

Unlimited Power - The Arcane Path (COMPLETED)

Chapter 101

'Although Leon only had a single slime's core

he had several golems' cores

and those belonged to bosses. However

he hid them outside New York. They could be sold for a high price

but Leon would use them without any hesitation to strengthen his new card

but since he didn't have them

he couldn't use it.'

"Maybe

I can use the skeletons' dust..."

'Leon tried to absorb that

but he ended up absorbing only the particles he touched. The amount of mana recovered was low

but he was doing that to train his skill anyway. However

he decided to stop when the particles of bones became lifeless like sand.'

"... What did you do

master?" Gisela asked

showing a surprised expression.'

"Just a little experiment... don't worry about it; it is not something the current you can replicate

" Leon answered.'

'Leon has been playing with mana for the past four years

so it didn't surprise that he learned Mana-Eater so fast. It was impossible for Gisela to learn it anytime soon. Anyway

Leon now had a new way to obtain mana

he needed to train a little more

but it wasn't something he needed right now.'

""Let's see... Mana-Eater is probably a low-tier version of the skill to absorb mana

I want to learn that

but I think I should try to learn some support spells.""

'After spending the entire night trying to use mana to strengthen his muscles

brain

and legs

Leon didn't make any progress. On the other hand

Gisela managed to freeze the entire bucket of water. That was hard to accept

seeing others progressing while himself didn't was hard to accept

but considering the Gisela had to use all his mana and he learned Mana-Eater

he decided to forget about it. Much sooner than Leon thought

it was time to teach Gisela how to create water

but first

he had to work.'

""Tch... I will have to repeat that some bothersome process of faking my progress.""

'It was annoying beyond reason

but it couldn't be helped. Leon decided to play it safe during the next weeks while trying to find a way to use support magic

training Mana-Eater

and teaching Gisela. Although she learned Water Manipulation and Water Transformation relatively fast

it took her two weeks to learn Water Creation.'

"Now

you will try to learn how to use a real spell

" Leon said. "It will be hard in the beginning

but once you succeed

you will feel accomplished and more eager to practice."

"I will do my best

master!" Gisela raised her right fist upward.'

'After she manages to learn her first spell

Leon wouldn't have to teach her water magic. The foundation was there

so she would have to decide her own means of attack. Since her homeland was in Europe

perhaps learning fire spells would help her

but Leon wondered if he would have time for that. Lately

he could see in Tom's eyes his excitement. It looked like soon his fake progress would be enough to convince Tom. Eventually

he and the others would challenge the grim reaper of that dungeon. Speaking of the others

the other two members of the team were quite lazy as well. A Canadian blond woman called Suzan

she was a whip user. And a Mexican black-haired youth called Juan who used knives. Just like Miller and Kelly

they obtained a powerful skill by using a tome

and their weapons had special effects too. They also tried to mess with Leon but soon stopped.'

'Two more weeks passed

and Leon decided to show the result of his 'training' to Tom

he could control three earth spears and make them spin at fearsome speed making the piercing power increase a lot.'

"It looks powerful

but we have to test it." Tom declared.'

"How?" Leon asked.'

"Your spear against my hammer

" Tom said. "If you manage to overpower me then you are ready."

"All right then

" Leon nodded.'

'Leon and Tom walked toward the front of the dungeon

and after taking some distance from each other

they prepared themselves. Leon created an earth spear and made it spin. Meanwhile

Tom holds his hammer with all his strength. Tom wouldn't hold back his brute strength this time

so Leon couldn't hold back all that much either. He had already spent too much time in there.'

'Like an unreasonably fast bull

Tom charged and swung his hammer toward Leon's head. However

midway he stopped because the earth spear hit the hammer. Tom tried to keep moving and sent the spear away

but he barely had the power to keep holding his hammer. Eventually

he felt the bones and muscles of his arms ripping apart. Tom tried to endure that too

but ultimately

he lost control over them.'

'Without anything to hold it back

the hammer flew hundreds of meters away from Tom. He was used to the pain

but he still fell on his knees. Leon approached

showing an apologetic expression. He went too far...'

""Don't worry; it will heal very soon..." Tom forced a smile. "We will clear this cursed dungeon tomorrow if I find my hammer in time.""

'Health: 75 +'

'Mana: 1735 +'

'Stamina: 70 +'

'Strength: 66 +'

'Dexterity: 10 +'

'Speed: 42 +'

'Intelligence: 281 +'

'Endurance: 84 +'

'Control: 117 +'

'Mentality: 97 +'

'Luck: 01 +'

'Recovery: 600 +'

'Willpower: 75 +'

'Coins: 499654'

'Status: 00'

'Skill List'

'Active Skills: Earth Manipulation Lv 60

Water Manipulation Lv 35

Wind Manipulation Lv 32

Fire Manipulation Lv 34

Earth Transformation Lv 37

Water Transformation Lv 27

Wind Transformation Lv 32

Fire Transformation Lv 31

Earth Creation Lv 40

Water Creation Lv 35

Wind Creation Lv 29

Fire Creation Lv 34

Mana Reinforcement Lv 33

Mana Eater Lv 07

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'Passive Skills: Spearmanship Lv 52

Meditation Lv 54

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Chapter 102

'After seeing Tom's wounded arm

everyone sighed when they understood what soon they would do. It was risky

but in the end

they didn't complain because they were also sick of that dungeon

they had been working there for the past seven months

after all.'

"Be careful

master

" Gisela said when Leon left the house.'

'Leon nodded

even though he showed her a few things that he could

Gisela wasn't fully aware of Leon's skills and probably never found since he wanted to keep a few cards hidden up his sleeve.'

"All right

I want this day to be the last day of us working here

" Tom said. "However

I don't want to see anyone dying to complete the mission. Is that clear? Do your best

but don't kill yourselves."

