

Unlimited Power - The Arcane Path (COMPLETED)

735 Chapter 731

"Well

I must say that I'm not quite fond of the idea that my power belongs to you and that everything I conquered is also thanks to you

" Leon said. "But let's put that aside for now... let's say that you already conquered all the universe since mana is practically everywhere. Did you already satisfy your greed by learning anything? I don't think that is the case."

"You are right; I didn't satisfy my curiosity yet. If you want to know something that happened in the past

what would you do

Leon?"

"I would read a book about it or search for it on the internet

" Leon frowned.'

"Yes

you would search for registers made by the humans that came before you. It is a logical answer

but what would you do if you were the first human and want to learn the things that happened before you came to be?"

"That is... a tricky question

" Leon frowned again.'

"Exactly. Imagine that

and you can take a small glimpse at my angsty. I want to know everything

yet

I'm bound to learn only the things that came after me. I want to know how this universe was created; I want to know if someone did it. I want to know if I only happened by chance. I want to know what awaits our existence beyond the limits of life and death. I want to know if this physical realm will exist forever... I want to meet someone older than me. I want to meet God."

"Well... that is what I call a hard to attain goal

" Leon frowned. "Have you already tried to die? Maybe you will find him on the other side."

"I considered that possibility many times

but even to that

the answer is unclear. I'm greedy for knowledge

but I cannot sacrifice all my knowledge to answer that question. Just like you

I have a spirit

a soul that stores all the things that I obtained since I came to be

but once my soul leaves my body

all that can be lost."

'Leon nodded at that

satisfied. So far

he learned that the system's creator had a physical form and that he also knew that it could be killed. That made Leon understand that he wasn't trying to do something impossible. If the worst comes to the worst

there is a chance of victory. However

that also made me realize that things might get complicated. The creator was greedy

but he involved all the life forms in the universe

probably to satisfy his thirst for knowledge

considering that the chances of it doing what Leon and everyone wanted was quite small. They want to return to a point in time before mana could change their lives forever. They also want to keep their memories and not to be part of the system ever again.'

"So

you created the system to meet God?" Leon asked.'

"Even though I evolved for thousands of years

there is so much a being like me can do and learn alone. So

I divided myself into millions of parts and spread them across the cosmos on suitable planets. The arrival of my parts made the planets have their first contact with mana

and from that point onward

everyone and everything also obtained the power to use and create even more mana

even without knowing. Thanks to this

I learned many things. For example

I learned from you how to use a conceptual attack. I learned from Ilyana how to use Reset

and I learned from Tyrselle how to increase my lifeforce even further."

"Well

... you are welcome

" Leon shrugged.'

"I don't understand

" Ilyana said. "If you want to learn more things

why did you let me use Reset so many times? You probably learned after I used it just one time."

"That is true; your actions made me wait for quite a while to learn something new. However

after every Reset

all the being's universe became part of the system again with a little more potential. You can consider that me not doing anything was the price that I had to pay to see you and many others reach new heights much faster than before."

'That was rather impressive. To have such patience to see everything happen again and again was something. Having the patience and having the means to stop all that but not doing it was insane in Leon's eyes. If he were in their position

Leon didn't know if he would be able to do that... for the first time in a long while

Leon felt thankful that his deadly sin was pride. In the long run

and greed and sloth were probably the most difficult ones to deal with.'

"So

after all this time

" Leon said. "Did you find any sign of God? Although many have the power to see the future

the future always changes

and aside from Tyrselle

I don't know anyone who can use a spell that can interfere with the past."

"No... in all these years

I didn't find any sign of Him. I didn't find anyone older than me either. Considering that you three are the first ones to reach me in this place

maybe it is time to move on. I can't see the potential of the species that are in the early stages of the assimilation

and I doubt that you three have the eagerness to show me new paths and things."

"Move on?" Leon frowned. "To where?"

"To other universes... just like stars

there are countless universes out there. So

I'm certain that I can find and learn new things outside the limits of this universe."

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'Leon was left speechless. The system's creator was saying that he wanted to go to another universe... as if he was just going to buy something at the nearest convenience store. Leon

Ilyana

and Tyrselle have considered that may exist other universes

but they had no idea how to leave the current one. Rather

they had no interest in doing it. There was a chance that they don't exist in other universes. If what the system's creator was right

maybe things out there were so different that they wouldn't find any purpose in those places.'

"Perfect

now that you are leaving

you just have to manipulate time and cancel all the effects of your actions

" Leon said. "As you said

you learned many things thanks to us. So

at the very least

you have to return our old lives."

"That isn't possible. To do that

not only will I have to sacrifice a lot of mana

but I also will have to sacrifice a massive part of my powers. Without the strength I have right now

I can't move to the next universe."

