then Ymir showed up and began to spread destruction as well. Ryan, who hadn't used Draconic Transformation until that moment, finally went all out against Lucifer. Thanks to the massive reservoir of mana Femradiel has built up, he fought against him one on one. However, it was evident that Lucifer wasn't giving his best. After a couple of hours, Lucifer got tired of playing with Ryan, and then he used some sort of Transformation skill that made him bigger and more powerful. In his new form, Lucifer really looked like the king of the demons. He was as big as a dragon, and his whole skin was in a weird color between green and blue, but what was important was the crazy level of endurance he had obtained. Not even by using Time Skip in the max output, Ryan couldn't damage Lucifer.

In the end, Lucifer grabbed Ryan by the neck and broke it as if he was made of cotton...

Congratulations! The class Draconic Hunter has leveled up.

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...

When Ryan blinked, he returned to the real world. Femradiel still was seeing something... probably because Ryan died much before her. In any case, there was no mistake. When Ryan checked his statuses, he confirmed that the classes had leveled up and he had gotten stronger. Chronus' power was insane... so, how in the hell he still couldn't beat Ymir and Lucifer?

"That is how each one of you will die," Chronus declared. "Your Illusion Resistance didn't warn you, and you obtained the battle experience of the future. That only confirms what I said. This is what will happen this time."

"I refuse to accept that," Athena said. "We will defeat them."

"Without a proper plan, nothing will change. Even though you also saw some of their techniques, there is nothing you can do against them," Chronus said. "You might change the future a little bit with the

knowledge and the power you just obtained, but in the end, you will only prevent your deaths for a few minutes. You can say that the future isn't set in stone, but big events are a culmination of uncountable small events. Once those take place, it is impossible to prevent the result."

All the Greek elder gods had come to fight, but just a few minutes of talk made them lose all the will to fight. They realized that they truly saw the future, and the reason for that was the fact that some of them could use Foresight.

Little by little, Ryan was also getting convinced that it was the truth. The human race and Earth were doomed... However, Ryan changed his mind when he saw Arthur and Zoe holding each other's hands amidst that massive number of survivors. They were trembling uncontrollably... it was only natural since they were kids and just saw their deaths. Ryan couldn't let such young kids live such a short life...

Ryan had planned to use Memory Manipulation to revive those events and gain the experience over and over again. Still, the skill didn't grant him the effects that he had desired. So, Ryan made Arthur level up Foresight up to level two hundred by using five billion coins. After that, he activated Foresight and then used Mana Manipulation to amplify the effects of the skill. After a couple of minutes, he found the moments where he fought Lucifer. He saw the same scenes repeating themselves again and again. However, he didn't give up. While people were giving to despair, Ryan was using the future filled with despair to gain power. While he was using the stupid amount of mana, he also was gaining a stupid amount of strength. In the end, he saw his battle against Lucifer getting longer and longer. At that point, Chronus noticed that Ryan was slowly changing the future...

Class: Apocalyptic Archer Lv 99 / Storm Caster Lv 96/ Imperial Archer Lv 93 (+ 24 UP)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian Champion/ Lord of the Ice Foxes (-)

Rank: 1st

Health: 121371 /121371 (2199,75/s)

Mana: 138599/138599 (219,75/s)

Stamina: 139630/139630 (219,75/s)

Strength: 17681 (+91422) (+130)

Dexterity: 98933 (+98655) (+2550)

Speed: 22170 (+95410) (+548)

Intelligence: 18652 (+90595) (+33)

Endurance: 19998 (+96395) (+160)

Control: 22276 (96050) (+510)

Mentality: 19152 (+90195) (+70)

Luck: 16780 (+84560)

Recovery: 32550 (+99050) (+1045)

Willpower: 19152 (+90193) (+40)

Coins: 34.205.556.145

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 555 (+ 46 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 581 (+ 42 UP), Concentration Lv 581 (+ 42 UP), Archery Lv 581 (+ 42 UP), Accuracy Lv 581 (+ 42 UP),

Spells: Draconic Transformation Lv 619 (+ 44 UP), Frost Armor Lv 564 (+ 39 UP), Ice Breath Lv 595 (+ 65 UP), Magic Bow Lv 495 (+ 65 UP), Instant Analysis Lv 13 (+ 12 UP), Mana Compression Lv 09 (+ 08 UP), Spectral Summoning Lv 15 (+ 14 UP), Light Spear Lv 111 (+ 110 UP),

Support Skills: Angelic Protection Lv 01, Absolute Faith Lv 15 (+ 14 UP)

Classes:

Combat: Angelic Spearman Lv 25 (+ 24 UP), Draconic Hunter Lv 59 (+ 17 UP), Moon Lord Lv 11 (+ 05 UP), Sun Lord Lv 15 (+ 07 UP), Chaotic Warrior Lv 01, Wrath Demon King Lv 04 (+ 03), Envy Demon King Lv 04 (+ 03), Gluttony Demon King Lv 04 (+ 03), Greed Demon King Lv 04 (+ 03), Absolute Summoner Lv 09 (+ 08 UP),

Non-Combatant: Time Lord Lv 61 (+ 12 UP), Forgemaster Lv 17 (+ 08 UP), Time King Lv 45 (+ 12 UP),

Race: Centaur, Dragon, Kobold, Triton, Asgardian, Olympian,

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Even though Ryan was getting stronger, at some point, the future stopped changing. He began to be defeated by Lucifer at the exact moment.

“Do you understand why that is happening?” Chronus asked. “That is because your reservoir of mana is decreasing. It doesn’t matter how much you try. You won’t reach his level before you run out of mana.”

Ryan bit his lips in annoyance when he heard that. He couldn’t say that Chronus was wrong... Regardless, at least that made other people notice that someone hadn’t given up. Right in that place, the humans began to train and spar against each other. They could only obtain so much strength in a couple of hours, but all the strength was welcome. They survived the last year struggling to their utmost limits, so they might as well keep doing that.