'Everyone nodded

even though the plan was way too simple

Tom was confident that it would work. Leon showed them that he could keep attacking the grim reaper without a break if he uses only one earth spear

so he would be responsible for attacking the boss as much as possible. Tom and the others would kill the skeletons

and whenever possible

they would attack the grim reaper while they protect Leon at the same time.'

'Since the team was full and they had a lot of experience fighting skeletons

the battles were quite easy

to the point where no one had to use skills since Leon could always smash at least one skeleton whenever they appear.'

'After walking for one hour

they reached the end of the dungeon

the crystal

and the boss. The creature was essentially the same as Leon saw in the ghost's dungeon

but this one was bigger and had several purple rings on its fingers.'

""Come to think of it... is there a reason why bosses don't leave the dungeons before the dungeons are cleared? Why doesn't this boss just summon hundred of skeletons and make them leave the dungeon at the same time?""

'It was hard to be sure

but Leon concluded that the bosses' presence was necessary to cause the dungeon breaks. Maybe they were emitting their mana and making the skeletons appear already in their first evolved form. Either way

it didn't change the fact that they had to kill it in order to avoid the dungeon breaks and because that was their job.'

'Since the grim reaper could fly

the chances of the beast dodging the attacks of every one were quite high. But since Leon could remotely control his earth spears

that wasn't a problem.'

"Remember

don't use your skills on the small fries

" Tom said to everyone.'

'They had no idea how much punishment the grim reaper could take

so their best option was to focus their skills on the boss. Eventually

six skeletons appeared coming from the other world. Tom

Leon

and the others retreated a little bit to kill them without letting the boss notice

and after that

they charged to attack it.'

'Leon had planned to smash the beast against the dungeon walls

but at the moment they entered the boss's field of vision

the creature summoned fifteen skeletons with a swing of its scythe. That caught everyone off-guard since that didn't happen before. However

Tom threw his hammer like a boomerang; Miller shot several energy beams until his face became pale

and Suzan extended the reach of her whip using electricity. With the help of Leon's spear

the boss got hit and was smashed into the dungeon walls. The entire place trembled

but that hadn't been nearly enough to kill the grim reaper. Now Leon would have to face the creature one vs one

while Tom and the others kept the skeletons away.'

"Let's see if you can swing that again..."

'Before the grim reaper could escape from the hole that the impact created on the wall

Leon made his earth spear smash against the boss's chest again and again. Moving his spear faster than he had previously shown to Tom and the others

they were busy fighting the skeletons

so he decided to make good use of that opportunity. However

even with the improved speed of his attacks

the boss blocked the earth spear with its scythe at some point and tried to recover again.'

"No

you don't."

'Leon increased the power behind the spear; no one would be able to notice that suddenly his attack got heavier since that wasn't possible to understand without being in the position of the reaper. So

Leon didn't hold back and pushed the boss against the wall again. Then he had an idea

it wasn't part of Tom's plans

but Leon sent another wave of earth toward the grim reaper and sealed the monster's arms by sticking it against the wall using thick earth rings. The amount of earth being used was the same as the earth spear

so no one got suspicious.'

'Eventually

Leon would have to fake his tiredness

but he couldn't imagine the battle lasting that long now that the boss couldn't move. Eventually

Tom and others killed all the skeletons and saw what Leon had done and didn't waste time questioning him. Those who didn't have ranged skills threw their weapons to cause damage

and those who still had mana used their skills. Little by little

they saw the cloak of the boss being damaged

and the monster's bones were also cracking.'

'When everyone was getting excited... it happened. The red glow in the reaper's eyes grew stronger

and in the next second... there was nothing. It took a while for Leon to understand that the dungeon got enveloped by darkness. Leon felt shivers because the reaper also suddenly got strong enough to destroy the earth's rings with brute strength alone.'

"Fall back! He freed himself!" Leon shouted.'

Chapter 103

'As much as everyone wanted to retreat since something very unexpected happened

they couldn't move that much

and they couldn't see the path to the exit of the dungeon. Suzan illuminated the place a little bit

but she quickly ran out of mana. However

at least that let everyone to approach.'

"Don't move and don't attack blindly

" Tom ordered. "We will just kill ourselves by acting like that."

'Leon could illuminate the place using fireballs

but it would be too suspicious if he suddenly learns in such a convenient moment how to create fire. However

he knew he didn't want to die because he held back... again. The best option would be to spam Magma Spears or Ice Pillars

but he would have a hard time explaining those.'

'Leon created a thin curtain of sand around them in order to find the grim reaper; after that

he also created a massive earth spear. He would end that in a single strike; again

he would have a hard time explaining how Leon could kill a boss in a single strike like that

but it would be better than dying

and he could always fake that he passed out. However

even after several minutes

nothing happened. He was ready to attack at a moment's notice

but the boss didn't do anything.'

""What the hell is going on..." Miller muttered.'

""Shut... up

" Tom said.'

'Something was off

it was the perfect chance for the grim reaper to wipe them out

but the beast wasn't doing anything

it didn't even summon skeletons. Considering that

it was improbable that the creature was waiting for the help of the next wave of skeletons. Leon only noticed what was going when Suzan collapsed at his knees. He couldn't see her

but she wasn't wounded. So

there was only one reason why that happened.'

"The boss is draining our mana..." Leon said.'

"I thought I was getting tired due to the tension..." Tom clenched his teeth.
"This isn't good."

'Although Leon's mana was decreasing

it wasn't by that much. It looked like undead creatures were quite good at absorbing mana

but it couldn't absorb a lot from so many targets. That would explain why the skeleton had to wait for a full day before they could equip their swords

helmets

breastplates

and shields

even though they could create those with only one-tenth of his mana.'

"It can't absorb mana fast

and probably it can't attack while it is absorbing mana... this is my chance."

'Leon decided to keep that information for himself

for the time being

to recover his energy

he decided to meditate and that made Tom frown

because even without light

he could hear his movements.'

