

The Oracle Paths

Volume 4: The Purgatory

Chapter 366 - Race Against The Clock

Back on his Floating Island, Jake froze there for a brief moment, trying not to panic. He had barely saved Sarah when Enya and Esya were now facing a similar danger. Worst of all, his own island was also in dire straits.

The huge silver sea urchin that had crashed on his island was in the process of hatching and its surface was breaking up faster and faster, revealing more and more cracks.

Other Space Digestors almost as bulky had formed a swarm of monsters and piled up all around his Yellow and Blue Cubes, actively swarming on their surfaces.

The beautifully rhythmic light pulse of the Cubes flashed faintly as these monsters were covered with a thin whitish halo and began to grow in size, evolving at breakneck speed.

Some of these insectoid creatures were biting hard on these two Cubes, trying with all their might to dismantle the structure. For the time being, the Cubes were holding on.

"Shit, they want to devour the Aether Cores inside!" Jake realized with dread.

[Kill them! Quickly!] Xi shouted restlessly.

Jake charged towards the monster horde, not forgetting to first point a finger at the silver sea urchin and fire a dozen bullets of explosive air in its direction without looking. A huge explosion rang out, slightly rocking his island, but he was mentally prepared for it.

With his telekinesis, he stabilized in time, but most of the monsters crawling over the two cubes lost their balance and fell. Except for the few monsters that found a hold or hooked on with their claws or mandible, all monsters were affected.

With a few strokes of his machete, Jake cut the remaining monsters into pieces without forgetting to give here and there vicious kicks to get rid of the most stubborn beasts.

A star-like glow sparkled deep inside his pupils as he raised his arms in front of him. A double telekinetic force field took form instantly that he immediately used to trap a thick wall of air, thus putting the artificial atmosphere of his small island to good use.

His Aether Core sped up his rotation and Aether began to flood towards him. His lava veins became apparent and the air wall's temperature soared vertiginously. The trapped gas ionized and the air wall became plasma.

Jfcu ovur plut val qurofi lozureov om nzmbuho oval jfii md vufout efl jaov fii val qaevo frit f tudifezfoamr lnzuft mpo ar dzmro md vaq iacu f dfr, hfiharare frit gimjare fjfw fii ovu hfzhflul frit taulomzl ar dzmro md vaq.

Even the enormous silver sea urchin that had practically hatched chose to roll to the edge of his island, its metal spines half-melted, before falling back into the vacuum of space. The object ricocheted twice off the shield of Will's island before fading into the cosmos.

Such an improvised technique caused him a sharp headache and his face was covered in sweat, but he was not yet close to relaxing, quite the opposite in fact. There were still a lot of monsters behind him and new meteors kept on crashing.

"Xi, please set up a shield." Jake ordered reluctantly when he saw that a third wave of asteroids, even larger and more numerous than the previous one, was already showing up in the distance.

[All right.] His Oracle AI complied without arguing. The situation was critical.

His Floating Island vibrated almost imperceptibly and intangible energy escaped from the metal disc under his feet. An energy shield was instantly deployed, enveloping his entire territory under a kind of dome.

Just as the shield was being activated, a silver rock about twenty meters in diameter violently collided with the protective force field, causing intense ripples on its surface. The ground swayed abruptly, but the object was expelled into the cosmos like a cannonball bouncing on a trampoline.

Jake heaved a sigh, but kept swinging his sword, decapitating and hacking apart methodically all the remaining Digestors.

With the threat exterminated, Jake gently put down the fainted Sarah on the floor and then used his Oracle Space Storage to siphon a large amount of air from the artificial atmosphere. He then deactivated his island's new shield and dived again into the void. Xi reactivated the shield right after his spacewalk.

Jake was anxious. He had hurried as fast as he could, but a few tens of seconds was already too long. He, who hated to use his Shadow Guide, swallowed his pride and asked his bracelet to calculate the Oracle Path " Rejoin Enya and Esya as soon as possible while they are still alive".

Hal Svftmj Gpatu, f dfaovdpi hmnw md vaqluid, ovur guefr om diw fo vaev lnuut ar f huzofar tazuhomr frt Jfcu luo mdd ar npzlpao.

As he flew over his companions' Floatings Islands, he frowned when he discovered that the islands of Sarah and the two sisters had been completely overrun by a horde of Digestors. There were so many monsters swarming on their surface that the bright light of the Yellow Cubes was not even visible anymore.

Jake blamed his comrades for their stupidity. He could have stopped them from committing this madness, but by sensing their confidence and enthusiasm, he had mistakenly assumed that their self-confidence was justified. After all, they had just received their Second Ordeal rewards.

He had been sorely wrong.

Jake fired a few explosive bullets as he passed by the island of the two sisters, but even he didn't dare get too close. The silver sea urchins had hatched, and the Digestors inside were staring calmly at him, standing motionless in their fragmented shells like invincible generals.