Chronus saw the future of those people, too, and he saw that their current actions were causing a wave that slowly changing the future... which wasn't something Chronus had seen yet. Still, the humans could only do so much to change their imminent doom. That being said, if any word could describe Ryan, that word was stubborn. If he couldn't change the future by getting the power that he could receive there, he would use the present. Using Merlin's power, he made Light Spear level up. Once it hit level one hundred, Ryan noticed that the future had changed again... it was only a single minute, but the battle got longer.

Looking at the humans trying to change their future with all their might, Chronus recalled and wondered how many times he had seen a future where the universe was destroyed. While he also gave birth to some species and decimated others. He enjoyed those periods. Some species were destined to doom anyway, so he made sure to end those early on. However, on a certain day, he noticed that the entire universe began to tremble as if something from outside had penetrated that reality, and from that point onward, he began to receive the conscience of his future selves that used time magic in order not to experience the end of the universe. At that moment, Chronus understood that such an incident and the end of the universe were connected. However, he didn't find a single clue as to what had happened.

Chronus always thought that Lucifer was somewhat connected to that. Still, he never found any clue aside from the fact that he always started the fights that ended the universe. Chronus received many consciences of his future selves, where he decided to openly antagonize Lucifer and get answers. However, those times he never obtained any information, and the universe ended up destroyed Anyway.

What could he do to obtain answers and to prevent the end? Fight Lucifer won't end well. Siding with Ymir or even the elder gods was a waste of time. That will only boost Lucifer's ego and make him stronger with the power of pride...

"Perhaps, I who have already given up on this universe should entrust this task to others..." Chronus thought.

Chronus considered dividing his power among the living beings of Earth, but that wouldn't do. Nothing good ever came out in granting so much power to others for free... Chronus had to make them obtain power by themselves, a power that would give them the chance to face even him. They had to find that power inside themselves. However, that was easier said than done...

Making the elder gods to find motivation after living for so long was close to impossible. Making all humans do the same was also something Chronus couldn't do. While he could control time, he couldn't just force all the humans to transcend... after analyzing all the humans in front of him, Chronus noticed something and had an idea.

“Your will to change the future is admirable, but that isn't enough,” Chronus said. “I don't intend to let those two do what they want anymore. I am tired of it. So, I will give all of you one hour to attack me. If none of you damage me in the meantime, then I will destroy this world.”

It was possible to read Chronus' deadpan expression, but Ryan knew that he was plotting something. By judging his words, it seemed that he was planning everyone to attack him as they saw fit. If he had that much confidence that not all that many people could pull that off, how come Zeus and the other Olympians thought that they could defeat him.

“What do you think of this, Isis?” Ryan asked.

“I think this is a golden opportunity,” Isis replied. “To be honest, Chronus is the target that scares me the most even though his behavior is leagues apart from the other two. I saw what happens when he uses his power, and I have to say that I can't see how to prevent that. To defeat him, I imagined that we would have to obtain a portion of the power of one of the other two, but...”

While they were talking, Zeus suddenly cast that spell that summoned thick lightning clouds in the sky. He approached them to get hit by those and charge his body, Zeus would have one hour to charge his body and then unleash all his power on Chronus, and he wouldn't let go of that chance.

“I don't like the way things proceeded, but we will have to use this chance,” Athena said. “Prepare yourselves to use your best attacks with all that power that you can control. We will attack Chronus at the same time in fifty-five minutes.”

That was probably the best way to act based on the situation. Still, Ryan's instincts were warning him that something was off. Chronus suddenly grew too quiet after that proposal of his. Thanks to that, Ryan only grew more worried... Ryan could use Foresight and see what might happen.. Still, he had already used more than half of the massive amount of mana Femradial had infused on her Soul Eater for weeks.

While everyone was preparing to launch their best attacks, Ryan was wondering which attack he should use. Continuous shots of Draconic Bow were possible thanks to Mana Link, but considering that the target was Chronus, firing a spear of dark ice like an arrow and using the same method Ryan used to knock out Zeus seemed like the best option. After all, Ymir and Chronus could be damaged by corruption. Otherwise, nothing explains how Lucifer can damage them... However, Ryan could see that everything that approached Chronus disappeared, be it snow or even the wind. A powerful attack probably wouldn't do anything...

"We can damage Lucifer, but we still don't know how to do the same on Ymir and Chronus..." Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Maybe a higher-level version of the attacks Lucifer already showed... but he only showed physical skills."

Those three were mage-type enemies, but Lucifer only showed physical skills and some tricks to bother his enemies with the deadly sins. He clearly was underestimating everyone. As for Chronus, he didn't have to do anything to protect himself... but maybe if Ryan uses Time Skip...

Ryan decided to consult Femradial, but she seemed strange. She was thinking just like Ryan about what she should do to achieve victory, but her eyes were looking at Chronus as if she could and yet couldn't see him.

"What is wrong?" Ryan asked.

"It is nothing. It is just..." Femradial tried to reply, but then she hesitated.

"Don't worry about it. We will change the future that we saw, no matter what happens," Ryan said. "I am the almost undefeated underdog, and I don't plan on losing that title now."

"Almost undefeated?" Femradial frowned. "That sounds so stupid."

Now that Ryan thought about it, Femradial had been pretty quiet since they saw that vision. No... maybe even before that, she was too quiet. She didn't mention many things about Chronus, probably because she didn't have the chance to fight or meet him in her timeline, but something about him was bothering her.

While Ryan was thinking about what to do and what to ask to her. Those fifty minutes passed, and everyone began to prepare their attacks. In the end, Ryan had a certain idea, a risky idea, but an idea nonetheless. Before anything, he summoned Gungnir and then used Dark Ice Breath to cover the entire weapon in the dark ice. That should give the projectile the properties that he wanted.

After creating that massive arrow, Ryan summoned the Hydra's Bow and upgraded it as many times as he could. After that, he began to charge the projectile with all the mana and stamina he could gather. On his left side, Femraidel was also preparing for her attack. However, Ryan only saw her pointing her arms upward, and there was nothing above. After using Clairvoyance, Ryan saw a massive Ice Spear growing in size in the space.