'After hearing that

Leon felt Tyrselle's mana getting agitated. Even in her rage

she tried to be subtle with her actions

but there was only much subtle she could be while preparing a massive attack. Leon recognized her actions immediately since she did the same thing recently... Tyrselle used all the mana she could use to create a gravitational field around her in order to attract all the nearby stars and destroy the fake black hole alongside the creator of the system. The problem was: if Leon noticed that

then the creator probably did it as well.'

"There is no need to get nervous

Leon. Everything you thought

felt

and might do

alongside all your allies

friends

and family

had already be seen by me. As a human

your body can withstand quite an intense use of mana

thanks to your evolution. However

all the Resets made your body return to its original stage

but you need to know that Ilyana's Resets never worked on me. It decreased the amount of mana I could use time and time again

indeed

but only that."

"What do you mean by that?" Ilyana asked while she was preparing herself.'

"It means that my body can withstand the use of all the mana in this universe without any restraint or after-effects. I use all the mana at my disposal every moment to see the ever-changing future. Thus

I know everything you will do. The number of possibilities of your actions in the next year equals 203.989. A pretty impressive number

but not enough to manage to land on me a surprise attack."

"So

you already knew from the very beginning that a confrontation was inevitable

" Leon bit his lips in annoyance. "Despite all that

you still answered my questions."

"Of course

just as much you owe me

I owe quite a lot to all of you. Answering the questions you have and ignoring all ill intentions were the least I could do to all of you. Unfortunately

I cannot help you to reach your goal. It is also unfortunate that with me

all the mana in this universe will disappear. All of you can try to create all the mana necessary for it after I leave

but I doubt that you will live that long... Knowing all that

what are you going to do?"

"We are going to kill you

asshole

" Tyrsele declared and decided to stop hiding her killing intent. "You are going to pay for creating the situation that killed my little brother."

"I see... so that is how it is. It is a pity that the only ones who reached a stage next to mine decided to become enemies. However

I also thank you for letting me learn how it is to feel to be treated as an enemy... and how to treat others like one."

'The last sentence made the hair on Leon's back stand. Until now

the conversation didn't let Leon feel any ill intentions coming from the creator of the system

but things changed after that. Even though Leon couldn't feel any real difference in the tone

the voice was cold

and he could feel the killing intents like he never felt before.'

"Just as you wanted to have everything back by taking everything from me

it is only obvious that I will do the same to you. You made me understand that leaving this universe behind in its current situation would be the wrong choice. Instead of leaving all of you alone and helpless

I will destroy everything. Perhaps by doing that

another lifeform like me eventually will appear."

"So

it is like that

huh

" Leon bit his lips and clenched his teeth. "That is my line... you involved all the universe in your petty quest to find someone older than you. I understand how loneliness can be hard

but it didn't give you the right to make others feel so much despair over the course of so many years. As usual

my instincts were right... You are the enemy of all lifeform of the universe
and now you will pay for what you have done."

'Leon readied himself and decided to summon everyone who was waiting on
Ilyana's planet

but before he could try anything

the darkness around them was dispelled. The creator of the system didn't feel
the need to stay hidden anymore. However

the creator of the system didn't do that only to show himself as a final act. For
whatever reason

the more the darkness disappeared

the more Leon and everyone's mana got wild and uncontrollable. At the same
time

it was leaving their bodies.'

"Don't worry. I will teleport them here for you. However

I cannot let you use all my precious mana

right?"

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'Leon imagined that at some point

the creator of the system would try to steal their mana

but he didn't imagine that he would be able to do that on all the living beings in
the entire universe. Fortunately

even though the creator could do that

he wasn't omnipotent. He couldn't just steal all their mana in the blink of an
eye.'

'When the darkness was dispelled

Leon saw that all the nearby stars got much closer than before. It was only a matter of seconds before Tyrselle's attack could land. Leon and Ilyana readied themselves to attack as well

but they stopped in a moment due to the shock when they noticed the thing in front of them.'

""What the hell..." Leon opened his eyes widely.'

'In front of them lies a gigantic and grotesque body. Leon thought the aura of the creator was big

but it was only thanks to its massive mana pool. That wasn't the case. No wonder the creator of the system said that the monsters were fragments of its body. It was much bigger than the galactic snake it was much bigger than Earth itself. The body was quite humanoid-ish

but it was so large that the creator has space in its trunk to have ten arms on each side. The arms weren't quite like humans

though. They had fingers

but only three

and the arms' movements resembled quite a bit of tentacle. As if that wasn't gross enough

the legs of the monsters were equally weird and grotesque. Red

hairy

and too small in comparison to the arms

but the numbers were unreal. At the very least

the numbers were larger than Leon could count in a few minutes. Although the legs were small compared to the arms

those were much larger than any buildings Leon had seen in his entire life.'

'However

what creeped them out more than anything was the nearly infinite number of eyelids in that body. In every single part

they could see a pair

but the eyelids were just a minor

aesthetic problem in their eyes because

behind the eyelids

they could feel the existence of a nervous system.'