Their bodies had a vaguely humanoid appearance, but they were small and frail, measuring only one meter in height, but with a cranial envelope three times larger than

that of a normal human. The back of their skull was elongated like a longhorn ending in a sort of umbilical cord connecting them to the fragments of their shell.

The silvery debris had softened, changing their microstructure to form a mysterious framework. But Jake did not see their final shape. Because of the urgency, he had no time to worry about them.

For three long minutes, Jake propelled himself like a heavenly missile through space, calmly counting the growing distance to his Floating Island. He could have given up, but according to his Shadow Guide the two sisters were still alive.

Though, they would not last long. He didn't know how long they could survive in space with empty lungs, but probably just a few minutes. He could trap the air in his lungs despite the vacuum with his telekinesis, but that was not the case for everyone.

The Myrtharian Body had its limits in an environment without stars or a reliable source of heat. Relying on that 10% ability to produce a constant flow of oxygen was unrealistic.

Adouz 10 qarpoul, Jfcu guefr om zufiiw imlu vmnu. Esur ad vu qfrfeut om dart ovuq gmov, ovuv jmpit nzmfggiw gu himlu om tufov.

A minute later, Jake almost screamed with joy when he saw two specks of reddish light in his line of sight. His optimism revived, he rushed to the two glows and discovered the two sisters in a precarious state.

Esya had lost consciousness, but Enya was still conscious, her eyes haggard and confused, but alert. She was holding her sister's hand tightly.

A steady flow of scarlet flames was pouring out of the young woman's body, enveloping her and her sister in a mantle of flames. Their armor, which had been provided by the government, had begun to corrode and he could now admire quite a bit of their fair skin.

At a glance, Jake recognized a faint network of lava veins under their skin and understood how Enya and her sister had survived. By producing these flames, they had stimulated their Myrtharian Body but they were reaching their limits.

Esya had not benefited from Hakkrasha's decoctions and could not produce lasting flames in space without a suitable gas for combustion. As a result, she lost consciousness very quickly.

Jake was surprised that their bodies had not been charred by these reddish flames, but he put off his questions for later. Enya opened her mouth as if she wanted to say something important, but no sound came out. But from her desperate look at her sister, he got the message.

With a scan, he knew at once what their actual plight was and his heart leaped in his chest when he discovered that Esya was on the verge of death, in a severe state of hypoxia. Her heart had already stopped beating. Without the exceptional Constitution and Vitality of Evolvers, her cells would have already begun to succumb and die.

Driven by his instincts, Jake formed an immaterial sphere enveloping himself and the two sisters like a soap bubble suspended forever in the cosmos, and then released all the air stored in his bracelet.

Enya turned off her flame halo and took a loud breath as if she were inhaling for the very first time in her life. The sudden influx of oxygen gave her a burst of euphoria and slight dizziness, but when she saw that Esya was not reacting, she began to panic and sob. She fainted a few seconds later.

Jfcu cruj lvu jfl daru. Svü jfl bplo ukvflout. Al Fazu Mfeul, ovuaz frfomqw jfl hfnfgiu md hpioasfoare f Fazu Cmzu dzmq ovu dazu uiuqurofi nfzoahiul. Hu zuquqguzut ovfo ovuw vft guhmqu prfgiu om zueuruzfou ovuaz dazu qfirf fdouz fzzasare ar ovu Mazzmz Urasuzlu, gpo ao luuqut ovfo Erwf vft msuzhmqu oval nzmgiuq.

Yet, not having neither an Aether Core nor an Aether Conversion Skill, he didn't know how she had recharged her Fire Core, but at least thanks to that they were still alive. Perhaps the rewards of the last Ordeal were the reason.

Nevertheless, with Enya passed out, Esya's survival was in his hands. Dreading what was to follow, and sensing Xi's excitement, Jake took Esya in his arms and gently pinched her mouth with one of his hands to open it. He tilted her head back slightly, keeping it steady, and his lips approached the target not without a certain amount of jitters.

He felt like one of those losers kissing and groping drunk and semi-conscious girls in nightclubs and deep inside he didn't feel good at all. But every emergency had its extenuating circumstances.

Their lips finally met, and the first thought that crossed his mind was that they were damn soft. He could also feel soft mounds pressing against his chest and because of them he almost lost his composure.

[Cough, Jake... Time is running out.] Xi whispered in his ear.

Jake cursed himself for his bewilderment and misplaced thoughts and finally blew into Esya's mouth. He simultaneously controlled his Aether of Vitality and Constitution and activated his Aether Conversion Skill and Aether Core to increase the flow of these two Aether types.

The intertwined bodies of Jake and Esya were bathed in a mixed aura of green and yellow light, and the pale skin of the young woman immediately regained some color.

With his telekinesis, Jake massaged her heart with an immaterial hand and her blood began to circulate again. Her stopped vital functions instantly resumed their activity and soon the lazy heart of the young woman began to beat vigorously on its own.

Then suddenly Esya opened her eyes.