While flying above the alliance soldiers, Zeus had grown so big that he was at the size of a dragon, and his pores were making blood flow. It seemed that he had reached his limit, but he still didn't want to stop. The other elder gods were also preparing massive attacks. So, Ryan couldn't help but wonder... if they release all the energy and Chronus dodges it, won't they destroy the world? Was that what Chronus was after? It seemed a pretty roundabout way to destroy the world...

When the time came, Ryan used Draconic Transformation. The others who could use the skill also did the same. Alissa, Gustavo, Lucas, and all the others. Eventually, Athena raised her right arm and then pointed toward the target. In an instant, everyone launched their best attacks toward Chronus. Instead of seeing anything hitting him, just a massive curtain of light blocked their vision.

Those who had good senses knew that the vast concentration of mana being fired at the same time toward the single target reunited and created an explosion like no other... in a sense, it could be compared to the Big Bang. However, that explosion had been really different than all the others. Aside from the curtain of light-blocking their vision, nothing happened. No sound of an explosion, no shockwave, no heat... absolutely nothing.

Eventually, the curtain of light began to dissipate until everyone finally was able to see Earth again. They had imagined that such junction of so many attacks would destroy the region to some extent, but that never happened. All the energy of the attacks, all the light... had been absorbed by the Chronus barrier. A barrier that used the time to absorb everything.

"I am disappointed... for humans, failure is something that can't be avoided," Chronus said. "But even for the elder gods to fail like this while unleashing their best attacks under the best condition... What have you people doing in the last thousand of years?"

Chronus' words cut deep... Ryan imagined that the elder gods were feeling the same way he felt when he faced Lilith for the first time. However, he felt even worse than that... had he lost his mind when he decided to face a being like that? For starters, what could humans to accomplish while facing a being that can give birth to new species? Femradiel and Ryan had used all the mana they had gathered in the last few weeks, and that didn't cause any damage to Chronus' barrier.

Ryan undid his transformation and then approached Femradiel. That was probably the end. Ryan held Femradiel's trembling hands to calm her down, but he didn't know what to say to make the expression of terror on her face disappear.

"Ryan, I am..." Femradiel said, and then she touched her belly with her left hand.

Ryan's mind went blank... was Femradiel trying to achieve something by lying at such a moment? However, before Ryan could think or before Femradiel could finish her sentence, she suddenly disappeared, and Ryan felt his connection with her disappearing. Many other people around also began to disappear, people that Ryan knew and people that he didn't.

"As promised, I will destroy this world," Chronus declared. "But before that, you all need to disappear."

Ryan knew that Femradiel couldn't die before him. The contract made him sure of that, but does that contract have any meaning before Chronus' power? Ryan's heart and body grew colder and colder.. Until his eyes were covered by darkness.

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"HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!" Ryan roared.

Those who hadn't disappeared yet almost went numb when they heard Ryan screaming from the depths of his soul. The elder gods that had seen him in his draconic and cursed form couldn't help but let their mouths hang open when the corruption was trying to take over his body. He should have turned into a cursed dragon now, but for some reason, he didn't.

“Femradiel is...” Isis muttered in shock when she realized that Femradiel’s presence had vanished without a trace.

Other highly important members of the alliance had disappeared as well. Thor, Aphrodite, Hades, Artemis, Hera... even Loki had disappeared. That was the worst that could have happened after such a massive failure. Isis was worried, but she was more concerned about Ryan’s condition...

The shadows covering Ryan’s body tried to take over his mind, but whenever that happened, he hit him against the floor and made them go away. While that was a weird and effective way to avoid the corruption, that was damaging him a lot and making the shadows spread around like tentacles.

“That is what happen when you have so many powers that antagonize each other inside you,” Chronus said. “It seemed that you had something inside you that kept all those powers in check, but now you have lost it.”

Isis realized that Chronus was talking about Femradiel. She knew that Ryan wasn’t supposed to be able to handle so many different powers, but she assumed that he was that much special... it seemed that wasn’t the case.

“HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” Ryan roared again.

At some point, Ryan’s anger made the corruption grow so much that those who hadn’t disappeared yet had to move away from him. The dark tentacles were hitting everything, and what was touched, it vanished without a trace. Isis couldn’t see the point of making everyone evacuate, but she used Teleport to make everyone move away. Even without Femradiel, while being taken by that much corruption, Ryan was bound to turn into a cursed dragon, and no one will be able to stop him this time. However, Isis noticed that Chronus had stopped his actions, and now he was watching Ryan and some other people.

“What the...” Isis furrowed her eyebrows.

Isis finally noticed that Ryan wasn’t the only one fighting against the corruption. Many other people lost dear friends and family members when Chronus decided to make the humans disappear. Lucas, Gustavo, Natasha, and even Daniel had half of their bodies covered by the corruption.

Eventually, Ryan truly lost his mind, and his body began to turn into one of a dragon. Still, that one was completely different from before. There were no signs of the blue that he had before. Ryan's body had turned red. Instead, even his eyes had turned crimson-like blood.

Ryan's new form was a lot more skinner than before. His head had a triangular shape thanks to his chin and two horns on the back of his head. His neck was long, and his new tail had two pointy ends. Aside from that, the wings also looked completely different than before. The previous ones had the shape that could be used as shields, but the two new ones had the form of long spears. His new body was emanating so much corruption that dark lightning bolts were falling around him like droplets of rain.

"Is that your answer?" Chronus asked. "Let your desire take over your mind? You truly have a bottomless greed, but only desire isn't enough to grant you what you want."

Like dark lightning, Ryan flew and tried to punch Chronus, but his barrier got in the way, and his hand covered by shadows was dissolved. However, it was quickly regenerated. That should be pretty painful, but Ryan kept punching Chronus like he was born to do that.

Chronus tried to see if that had changed the future somehow, but he still couldn't see Ryan facing Lucifer Ymir after he had done it. He still could see himself facing those two, and eventually, the universe would collapse again. As expected, Chronus shouldn't have expected much from such simple creatures.