"What are you doing

Leonard?" Tom asked.'

"Saving my energy while I search for the enemy

" Leon answered. "We can't escape since the whole dungeon is covered in darkness

so I will kill the bastard with everything I have."

"Can you do it?" Tom asked.'

"I can try

" Leon answered.'

'The monster was troublesome

but it wasn't at the same level as the three-headed earth dragon. So

Leon was sure he could kill it even using only earth magic. However

he was also waiting for Tom and the others to collapse

because he didn't want to show them his hidden cards.'

'While his teammates fell one by one

Leon used the sand to look for the boss. He found the bastard hiding behind the purple crystal; the bastard was hoping that Leon could hit the crystal and summon a horde of monsters to help the creature. Tom was the last one to fall

and when that happened

Leon created a thirty-meter long earth spear that was sharp as hell. When he finished

he grinned.'

"I hope you like this..."

'Without a hint of hesitation and not demonstrating any signs of his attacks

Leon fired the spear. Before the beast could understand what just happened

the projectile hit its target

destroying its entire body in an instant. Leon didn't hold back
so several blocks of earth started to fall from the ceiling of the dungeon
luckily when the boss died
the darkness disappeared
and he blocked those stones with his Earth Bullets.'

"Phew..."

'Leon sighed in relief

even though he could have strengthened the attack by changing the material
of the spear

he didn't because even himself couldn't dispose of metal. Anyway

the earth spear became sand and create a pretty big pile of dirt. Leon sat down
to rest because someone of his group could have faked their own collapses to
see Leon in action. Regardless

he stayed conscious to stop the monsters when they appeared. Surprisingly

Tom got up quite quickly.'

"What the..."Tom looked around

confused. "Did you kill it?"

"Yeah

the boss couldn't move and drain our mana at the same time

" Leon explained. "So

it received my best attack in full."

"I see... you are unbelievable; you just killed a boss of a difficult dungeon
alone." Tom massaged his eyebrows while trying the process of what just
happened. "... You fools

for how long do you plan to sleep?"

'Tom slapped them on their faces to wake them up

while he was doing that

Leon went to check for his loot. Skeleton's weapons always disappeared when they died since they were made of mana. However

they still could drop items. Unfortunately

Leon didn't get anything in the previous month. So

without any hesitation

he picked the grim reaper scythe that surprisingly didn't disappear.'

'Grim Reaper's Scythe'

'It grants the user the skills: Summon Skeleton Knight Lv 20

Summon Skeleton Archer Lv 20

Summon Skeleton Wizard Lv 20.'

'Cost: 50 mana'

'Cooldown time: 10 seconds.'

""I guess this is a jackpot...""

'Leon had no use for skeleton knights

but the archers and wizards could perform magic as attacks

and the power of those attacks were defined by Leon's mana and magic power. Although those weren't as impressive as Leon's best spells

thanks to them

Leon didn't have to hold back all that much anymore.'

Chapter 104

'Ignoring the jealous stares

Leon walked toward the exit of the dungeon while keeping his guard up in case someone tries to kill him to get the scythe. Even though it looked like a melee weapon

it was a magic staff that only granted him three skills. It increased the number of things he could do but didn't make him stronger. However

Leon had no thoughts in selling that whatsoever.'

'Despite Leon's not showing any kind of malice

he still looked quite ominous carrying such a weapon on his back. The scythe/magic staff's color was silver

so it really looked like he had killed Death. He recalled a game in the past which he played and obtained such weapon...'

""Let's just hope this will help me instead of putting me in trouble...""

""Master?" Gisela frowned when she saw Leon's new toy.'

'Usually

Gisela would be spending her days training

but since that day

Leon was going to face the boss

she decided to wait for him outside. Aside from his new weapon

everyone was pretty much unscathed. Despite the surprises in the middle of the battle

no one aside from Tom and Leon felt like celebrating

since they didn't do all that much and lost the chance to obtain one hell of a weapon.'

""It is time to say goodbye to this place; let's start packing our things

" Leon said

and Gisela hurried to the house. "What do we have to do now

captain?"

"You guys can go to New York and report the mission; I will watch the dungeon until the next team arrives

" Tom answered.'

"Are you sure?" Leon asked.'

"Yeah

don't worry about it." Tom smiled and offered a handshake to Leon. "I'm the captain

so my pay is higher than yours to do that kind of thing when it is necessary. I hope to work with you eventually

Leonard."

"Me too." Leon accepted the handshake.'

'Once every three days

a truck coming from New York would come to transport the dust that once was the skeletons

and that day was one of those days. So

Leon and his teammates would use that vehicle to go back to New York. Aside from clothes and cooking utensils

Leon and Gisela didn't have much

so they finished rather quickly and waited until noon

which was the usual time for the truck to arrive

without doing anything.'

'At the end of the day

they were finally back to New York

even though Leon and Gisella returned a few times to buy food and to let Gisella train her martial skills

the feeling of returning knowing that they wouldn't go back to that dungeon was reassuring. That being said

Leon was aware of the fact that things would only be more difficult from that point onward.'

'Leon went to the main building with his teammates while Gisella and the other maids and butlers returned to the apartments. Although they only caused problems for Leon in the beginning

he was thankful for the fact that they wouldn't work together for the time being. Putting their sexual preferences aside

the fact that they were noisy in bed was annoying.'

'Sarah opened her eyes widely when she saw Leon and his teammates; it was too surprising that with his help

Tom's team managed to clear a dungeon in one month when they didn't clear in seven. Anyway

she soon recovered herself and guided them to the meeting room.'

"Director William

Director Sanchez

Director Alisson

" Sarah knocked on the door. "The team who was working clearing the skeleton's dungeon has returned."

"... Come in." William said after a brief pause.'