You obtained 115.369 coins.

You obtained 115.369 coins.

You obtained 115.369 coins.

...

Amidst his rage, Ryan somehow understood that attacking like that wouldn't make him accomplish anything. Even though he was gaining tons of coins, that was just a little reward that he couldn't care less at the moment.

“It seems that your greed made you reach the same level as him, in a sense, but that is not enough,” Chronus said. “Hmm... what are you?”

Chronus finally noticed that Merlin wasn't just a weird spell that was following Ryan around. He was a being that had a conscience like no other summoned creature... However, Merlin didn't reply and just watched Ryan flapping his wings and making dark arrows move toward Chronus. His barrier blocked most of those, but the others who had missed him fell on the ground and created holes that were a hundred meters deep... it seemed that those arrows had the same properties of antimatter.

“Why don't you reply, strange creature?” Chronus asked. “As you can see, your master isn't making me busy in the slightest.”

“My apologies, but I have better things to do,” Merlin replied. “Analysing the changes on Ryan's body is more fascinating than talking with you.”

“I had imagined that you were his subordinate, I see... you are a third party and your presence is...” Chronus frowned.

“Took you long enough to notice it,” Merlin said. “It must be quite boring to be in such an existence where you can't see hope. After seeing the end of this reality so many times, you began to lose interest in everything. Tell me, do you do these kinds of experiments often? I imagine that Zeus fears you so much because he finds traces of those pretty often.”

Chronus frowned when he heard that. It seemed that Merlin had seen through him completely.. That was right, Chronus is an eternal being, but he is only eternal as long as the universe exists. Without space and without matter, time doesn't exist...

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While Ryan was using the dark arrows as if that was the only thing he could do. Chronus managed to understand what kind of existence Merlin was. While the nature of their powers was similar, Merlin wasn't like Lucifer.

“These experiments you call, is nothing but me giving the chance to see if these species can show me their true potential if they can obtain the power to change the future,” Chronus explained. “As I told you before, the universe is doomed, not even I can prevent that. So, I was expecting to see if other creatures can prevent that.”

“That I already understand,” Merlin said. “Still, you sure made a mistake now...”

After Merlin said that, Chronus felt the use of time magic coming from Ryan. Instinctively, he probably assumed that time magic would be enough to pierce the barrier, but things weren’t that simple. However, it didn’t seem like Ryan was using time magic that way...

Ryan stopped firing the dark arrows, and then his body began to grow. No... only the corruption was growing... once enough energy had been gathered using the corruption, Ryan made it all be absorbed by his body, and then a thin barrier appeared around his body.

“What? That is...” Chronus said.

Before Chronus could finish his sentence, Ryan dashed and punched him... for the first time. His punch passed through the barrier and hit Chronus in the face. Although he was caught off-guard. The attack only made his move backward a couple of meters.

“I told you...” Merlin said. “This guy has pretty good instincts and now, he is only a mass of desire and instincts.”

Putting aside how much excited Merlin sounded, the punch didn’t even scratch Chronus. Even without time magic, he still was the being who probably had maxed out his status and had the battle experience of thousands of lives. Ryan made some progress, but nothing really changed.

“HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” Ryan roared while moving his arms downward and upward making the air vibrate and creating powerful shockwaves that made even those who were kilometers away tremble.

It seemed like that punch had been a message. 'Did you like that?' That was what Ryan asked with his punch. Still, the power of his greed didn't impulsion him to reach only that level.

"I see... he used time magic to take the power of his future self..." Chronus said. "Still, you are only shortening your life."

Chronus didn't know from which point in life Ryan drew that power from, but it was obvious that was within some point of his fight against Chronus. Sooner or later, he will reach a point where he will have no energy left and will be completely defenseless. In any case, Chronus was a bit surprised since he had met many people who could use time magic, but Ryan was the first aside from him who managed to draw power from the future. Usually, it was impossible to communicate with future selves unless... the mind of the end and of the past were deeply connected, and they were. Ryan's present and future were connected thanks to the corruption. From that point on until a certain point in the future, Ryan had an only one goal... kill Chronus.

Just staying on the defense wouldn't make Chronus achieve what he wanted, so he finally decided to make a move. When Ryan tried to attack him again, Chronus moved his hand and made a portal appear and engulf Ryan's arm. Another portal appeared on the side, and Ryan's arm left the portal and punched him. The surprise attack caught Ryan off-guard and paralyzed him. When Ryan tried again, he punched himself yet again. For quite a while, Chronus made a fool of Ryan like that.

"Did you say something about good instincts?" Chronus asked.

"I forgot to add the words: most of the time," Merlin said.

Enveloping himself in a barrier of time that envelops and absorbs all kinds of attacks wouldn't help Ryan. Considering that Chronus didn't undo the spell just because he got hit once, it seemed that he still had a long way to go... deep down. Ryan knew that, and that was why he used Time Skip and used Ice Breath. However, nothing happened... even if Time Skip could work alongside other spells, the Chronus barrier was still there and still absorbed the attack.

"What is wrong? It is too hard for you to draw the power from the future?" Chronus asked.

As if he had understood those words, Ryan grunted while he bit his lips. Instead of using time magic, Ryan lets the corrupt energy around his body grow stronger. Once again, Chronus frowned since it

seemed that Ryan was drawing energy from somewhere, but he wasn't using time magic. Since his dark aura was increasing, Chronus assumed that he was using the power of greed to strengthen himself. Still, it was different if compared to the way Lucifer does that...

Instead of enveloping his body with that energy, Ryan made it leave his body, and then those took shape of dark bows. Weirdly enough, Ryan allocated them behind himself and then fired. Chronus almost let out a sigh... in the end. He had become just a mindless beast. He thought that such a human who made other people try to change their future could have some potential, but he wasn't wrong. However, very suddenly, those arrows passed through his body and then flew toward Chronus. Much to his surprise, those passed through his barrier, and Chronus was forced to grab them... Chronus' hands began to emit heat... how could those corrupt arrows pass his barrier like that?