'Aside from William

the other directors frowned when they saw everyone

but Tom coming to give their reports. Since they participated in the mission to kill the skeletons who left the dungeon

they knew how troublesome those creatures were

and they killed the boss who was supposed to be far stronger than the skeletons.'

'Since everyone gave their report vocally

and at the same time

there was no room for lies. Although Leon didn't want to reveal what his scythe could do

he did it because he certainly wasn't the only person in the world who could analyze items. Since no one had ever heard of someone obtaining the skill to summon skeletons

even William was quite surprised.'

"I see

the boss was a formidable opponent

Sarah

send another team to the dungeon

" William said. "Tom and his teammates deserve to rest for a while."

"Yes

sir." Sarah immediately left.'

"Well

you guys must be tired from your work

" William said. "You can go to your homes and rest

in the next few days you will receive your rewards."

'Everyone nodded and left that surprised Leon; he thought he would immediately receive his next mission

and Leon even prepared himself to hand over his scythe. Those three were shad

y but not so stupid to be so unreasonable in front of their subordinates.'

"Well... now what?"

'Two months working in that organization wasn't supposed to be nearly enough to gain the trust of the three directors. Still

considering his accomplishments and the information on how to kill the grim reaper

Leon was hoping to be called to participate in the secret actions planned by William.'

"They will eventually call me... so

until then

I just have to be patient and play it safe."

'When Leon opened his apartment room

he was welcomed by an ice bullet. Fortunately

it just scratched his shoulders. Although the bullet cracked the wall behind him and cut damaged his clothes

it didn't even cause a scratch.'

'When Gisela noticed what she had done

she fell on her knees and begged for forgiveness. It looked like she just learned the spell and wanted to test it. Leon forgave her

but it took a few hours to convince her to get up.'

"My mentality is stronger than her intelligence

that is why it didn't damage me... but still

to learn it so fast... I'm a slow learner but a good teacher?"

Chapter 105

'Leon thought he would have a few days to rest

but Sarah visited him the next day early in the morning.'

"Good morning

may I come in?" Sarah asked.'

"Sure

" Leon said.'

'Usually

Gisela would be training

but since Leon and herself were sick of eating hot dogs

cakes

and other types of junk food

she decided to make good use of the cooking utensils they bought and used over the last month. Thus

Gisela was making breakfast. That day she was making pancakes since it had been almost a decade since the last time Leon ate that.'

"Good morning

Sarah

" Gisela smiled.'

"Morning

Gisela

it is good to see that you are still full of life

" Sarah said

showing a tired smile. " I want to talk more

but... I don't have much time. Leonard

congratulations on completing your first mission so fast. Here is your payment."

'Sarah offered a handshake

and Leon accepted

then he received fifty thousand coins. Ten thousand was supposed to be his salary; the other ten was for the job completed. Leon also expected to obtain more ten for the dust of the skeletons...'

"You received a bonus for the information you obtained

" Sarah explained. "Usually

we would let you rest for a few weeks

but there is to time. The directors want you to participate in a certain mission

you already proved your abilities

and with your new weapon

your presence will be required."

"Is that why you look so tired?" Leon asked.'

"Yes

some important missions will be done over the next few weeks

and I have been doing preparations here and there

" Sarah explained. "Anyway

about the mission. Ah

before that... you have been promoted again. Your salary doubled

and you can hire more maids

and... what was it again?"

"... You are really tired

aren't you?" Leon frowned.'

"Sorry... I didn't sleep last night." Sarah massaged her eyebrows. "Well

I will tell you about your new benefits later."

"Isn't my promotion a bit too soon?" Leon faked his surprise.'

"Yes... the directors can see your potential

but they can't imagine that you are on the same level as the other rank S members

" Sarah explained. "Although you don't have the same amount of raw power as them

you obtained a skill that can be very useful to the next missions... by the way

don't tell the contents of the mission to anyone."

"The power to summon skeletons..." Leon said.'

"That is right

" Sarah added.'

'Leon nodded

but he was a bit surprised

even though he was still holding back

to be considered weaker than the S members of the organization while being able to defeat a grim reaper almost alone and now with the power to summon skeletons... He had no idea how those guys were

but they must be quite the powerful bunch.'

'Now that Leon thought about it

he had no idea in which category summoning skeletons fall in. He didn't use any elements to summon them; it wasn't an offensive

defensive

or support spell either. Of all things Leon wanted to learn
summoning magic was the thing Leon had not a single idea of how to emulate.'

"We lost control over a dungeon last week

" Sarah explained. "It is located in Dallas

and we lost five of our S rank members due to it. It is almost impossible to clear
it

so we are abandoning that area for the time being."

'Leon showed a difficult face

Dallas wasn't that far from Las Vegas

the nearest which had survivors was Houston

but eventually

those monsters would become a threat to the whole country.'

"How are the dungeon break and the mission related?" Leon asked.'

"As I said

we are abandoning the area until this mission is complete

" Sarah answered. "If you and rank S members who will participate complete
the mission

we will obtain a relic that will help us defeat the monsters."

"A relic... come to think of it

what kind of monsters are we talking about?" Leon asked.'

"Demons... I didn't see them

but from the reports

I read..." Sarah hesitated. "They are quite cruel and despicable

even for monsters."

'Leon frowned when he heard; it didn't look like Sarah was using a figure of speech... the monsters were really demons. However

the other half of the mission worried Leon.'

"The relic is in the hands of the Russians

almost all Europe is under their control

" Sarah said. "However

we know exactly where the relic is... and we will have to steal it. Your job will be to create an army of skeletons and attack Rome. Meanwhile

the other members involved in the mission will use the diversion you will cause to infiltrate Vatican City. Where the relic is being kept."

'The mission was so crazy that Leon didn't even bother to hide his astonishment. He waited for a few minutes processing that information while waiting for Sarah to say that was a joke

but Leon wasted his time. William

Sanchez

and Allison already made an enemy out of Japan. They probably thought a nation of that size wouldn't be a problem later

and they couldn't be more wrong... and now they were challenging another country that had a massive territory and probably hundreds of thousands of powerful survivors under their command. There was only one possible explanation... William and the other two were mad.'

"Director William said that he is putting a huge burden on you

but it is necessary to save the citizens of the Alliance

" Sarah said. "You and the others will leave in the middle of the night in order not to be seen by anyone. Go to the arena at midnight. This time

Gisela will have to stay behind."

Chapter 106

'By the look of things

Sarah already knew that William and the other two attacked Tokyo and caused the death of Makoto's son

it was even possible that she helped them directly. So

Leon started to wonder if Makoto would want her head... Regardless

Sarah didn't show a single sign of hesitation. She already concluded that that kind of thing was necessary to protect the citizens of the Alliance...'

"Cause deaths to prevent deaths... this is insane."

'In the end

Leon nodded

showing that he would participate. It was crazy

but it couldn't be helped. That was his chance to approach those who participated in the death of the prince.'

"I have to act faster... If I take my time

I will cause an international incident while I'm trying to avoid a war."

'If

by chance

he ends up helping William and the others

eventually

Makoto would discover and conclude that Leon became an enemy. That would be the worst-case-scenario... Makoto didn't give him a deadline

but Leon couldn't take his sweet time

two months have already passed

after all.'

"Master..." Gisela hesitated.'

"Don't worry about it... it is just another job." Leon said. "Just focus on your training

remember

your goal is to return home."

"...Yes." Gisela said.'

'Speaking of home

Italy is very close to Germany. So close that Leon could travel between them in one hour. Unfortunately

Leon couldn't bring Gisela with him

and it wouldn't be that easy to find her home and her family... if they are still alive.'

'Anyway

Leon didn't have a lot of time to think. Now that it has come to that

his best option was to capture the S rank members involved in the mission and William to interrogate him. It would be good if he participates in the mission

but Leon had no idea if he would or not.'

"I hoped that I would eventually join the spies ranks... but I never thought my first would be to cause another diplomatic problem. My best option is to solve this tonight... but if those guys think that we really need that relic to kill the demons

should I really get them tonight? What will happen to the Allied Forces if I interrogate William and discover that Sanchez and Alisson are also involved? Ugh... this a pain."

'While Leon was thinking about what to do

time passed fast. In no time

the night came

and then the time to depart... Leon hadn't a single plan of what to do.
Specifically

he should have considered the possibility of such an event happening. What happens once

happens twice

after all.'

'Leon packed some food and clothes

he didn't know what would happen

and there was a chance that he really would have to cause an international incident

so he had to be ready for everything.'

"Be careful

master

" Gisela said when Leon opened the door to leave.'

"Yeah

just keep up with the good work

" Leon said.'

'Although New York had power

at night

most of the city stayed dark. The only exception was the bridges

and the extreme points of the city where some watchmen worked. However

Leon had an easy time walking to the arena since he just had to walk in a straight line.'

'After a few minutes

Leon arrived at the arena

and he saw a few silhouettes in the middle of the darkness near the entrance. Unfortunately

there was no sign of William. So Leon immediately understood that he would work with the S rank members and complete the mission. The only way to put all the spies and William at the same place would be completing the mission and then giving the report.'

"I can only hope that the Russians will accept my apologies later... for that to happen

I can't kill any of them

and I also have to prepare a gift."

'It was disappointing that his mission would last for a while longer

but soon Leon recovered from the disappointment. Although he couldn't see their faces

everyone there had a good built

and even their presences were different from regular survivors. Unlike Miller

Suzan

Juan

and Kelly

those guys had the luck to find powerful skills; they also had the will to work hard to improve

but more importantly than that

they were born soldiers.'

'Eventually

one more last shadow approached

it looked to be the silhouette of a woman since it was thin

and she was relatively short.'

"Follow me." The woman said.'

'Leon didn't recognize the voice

but it sounded kind of familiar... since everyone just obeyed

he concluded she was known among them. After walking for two hours

they reached the inhabited part of the city where a warehouse was. The building was quite big

big enough to park dozen of helicopters

and that was what he saw there. When he saw one chopper being prepared

he concluded they would use one of those. However

Leon was pretty sure a helicopter didn't have enough fuel to cross the entire Atlantic ocean. Besides

they had to worry about dragons... even though it has been a while since Leon saw one.'

"Will we use a chopper to go to Europe?" Leon asked.'

"Mmm? Yes

you are the newbie

right?" The woman who leads them to that place asked. "You seem nervous

don't worry about it. Those choppers were constructed after the monsters appeared

they are moved by mana

and they don't cause any sound

and on top of that

they can become invisible."

'Even that part of the city was dark

so Leon could only see everyone's silhouette. Considering that they didn't say anything

it wasn't the first time they would travel in those choppers. However

putting that aside

Leon was quite surprised that someone built a helicopter that could use mana

didn't make noise

and became invisible. It was one heck of a perfect vehicle for espionage work and for missions like that.'

Chapter 107

'When Leon entered the chopper

he noticed a light blue glow coming from some parts. It looked that was mana

but rather than that

Leon was surprised that a helicopter could fly using mana. He was also very interested in how such a vehicle could store mana. Since Leon never traveled in a chopper before

he was fidgetting a little bit while everyone else looked quite composed and didn't say a word. There was no mistake; every single person there did that kind of job behind the scenes many times...'

'Aside from the pilot

who would fly them to near Italy and then back home eventually

eight soldiers inside the chopper would participate in the mission alongside Leon. He still couldn't see their faces completely

but four of them were women. It was quite surprising since women were the minority when he was a B and A rank soldier. By the look of things

the woman who leads them would also be the captain of the mission.'