“What madness... he let those hit you so that they could absorb a part of your barrier,” Chronus said. “You can't cover them with time magic by yourself, so you forced them this way.”

Since it had come down to that, there was no point in keeping his barrier. Ryan could attack with long-ranged attacks using the same tactic. It was rough, but Ryan indeed was reaching the apex of time manipulation.. Regardless, Chronus left his lotus position and then stood up.

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The air around Chronus changed. Not because he canceled his defensive spell, but because he was willing to fight himself. What could someone like him do when he decides to fight? Everyone got the answer pretty soon. Chronus didn't even approach Ryan. He just swung his fist forward at him. In the next moment, Ryan was sent flying in the opposite direction at supersonic speeds.

Those who saw that, he didn't understand what happened. There were no movements in the air, and the punch had been pretty slow... so, it was hard to believe that Ryan got sent flying due to the shockwave alone. Unfortunately, no one felt magic being used, so that seemed the only explanation...

Ryan flew for over three hundred kilometers in just a couple of seconds. Still, he eventually recovered from the attack and returned. However, he did so by using Teleport, both of his arms had been broken by the attack, and they were yet to heal.

“My apologies, I will be more gentle,” Chronus said and then pointed his fingers toward Ryan.

When Ryan tried to fly toward him, Chronus flicked his fingers, and every time that happened, Ryan would be hit by something and then would stop and be pushed back several meters. Whenever that happened, the sound of his bones breaking echoed through the area. At some point, the spectators began to sweat cold, imagining the pain that Ryan must be feeling.

At some point, Ryan got tired of that and summoned copies of Vibrating Crossbow. Aside from the others, he knew that Chronus' movements were making the air vibrate and hit him with shockwaves, so he used those to block the attacks. The plan actually worked. Even though Chronus was insanely fast, Death Sense warned Ryan of the places where he was going to be hit. When both projectiles canceled each other, massive explosions of air that made the entire region tremble time and time again happened, but that didn't stop Ryan from charging like a mad dog and punching Chronus. However, Chronus stopped the attack using only two fingers and then punched Ryan in the stomach. His body bent completely before he was sent flying diagonally to the ground.

The thunderous impact raised a massive curtain of dust that covered the entire region. Isis, who watched all that, couldn't help sweat cold. She had thought that Chronus wouldn't be much without time magic, but those ideas disappeared from her head when she learned that he could obtain battle experience from the future. Still... for him to be able to toy with Ryan like that... it was evident that not even the most physically powerful elder gods could take him.

When the curtain of dust began to dissipate, Isis noticed that Ryan still was in the center of the massive crater created by the impact. His Transformation still was active, but he suffered so much damage that not even the corruption was healing him like before.

"Was that all?" Chronus asked. "Who will be the next? Don't worry, I won't use the Temporal Barrier."

Although they were sweating cold, Odin and Zeus stepped forward. Chronus was someone they could hit without time magic, so he was beatable... or so goes the logic.

Odin made several lightning bolts fall from the sky and hit Chronus' head. After getting hit by five one after the other, Zeus attacked him with his lightning speed. However, Chronus also stopped his punch using two fingers as well.

"I consider myself a pretty patient person, but to think that you two would try to attack me..." Chronus said and then sighed. "... this is very humiliating."

After hearing that, Athena and Ares dashed and swung their swords to behead Chronus, and even though their speed and coordination were perfect, they still only cut the air. Chronus moved his neck... Chronus punched Zeus in the stomach and then swung his body to kick Athena and Ares. However, Isis reacted on time to use Teleport and make them escape.

The other elder gods decided to join the fight as well. However, Chronus got tired of being attacked from all angles pretty fast. He swung his arms in all directions and then knocked them senseless. By working together, Isis, Athena, Zeus, Odin, and Ares managed to attack Chronus and dodge his counterattacks for a while. Still, in the end, they didn't cause much damage, and when they were hit a single time, they had to stop fighting for quite a while.

After hitting those five in a quick succession, Chronus decided to continue with his plans and make all humans disappear. However, Ryan suddenly appeared in front of him and punched his face. Chronus didn't expect that and ended up flying for dozens of meters while spinning in the air. That was the downside of deactivating the Temporal Barrier... he loses his ability to see the future. Still, while that is also active, he can't hit the enemies without relying on magic.

"I thought I had broken all of your bones and that would keep you down for a while longer, but..." Chronus frowned. "I suppose you keep surprising me."

Chronus checked his left cheek and noticed that it was a bit red. The physical attack hadn't been that impressive, but the amount of corrupt energy made up for it.

Ryan ignored that and then dashed toward Chronus again. When the enemy prepared to block the attack with his left hand and punch with the other, he noticed several Temporal Weaponization bows appearing around him. Chronus knew what those could do, and he couldn't let himself be hit by them and then make his energy be absorbed by Ryan. He didn't want to use magic right now, but... it was necessary.

Chronus used the same spell and fired arrows toward those. In the end, they canceled each other perfectly. Counter attacking now was impossible, but Chronus still managed to grab Ryan's arm and make him spin in the air at unbelievable speeds.. Once he got satisfied with the momentum, he threw Ryan on the ground, making another Earthquake reach the whole continent and then open another massive crater.

Chapter 977

The second attack had been even more powerful than before. Chronus still could feel Ryan's corruption active. Still, he knew that he wouldn't recover fast. The elder gods were also out of commission, so it was the perfect time to finish his job. However, before Chronus could do that, he felt a massive beam of energy coming from behind. He turned around, and then he blocked a dark breath with his hands. Soon after, he saw Alissa in her Draconic form. The corruption had taken over half of her body.

"Do you have a grudge against me as well?" Chronus asked. "Why? I gave you people the chance to damage me and prove that you can change the future, but you failed."

Alissa wasn't in the mood to talk, she saw many of her friends disappear, and that made the corruption inside her return to full power. After struggling for a while, she managed to control it and make plans to use that anger in her favor.