'Eventually

the chopper took off

and just like the woman said

without making any noise. Surprisingly

after flying for over a few hundreds of meters

the helicopter became translucent

and so did Leon and everyone else.'

"The technology of the Allied Forces of the North-America advanced a lot... they can create magic items and things like this..."

'The trip would be very long

and even though the chopper was fast

it couldn't cross the distance between New York and Rome in just five hours. When morning came

they landed on a certain forgotten island in the middle of the Atlantic ocean. Leon didn't have many fond memories of islands

but he decided not to complain.'

'At dawn

Leon finally noticed the appearances of his new teammates; they were quite a diverse bunch. Two were Russians

and two clearly looked like Japanese girls

so Leon frowned when he saw them. Could he be wrong when he thought he would find Makoto's son's murderers among that group? Could they be deserters who helped them?'

"...Yesterday I thought that your voice sounded familiar

" The woman who is the captain of the team said. "But your face also looks kind of familiar... have we met before?"

'The captain of the team was a beautiful redheaded woman

her hair was short

and even though her voice was like an adult

due to her short built

she looked a bit like a teenager who was yet to have her growth spurt. Her eyes were green... her appearance was quite outstanding

but Leon also felt like he had seen her before.'

"... You think so? You don't look familiar at all." Leon said.'

'Leon was in an important mission

so he couldn't waste time thinking about things like that

and he also needed to avoid any suspicion. Despite Leon trying to act like usual

the captain already had her eyes on him. Since those guys didn't like to talk

she had all the time to stare at him

trying to figure out where she had seen Leon.'

'Regardless

the island was quite big. So

the Allied Forces of the North-America built a small base there for the teams who would occasionally do certain things in Europe. There was a tent big enough for them to put several beds

the kitchen and toilet were simple

but they could be used. That being said

everyone brought their snacks

so they only lay down on their beds and tried to get some rest.'

"Tch... it doesn't look like I will hear anything here."

'Leon hoped to hear some conversations about their previous missions

but it didn't look like he would. To make matters worse

the captain of the team decided to bother him again.'

"Hey

newbie. Come with me." The redhead woman said.'

'Leon nodded

it was a pain

but he had to follow her orders. Since she didn't call the other six members

she probably wanted to see by herself what Leon could do.'

"I heard that you joined our organization a few months ago and got promoted two times in a row." The captain said. "Your main job will be to cause a diversion to let us steal the relic. However

I need to see what you can do in a fight. Attack me with all your strength."

'The redhead woman grabbed two silver glowing knives that were hidden on her back and took a defensive stance. It looked like she wanted to block Leon's attack head-on. He almost let out a sigh

so many people already asked him to test his power that he was already sick of it. Still

he couldn't disobey the orders.'

'Using all his power was out of the question

and he also couldn't use the same attack that killed the grim reaper; her knives would probably break

and that would be a problem since it looked like magic weapons. So

Leon created a short lance by fusing three earth arrows and prepared himself.'

"Not bad

you do have a lot of control over your magic." The captain said. "I guess you are indeed our best mage."

'Leon didn't have for an idle chat; he had to think of a way to avoid causing deaths in Rome. So

Leon shot the earth spear. Using both knives

the redhead woman blocked the attack

but since that alone wouldn't satisfy her

he made the projectile push her back several meters. When Leon stopped the projectile

he saw the sweat running down on her face.'

"Not bad

not bad at all." The captain said. "My name is Betty

what is yours

newbie?"

"... Leonard." Leon said'

'Her name also sounded familiar

but Leon decided not to think about it. Unfortunately

after giving his name

Betty looked at him even more intensely.'

"Leonard... Leonard... Leon." Betty frowned. "By chance

did you live in Phoenix and then went to study abroad after high school?"

'Leon also frowned when he heard that espionage work didn't really suit him since he had the good or perhaps the bad luck to find people of his past in the most unexpected places. Leon eventually recalled who she was... Betty was a classmate during high school and once his girlfriend.'

Chapter 108

"... Little Betty." Leon said when he recalled the moments he spent with her during high school.'

"So

it is really you

Leon

" Betty crossed her arms and showed a displeased expression. "I thought you died a long time ago."

'The current Betty looked like a veteran soldier of many wars

she didn't have many scars in her body

but Leon could see in her eyes that she had to dirty her hands with blood many times. She was so different from the shy Betty from ten years ago that one could think they were two different people

even though her overall appearance didn't change all that much.'

'Leon first met Betty on his first year at high-school

she was a shy girl who didn't have many friends and liked to spend her time at school reading comics. In her free time

she stayed at home playing computer

console games

and watching cartoons like Dr*g*n B*ll. Leon just recalled that she always got mad when Leon called them cartoons

she wanted him to call it anime...'

"You grew up in the last years

Betty." Leon smiled. "Three centimeters

I would say. You didn't get mad when I called you little Betty

either."

"I see... so you are going to joke around about your captain's height." Betty smirked. "It seems you are not afraid to see hell..."

"I guess you didn't grow all that much..." Leon shrugged.'

'Leon saw a vein throbbing in Betty's forehead. As expected

she still didn't like to be made fun of like that. Little Betty was how her parents called her

and she hated that nickname with passion

Leon always called her like that to tease her.'

"... What are you doing here?" Betty sighed to calm down. "You are from the south; you are not supposed to be here."

"I could ask you the same thing..." Leon frowned. "When the monsters appeared... I was returning home after graduating from college. The plane was forced to land in Vancouver

so I had to walk all the way back to Phoenix... only to find our hometown destroyed by a nuclear bomb."

"I see... believe me; the bomb didn't destroy the city

a horde of dragons did." Betty recalled her memories of that day. "The bomb killed dragons and the other monsters... at least a few of them."

'Leon frowned when he heard

it looked like many dragons survived the power of a hydrogen bomb

but considering that many dragons could use fire

it wasn't that surprising... Leon made a mental note of that.'

"... Anyway

without a home and my family

I just moved from one survivor's camp to the other." Leon explained. "Until I heard that things in New York were going quite well."

"I see... and while you were traveling

you learned how to manipulate earth." Betty added. "Still

to think that you could become this powerful after training and working for two months... perhaps you have the potential to become the strongest mage in the world."

"That looks like the title that the old you would want

" Leon smirked.'

"No...

even the current me

would want that." Betty scratched the back of her head. "Although it is impossible

I'm quite satisfied with my current skills."

'Leon didn't ask for Betty to show

but she did it anyway. Betty threw one of her knives to a nearby tree

and when the knife pierced the tree

she appeared in the same place holding the knife.'

"It looks like the weakened version of teleportation... very impressive." Leon tried to analyze how that skill worked. "It also looks like a game we played in the past."

"Hahaha

you remembered..." Betty smiled. "You can't imagine how happy I was when I found those knives."

"I actually can easily imagine." Leon chuckled.'

"...Anyway

we don't have time for this. We can talk about the past after the mission." Betty said

a bit embarrassed. Now it is time for you to show me the power of your skeletons."

"Yes

Ma'am." Leon nodded.'

'Leon wondered why his friends of his high school days had such important jobs now that humanity was suffering against the monsters... maybe it was because of that. Just like Hector changed from a scumbag to a respectable leader

Betty wasn't just a shy nerd anymore; she was the captain of an important team under the control of the Allied Forces of the North-America. Due to their relationship in the past

Leon started to feel a bit conflicted

since the chances of her being involved in the death of Makoto's son was quite high.'

'Leon had no time to think about it

so he just summoned several skeleton knights. Even without her semi-teleportation

Betty destroyed ten skeletons in less than ten seconds. Her base stats were also quite high...'

"I guess they are on the same level as of those I faced before..." Betty concluded. "Why did you summon only skeletons knights?"

"Because they don't consume my mana when they attack

" Leon explained.'

"Skeleton archers and wizards consume your mana?" Betty asked.'

"If I made them attack as soon as they appear

yes

" Leon answered. "If I summon them a few hours before a battle they will have enough time to absorb mana from the environment and thus they won't absorb my mana... for a while."

"I see... I guess the best option would be to summon the skeleton knights." Betty nodded. "They are more sturdy

and since they don't consume your mana to work you will be able to summon more of them. The test is over let's join the others."

'Leon almost stopped Betty; she was a friend from the past so Leon wanted to convince her to help him. But in the end

Leon stopped. Just like himself

Betty must have changed a lot in the past four years. He couldn't just suddenly bring the topic

and he also had to prepare himself for the worst... Maybe in the future

he will have to offer her neck to Makoto.'

Chapter 109

'Although they were more or less on the same team now

everyone else aside from Betty didn't even look at Leon. Those six didn't do anything aside from sleep all day

they didn't train

and they didn't even check their equipment and weapons. They didn't even show their weapons to him...'

"Well

they are quite a secretive bunch... but they are smart enough not to give any information to the newbie of the team."

'Leon spent the day training at the beach

he got used to the silence and loneliness

but he didn't get used to the creepiness of being in a place with several people where not a single person recognized his existence.'

"You are really skillful with earth magic

" Betty said and sat by Leon's side while he was trying to create a golem made of sand. "You already an S rank in our organization

but it looks like you are the type who doesn't miss a single day of training."

"Well

when you live in a world where dragons can destroy cities in a matter of seconds

even an extra hour of training can save your life one day

" Leon explained. "There is no absolute power for humans; you shouldn't slack off even you are one of the strongest in this organization."

'Leon still had no idea how to emulate a defensive or support spell

so he decided to go for something more simple. His earth golems wouldn't be as near powerful as the golems he faced in Japan

but as long as they could buy him a few seconds

it would be more than enough... for the time being. Leon was satisfied with moving at baby steps

but he hated the feeling of stagnation.'

"I know..."Betty said. "Anyway

I bet you are quite satisfied with being an S rank member in our organization while also being a man."

"Mmm? Ah... the benefits." Leon smirked. "Are you jealous

little Betty? Even though several years have passed since the time you dumped me?"

"Don't call me that..." Betty slightly punched Leon's stomach. "I didn't do that because I wanted to..."

"Of course not... you just did that because you got tired of your toy

" Leon said. "After playing with my maiden's heart

you threw me away and..."

"Like always... you never take anything seriously." Betty sighed. "Anyway don't dodge my question."

"... After all that happened

I don't feel like playing around with women." Leon said. "I have one maid

but I don't force her to do anything aside from cleaning the house and making food."

'The truth was that Leon was too busy thinking about how to avoid a war

he also was busy with his daily practice

and because the holy sword was still sealed. Every morning he woke up and saw the blade unsheathed

but after a while

the seal returned... that being said

Leon would choose death over saying that to Betty.'

"Is that so... what is her name?" Betty asked.'

"Gisela

" Leon answered.'

"Ah... that girl from Germany

" Betty made a complicated expression. "I heard what happened to her but I also heard that she got better in the last few months. Is it because of you?"

"Who knows..." Leon answered.'

"I saw her one

and she kind of reminded me of Sasha

" Betty said.'

"... Who?" Leon forced a frown.'

"She was your best friend's neighbor

" Betty explained. "She studied with us

and it looked like she had a crush on you."

"Who could have thought a scumbag like me was so popular in high-school?" Leon smirked.'

"At least you are aware that you were a scumbag..." Betty said.'

"... Anyway

Betty. What do you think of this mission?" Leon asked with a serious expression.'

"This is your first rank S mission

and you are already questioning it?" Betty frown. "I don't like what we are doing

but we don't have other choices. To save Houston and Las Vegas

and we will need that relic."

"I understand the reason; I'm asking if you are fine solving a problem by causing another

" Leon said. "Japan already doesn't like us after the death of their prince

and now we are doing something that will make us the enemy of entire North Europe."