Alissa flew toward Chronus while she enveloped her right arm in the corruption. She saw what Ryan did before, so it was evident that Chronus could be damaged by corruption. However, even though she concentrated all the anger and energy on a single point, Chronus still stopped her using two fingers. He prepared to counterattack, but then he felt killing intent coming from behind.

In the end, Chronus just moved Alissa away with her left hand and turned around, and grabbed the half-turned Gustavo's sword with two fingers. Even though the corruption enhanced his Draconic powers, he only managed to do that much even though he was using a massive sword. The rage and shame only powered his attack, though. He had to avenge all his friends who had been killed.

Other people who had been fighting against the corruption began to fire magic toward Chronus as well, but he didn't feel most of those. When Chronus tried to launch a big attack and wipe them out at the same time, he was forced to stop when Arthur and Daniel suddenly flew toward him and tried to behead him, but he stopped their swords with the back of his hands.

"You are... what a pity that you choose a different path this time," Chronus said as he was looking toward Arthur.

Chronus had the experience of Femradiel's timeline, so he also knew what Arthur could have become given a few more years and if he had chosen to be a mage. It seemed that he had some potential as well as a swordsman, but it wasn't on the same level.

When Chronus prepared to attack those two, several arrows fell over him, and before that could happen, he knew their effects. They would steal his mana and then explode... those peculiar arrows would be quite troublesome against foes that have stupid amounts of mana. In the end, he just teleported away from the arrows as he looked toward Mia and Zoe.

It seemed that the humans regained the will to fight, but that wasn't enough... Suddenly, Chronus saw hundreds of Zeus Bolts flying toward him. He couldn't believe that Zeus had recovered so much mana, and he was already wasted. Still, then he saw him surrounded by a group of humans, passing his blessing to them.

"Oh... this is knew," Chronus said.

Chronus knew of some timelines where the elder gods gave their power to many people, but those were only humans who had been serving them for years. Now, it looked like even Zeus was giving a portion of his powers to humans who didn't know. The other elder gods were doing the same, and if that keeps up...

Chronus stopped for a moment to use Foresight and see what would happen if things continued like that. If he were to leave now, the elder gods would keep doing that, strengthening humans by giving their blessings to them. Thanks to that, even though they lost many allies, they will be able to put up a better fight. However... in two weeks, all of them will still be killed.

"If only they had done that while they had all those people on their side..." Chronus thought.

There was no point in considering what if... Chronus, who could see the future and had the experience of thousands of other Chronus, knew that better than anyone else. Certain things only happen when everyone is forced to do unbelievable things, and those same things can only happen in rare moments.

While that had never happened before, Chronus wondered what else needed to be done for him to see a future that he hadn't seen yet. There was no point in changing things only to delay the inevitable. Perhaps if the elder gods throw their pride aside and give power to all remaining humans, maybe

something will change. However, doing that would only worsen their condition. They would be giving a fraction of their energy, after all. It was only obvious that doing that thousand of times would be detrimental. However, the Humans wouldn't have time to develop those powers, and so it was too risky, and the elder gods couldn't take it.

They had another option, though. Share their power among themselves. It was hard to know what would happen if they suddenly obtained the influence of too many others, but... they didn't know what would happen to them. Still, they knew someone who got used to having so many different types of power inside him. Without Femradial, he wasn't able to control all the forces inside him, but now that he had become a Cursed dragon and if he obtained his goal to kill Chronus, then perhaps...

"I suppose that is impossible... Many of those elder gods were defeated by him, they wouldn't throw that much mud on their names," Chronus thought.

Chronus was tired of all that. Considering small changes in some events to prevent the destruction of the universe. Those happened numerous times, but that hope betrayed him equally numerous times. It was time to end all that and perhaps stop that cycle where he always sent his conscience to the past.. However, Chronus stopped for a moment when he saw Odin and Zeus walking toward Ryan.

Chapter 978

"Zeus..." Odin said once he reached the crater where Ryan was.

"Odin..." Zeus said once he reached the crater where Ryan was.

They looked at each other, wondering who should do it first. No one wanted to bear the shame of being the first of the leader of the elder gods to help someone who defeated them. Not to mention, granting the power of their own volition this time will make Ryan reach a new level in his abilities.

"I will let you have the honor," Zeus said.

"You possibly can't be trying to outsmart me," Zeus," Odin showed a small smile. "... We are wasting our time here."

“I suppose we can’t be pesky right now...” Zeus said and then sighed. “Still, what an unsightly human. His body is in pieces, only the corruption is preventing him from falling apart after getting hit so many times.”

“I couldn’t agree more,” Odin nodded. “However, it is obvious that Chronus thinks that he is the only one who can defeat him. We are beings who reached the apex of this world and stayed there for too long without improving ourselves. We reached the apex in our own fields of expertise, but this one here didn’t choose his path for power... he took them all. Maybe that is why Chronus is testing him.”

“After this, we won’t be the strongest of this world anymore... but I suppose this can be a fresh start for us,” Zeus said.

Odin nodded, and then they pointed their right hands toward Ryan at the same time. They didn’t have second thoughts once they decided that it was the only path available to reach their goals. They sent waves of energy toward Ryan’s body.

...

Congratulations! The class Magic King has reached level Max.

Congratulations! The class Magic King has evolved into Magic God.

All of your statuses have increased and will increase by one thousand points once this class levels up. The effects of the previous class’ skills have doubled.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Arcanescience.

Effect: It grants you the power to learn all kinds of skills, even those who need a high level of divine energy.

You obtained 01 status points.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Speed Cast.

Effect: It grants you the power to cast all types of spells without worrying about their casting time. This skill also grants you the power to cast as many numbers of spells as you wish for.

You obtained 01 status points.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Magic Mastery.

Effect: It passively increases the effect and damage all of your spells by one percent per level

You obtained 01 status points.

...

Congratulations! The class Thunder King has reached level Max.

Congratulations! The class Thunder King has evolved into Thunder God.

All of your statuses have increased and will increase by one thousand points once this class levels up. The effects of the previous class' skills have doubled.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Electric Dominance.

Effect: It grants you the power to use electric attacks without using mana. The level of the skill will also give you the power to control electric attacks cast by others.

You obtained 01 status points.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Energy Control.

Effect: It grants you the power to control all forms of energy within your reach. The level of the skill will determine how fast you can obtain control over the energy targeted.

You obtained 01 status points.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Personal Mastery.

Effect: It grants you the power to pass the level of skills to other skills without losing status points.

You obtained 01 status points.

Thanks to the massive boost in status, the pain in Ryan's body decreased exponentially. As if that wasn't enough, probably thanks to Energy Control, he opened his eyes, and he wasn't blinded by the corruption. At the same time, he didn't lose cursed dragon form. That was convenient, but at the same time, he wished that he didn't have recovered his sanity... Chronus made Femradiel's body disappear using time magic, and his heart was taken by regret and anger. He realized that he could use Energy Control also to let his rage and greed control him, but that would be cowardice... he had to face Chronus while his mind was clear, or he wouldn't feel satisfied with the result.

Ryan looked above and saw Odin and Zeus. In the end, they decided to throw away their pride in order to do something that could help them attain victory. They looked at Ryan only once before leaving to return to the battle.

"You are back," Merlin said. "It is a pity that I won't be able to see you fight like that again."

"... Is that what you have to say?" Ryan asked.

"Do you want me to comfort you?" Merlin asked. "I thought that at this point in time you would understand that I am just working and I don't want nor do I need to get sentimentally involved in this mess. Besides, if you gather enough mana, you can use Reset and go back in time and prevent her death."

“It won’t be the same thing... that image won’t disappear from my head, I failed her and I failed my kid,” Ryan clenched his teeth and then bit his lips.

“You saw the future with Foresight, you would fail anyway,” Merlin said. “I won’t say that you should be thankful for Chronus doing what he did, but he possibly opened the doors to another future, one where you might not fail, if you defeat him here.”

That was easier said than done. Still, Ryan was determined to pull that off in one way or the other. He felt many presences disappeared, and he returned to the battle just in time when Daniel and Arthur were hit by one of Chronus’ attacks, and they ended up hitting Zoe and Mia. Chronus moved his arm to attack and smash all of them at the same time, but Ryan appeared in front of Chronus and then tried to punch him.. However, he disappeared, and then numerous dark arrows flew toward Chronus.

Chapter 979

Chronus activated his Temporal Shield to block the arrows, but he still felt something piercing his back in the end. Thanks to the skill, he knew that Ryan would do that, but he needed to check if Ryan had obtained the strength necessary to face those two... he hadn’t.

“You were stronger before,” Chronus said as he turned around and saw Ryan’s claws covered by thick but sharp shadows. “Still, I suppose you are not more skilled now.”

Ryan was tired of listening to Chronus. So, he used Personal Mastery to edit the level of his skills. It was quite a helpful skill, and it made Ryan wonder how he defeated Thor if he had that, or was it Zeus who had it? It didn’t matter...

“Merlin, you saw me using some different skills before, didn’t you?” Ryan asked while he was editing his skills. “Why didn’t you turn those into a class already?”

“You copied Chronus, to some extent, but the skills still are incomplete,” Merlin replied. “You only copied Temporal Barrier, I need more Intel to quantity his powers as a class.”

Before Ryan could ask how Chronus punched the air and Ryan felt the pressure pushing him backward. However, he stopped it with his arms. The effectiveness of his strength was decreasing by the minute.

“Oh... I suppose I can take this to the next level,” Chronus said.

Chronus was finally going to fight for real, and now a single mistake might make hundreds of bystanders die. So, aside from the leaders of each group, those who could use corruption, and the elder gods, Isis made everyone evacuate.

“Before you continue fighting, you should see this,” Merlin said. “Your greed made you become a Greed Demon God.”

Congratulations! The class Greed Demon King has reached level Max.

Congratulations! The class Greed Demon King has evolved into Greed Demon God.

All of your statuses have increased and will increase by one thousand points once this class levels up. The effects of the previous class' skills have doubled.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Absolute Buying.

Effect: It grants you the power to buy anything and everything with coins. Be it living beings or objects. The effect of the skill can be temporary or absolute.

You obtained 01 status points.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Absolute Bet.

Effect: It grants you the power to bet on anything. If you win the bet, you gain the double of coins you bet. If you lose, you lose everything. You can bet up to one million coins per level of this skill.

You obtained 01 status points.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Money Physics.

Effect: It grants you the power to block all damage using coins. It also grants you the power to take the same amount of coins from the enemies instead of causing damage.

You obtained 01 status points.

Ryan wished that those skills were even more battle-oriented, but he decided not to complain. When Chronus approached and tried to punch him, Ryan ignored and activated the skill while he also prepared to punch Chronus. In the end, the enemy protected his eyes with his left hand and hit Ryan's stomach with his right hand. However, Ryan achieved his goal of blocking his vision and then grabbing his left hand.

You lost 15.897.087 coins.

You obtained 2.029.778 coins.

Once again, numerous arrows flew from behind Ryan toward Chronus. He tried to activate the Temporal Shield, but he failed since Ryan was holding his left hand. Chronus tried to spin Ryan around and use him as a shield, but he failed. Money Physics prevented him from causing any harm to Ryan. In the end, Chronus got hit by dozens of arrows enhanced by Power Shot, and his face got red at the points it was hit.

“To think that such low level skill would damage me this much...” Chronus furrowed his eyebrows and then moved away from Ryan.

Direct attacks won't work, at least if Chronus doesn't use magic. He didn't want to rely on that since things might end too fast, but it couldn't be helped... Chronus used his Speed and attacked Ryan many times in a row. Once he makes sure that he is out of coins, Ryan won't be able to do anything.

You lost 11.987.333 coins.

You lost 11.987.333 coins.