"So

you knew about that

" Betty said.'

"There are rumors about it everywhere; I would say half of the population already believes it

" Leon said.'

"I wish there is another way

but as I said

there isn't." Betty bit her nails. "I faced those demons a few times

even though they are not as powerful as dragons and megalodons

they are dangerous in a different way. They mess with our minds

and they don't kill us just to eat us

they kill because they think it is fun. Demons are experts in decreasing the morale of any army since they torture their foes in the middle of a battle."

'Leon frowned when he heard that

it looked like demons were quite smart... until now

Leon saw monsters that attacked humans to eat them

but demons did that because they felt pleasure doing so.'

"Demons also heal pretty fast

unless you destroy their head and hearts at the same time

they are pretty much immortal

" Betty added. "Although they are not much taller than humans

their flesh is much more sturdy. The best way to deal with them is by using light magic

and until now

only one weapon that has such powers has been found."

'Leon nodded; it looked like light magic was considered to be like holy magic since it could kill demons easily. That was probably why it was being kept at Vatican City. The best way to kill demons was to use holy magic if Leon could learn it

perhaps they could avoid such an incident. Then again

he had no idea how to emulate such magic... the list of things Leon wanted to learn increased once again.'

Chapter 110

'Since learning magic wasn't an option to solve the problem with demons

the only way was to steal the relic. That being said

to minimize the damage

neither Leon nor the others could cause deaths. They couldn't fail in stealing and avoiding deaths so that the mission wouldn't last long. Considering that

Leon didn't have much time to get the information he needed.'

"Betty... do you always participate in missions like this?" Leon asked.'

"Yes

I'm one of the first members of this organization

and I've known William for a while

" Betty explained. "So

he made me the captain of this squad."

"Did you participate in the mission to steal the water dragon scales?" Leon asked.'

"... Yes." Betty closed her eyes and showed a regretful expression. "We really needed those scales

we needed them to fight the mermaids before they could destroy all the cities on the east coast

but even though we stole the scales and made equipment using them

we failed. It wasn't our intention

but we ended up killing the prince of Japan."

'It was hard to be sure if Betty was telling the truth or not

but Leon couldn't see any sign of Betty faking her emotions; she looked sad

just like the few times he saw her sad in the past. Anyway

the death of the prince wasn't planned

that was good

but it wouldn't be enough to calm Makoto's wrath. He wanted to see the criminals punished

but Leon didn't want to see an old friend dying because of him.'

"Who participated in that mission?" Leon asked.'

"... Why are you asking this?" Betty frowned.'

"I'm just asking... why do you look so suspicious all of a sudden?" Leon also frowned.'

"Because it is suspicious..." Betty said. "Come to think of it

why did you register in our organization as Leonard?"

"Because... I wanted to have a new start in New York." Leon forced a smile. "With a new life

I wanted a fresh name

but it would be too weird to change my name to Bob or Steeve..."

"Really?" Betty asked. "Aren't you trying to do something suspicious?"

'Keeping lying wouldn't help

in the end

if Leon tells any more lies

Betty wouldn't trust him when the time comes. So

he decided to tell her his true intentions.'

"Betty... I want to avoid a war." Leon looked her in the eye. "Humans don't have the time and resources to waste fighting against each other."

"That is obvious

but why are you telling me this now?" Betty asked.'

'Leon looked around

but he saw no one. Still

there was a chance of someone with good ears being looked around. Despite that

Leon decided to take his chances. If he fails

he would have to knock down everyone.'

"I'm sorry

Betty. I lied to you." Leon said. "In the last four years

I..."

'It took a while

but Leon said to Betty what happened to him. The airplane crash

his life on the island and then his visit to Japan. Unfortunately

Betty didn't show the expression Leon hoped she would.'

"You are lying

right?" Betty showed a baffled expression. "Why are you working for the Emperor of Japan?"

"I'm not working for him; I'm trying to prevent a war

" Leon answered. "It seems you guys think they aren't a threat since their country is small and there is a massive ocean between us and then

but I came here with their help. So

as you can see

they can cross the ocean."

"So what? Are you going to offer all of our heads to him?" Betty asked.'

"No

I will persuade him

I will end up owing him a few favors

but it will be okay

" Leon explained. "You and your team are necessary for the country

and I don't want to see you dying because of me... but someone will have to be punished."

"...Who?" Betty asked.'

"One of three directors

" Leon said. "The person who gave the order to steal the dragon scales. Although all of them were involved

we can't lose all of them. It will also serve as a warning to those who survive to change their ways. We can't force anyone to follow our principles

we have to become allies to survive

but we must respect every nation. The world is too big for a single person or a small group to control."

'Betty looked conflicted

she recognized Leon's reasoning

but she couldn't readily accept what he was saying. By the look of things

she and William were on good terms

they worked together to survive for quite a while

so she didn't see him die. It was him who issued the command to steal the dragon scales.'

"Betty

you are already aware that we reached a point in time that we can't let our feelings get in the way

" Leon said. "However

I'm not the right person to say this. My original plan was to lock everyone who was involved in Makoto's son's death in a steel box and offer their necks to him to solve this problem once and for all. But after seeing that you participated in that mission

I don't want to do that. Like I said

I will end up owing a few favors for Makoto

and I won't be able to see Amanda and Maya for quite a while

but it will be worth the trouble."

"Your little sister and mother are alive?" Betty asked

surprised.'

"No...

my mother passed away

" Leon said. "Amanda is in Las Vegas with my niece; her name is Maya."

"I see..." Betty crossed her arms and closed her eyes while she was thinking.
"I understand that you want to avoid deaths

but how are we going to solve the situation with the demons?"

"Don't worry; we will get the relic without causing another international incident." Leon smiled. "We will just borrow for a while; I have a plan."