You lost 11.987.333 coins.

...

Ryan more or less could see Chronus sense where Chronus was going to attack. Still, counterattacking was impossible. He deactivated Money Physics and then let Chronus hit him. The attack of his real punch made him spin in the air. It caused a powerful shockwave that made even the ground several kilometers below the crack.

Ryan could use Light Speed to be able to keep up with Chronus, but that wouldn't change anything. He knew that Chronus wanted to see if he could become strong enough to face Ymir and Lucifer and prevent the destruction of the universe that even he couldn't. Ryan couldn't become strong by staying on the defensive... his strength comes from his relentless attacks.

“Let's return to the basics...” Ryan said, and then the look in his eyes changed.

Ryan summoned his Immobilizing Crossbow and the Spiritualist's Crossbow. Those weren't his best weapons, but they will make it do. Chronus found it interesting that choice of weapons, but he also looked disappointed. For him, to grab those bolts before they could activate their effects and destroy was an easy matter. However, when Ryan fired them, they were covered by his corrupt energy. Chronus grabbed them using only their fingers, but he still suffered damage thanks to extra energy. As if that was only natural as well, the bolts also applied their effects.

When the next ones flew toward him, Chronus just punched the air and blocked them using the shockwaves.. At the same time, he tried to hit Ryan, but as if he could see through him, all the attacks were dodged.

Chapter 980

At some point, Chronus noticed something weird. Ryan's bolts were getting more powerful and pushing away the shockwaves caused by his fists. It was only natural that Ryan would get stronger while fighting an enemy much more powerful, but that speed was weird.

Eventually, Chronus used Absolute Appraisal and finally learned the skills he obtained before getting up. Ryan was fixing his skills with Personal Mastery, and he was also increasing his dexterity by using Absolute Buying. He basically had obtained Merlin's abilities...

When Ryan saw the look of understanding on Chronus' face, he clicked his tongue. He had intended to fix his build slowly and without letting Chronus notice it. But as expected, fooling someone who lived probably for hundreds of thousands of years wasn't that easy.

"You don't have to hide what you are doing, I can give you the time to do it if you want," Chronus said..

"I will make you regret that," Ryan glared at him.

"That is impossible, for someone like me who has so much life experience, regrets are something impossible to experience," Chronus said. "I have lived for far too long and I have done everything that should be possible, there are only two things that seem beyond me, though. Leave this universe and prevent its destruction. If I fail on doing the second, then it means that it was something impossible to do. Thus, regretting something impossible doesn't make any sense."

Everything that Ryan heard sounded like bullshit. Thanks to that, he was having a hard time keeping a straight face. On the other hand, he was getting some mana thanks to Anger Manipulation.

Although Chronus said that he would wait, Ryan didn't want to make use of his bullshit help. He summoned Snake Eyes Crossbow and then pointed toward him after selecting the skill Legendary archery. The effect of the skill worked when Chronus granted the bolts with his hands instead of his fingers, and he didn't do anything else aside from that. Despite how convenient that was for Ryan, it only pissed him off.

"Yes... it is getting much stronger," Chronus said.

Congratulations! The skill Legendary Archery has leveled up.

Congratulations! The skill Legendary Archery has leveled up.

Congratulations! The skill Legendary Archery has leveled up.

...

“Stop that,” Ryan said while glaring toward Chronus. “What you are trying to do is making me sick.”

“I can’t avoid it, you are the only one in this timeline who can wound me,” Chronus said. “In fact, you are the first who caused so much damage on my body, aside from Lucifer and Ymir. I want to see you reach your true potential. But don’t worry, I won’t overdo it. Making you relieve this fight over and over again would increase your power, but it wouldn’t solve anything. You made the future change a little bit thanks to your greed, so we need to keep betting that it will be enough.”

“Seriously, you will regret this... not a single enemy until now made me thirst for blood this much,” Ryan said.

“That is completely fine, it is understandable since I am doing this for myself,” Chronus said. “I have achieved the pinnacle in pretty much everything, but like I said, I couldn’t prevent the destruction of the universe and I still can’t do it. That is why I am trying something new, if I fail, it is fine. If I succeed, then everything would be worth it.”

“How incompetent can you be with those god-like powers?” Ryan asked. “You just have to go to a point in time where those who will cause the destruction of the universe are no match for you and kill them.”

“It isn’t that simple,” Chronus said. “Imagine that time is like a river, if you let it flow normally, nothing that isn’t supposed to happen won’t happen. But if you do something drastic, it will cause some issues. For example, if I were to send my conscience to the past now, those two might learn the technique. So, the best moment to do it is when the universe is collapsing.”

“Bullshit... if they could use your powers, they would have done many times,” Ryan said.

“Usually, they wouldn’t, but considering how useful the spell is, they will do it,” Chronus said. “Resetting time would be the best option, but when I learned about the end of the universe, it was already too late. I didn’t have enough mana to use that skill and move to a point where those two

weren't a threat. If I were to try to use all the mana in the universe, I might succeed. But that also might cause my death. Trying to make time Reset for more than a hundred of thousand of years is just that dangerous."

Although it made a lot of sense, Ryan couldn't help but think that it sounded just like a bunch of excuses. Ryan could imagine so many ways where he could use the time to prevent the end of the universe... like creating a wormhole and then moving to another point in time. Chronus used a technique similar to that earlier and probably would consume less mana... However, after thinking for a while, Ryan understood that such skill would take him to another timeline, where he still existed, that might cause some problems...

Even if that wasn't possible, Ryan probably could send a message to the past. That should cost a lot less mana as well... still, informing his past self about events probably will cause some issue... the Ryan of two years ago probably wouldn't believe that in two years, he would be facing the possibility of the end of the universe.

Maybe Chronus was right... he had a lot of time to consider and experiment with his powers. Still, that didn't matter.. What mattered was the fact that he killed Femradiel and his kid that didn't even have the time to be born, and he didn't hesitate in doing so... Ryan will kill him no matter what and then worry about the end of the universe later.