"Are you surprised? I suppose my body is strange by your standards. All of you had the power to change your bodies at will

but neither of you did it because of pesky reasons. You three imagined that the system would be enough to make you stronger

and it did

but this body is what makes our strengths so far apart."

'The monster was right. Even though Leon

Ilyana

and Tyrselle didn't have the same technology Crik had to change the bodies of many

they could use mana in many ways

including to change their bodies. They have the knowledge of how to create monsters

after all. So

something like that would be easy. However

they didn't want to change because they didn't want to become monsters themselves like the bizarre creature in front of them.'

'While she was preparing her mana to use time magic at a moment's notice

Leon reunited all the mana he could gather in a single point. He wished that he had created that spell faster

but it was a bit too late for Leon to wish for that. While the massive sphere of mana was decreasing in size

Leon saw a small grin in the mouth of that massive monster that was located in the center of its body.'

"Two massive

powerful attacks and a vast concentration of mana that can make her control time freely to the point where she can negate all the events that she wants. As expected

you three reached the apex of your physical forms. However

that isn't enough... let me teach you one last thing before you cease to exist. Mana is the power of the mind

the older you get

the stronger your mind becomes

but there is a limit to how much stronger a single mind can become. No matter how powerful you are

a single brain can only store so much information

after all."

'Although Leon always liked new pieces of information

he didn't like that one. Essentially

at least when it comes to the use of mana

the most powerful brain wins. Still

when two enemies have equally the same amount of power and their brains been equally powerful

who will win? The one who has the best strategy

probably. However

even that wouldn't guarantee a victory. There is another method to guarantee victory

increase the number of brains.'

"Let's see if your grotesque body is powerful enough to endure this

" Tyrselle said.'

'Several planets and stars passed by them from all directions and headed toward the creator of the system at an astonishing speed. However

the creature wasn't fazed by that attack or by Tyrselle's words. Suddenly

some of its eyelids opened

and that shot mana beams toward those celestial bodies. As if massive planes and stars were just small stones to that creature

he destroyed them all without even showing any sign of effort.'

'Leon and Ilyana opened their eyes widely while the small pieces of those stars hit their Mana Barriers. Tyrselle didn't let that faze that. Instead

she focused even more on increasing the speed of the other stars that were coming. However

time and time again

those eyes shot mana beams that hit those planets

causing massive explosions and eradicating them. After a while

even Tyrselle was left with her mouth hanging open.'

"Don't feel too bad about this. As I said before

mana is the power of the mind. It is only natural that someone like me

who has millions of minds and hundreds of thousands of years of experience

can do this with ease."

'Leon bit his lips in annoyance. Although the monster didn't have a condescending attitude

its words were already getting on his nerves. Leon had to finish that right now. He couldn't let things end like that.'

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'Leon lost the count of how many stars and planets that monster had destroyed. However

it doesn't matter. His attack was already ready

and so was Leon.'

"Ilyana

watch my back

" Leon said. "Whatever happens

we have to make that this attack will hit."

"Got it." Ilyana nodded.'

'If that doesn't work

Leon would be forced to summon everyone to that place. It would be insanely hard for his allies to fight in outer space

and many of them would be their advantage

but he wouldn't have any other choice. Leon couldn't summon them before using Big Bang at least once

after all.'

'Leon charged at his top speed. He had to end things right now before the battle can escalate

and their disadvantage can become even more apparent. Leon charged without hesitation... yet

in the deepest part of his mind

something began to worry him. The monster said that he would teleport his allies

but it didn't so until now. Why? That question was tormenting him because Leon had an accurate answer. The monster wanted to summon them to kill all of his allies in front of Leon after trying everything he can and fails. That kind of thought made Leon sweat cold

but it wasn't enough to make him give up.'

"I will definitely kill him

" Leon muttered. "No matter what..."

'This was the golden chance Leon needed. The final enemy was right in front of him. If he could defeat it

he and everyone else would probably receive all the mana they needed to fix things up. This was definitely the last battle; Leon would bet everything on that last attack. Yet... he couldn't feel anything coming from those innumerable eyes across that monster's body—no fear

no anxiety... absolutely nothing.'

"Tsk." Leon clicked his tongue in annoyance. "Don't underestimate us."

'Although he couldn't see a single sign of sentiment in all those eyes

they still shot massive and concentrated Mana Beams toward Leon. Yet

he didn't dodge them. Leon couldn't lose the momentum of a direct charge

he trusted Ilyana

and she answered his trust by making those Mana Beams return to its eyes. She had reversed the time of all those attacks. Leon smirked... yet... the monster only shrugged.'

'Leon ignored that because his attack was about to land. To make sure he would damage all the nervous system was freak was so proud of

Leon aimed at one of the eyes in the center of the body. The attack hit the monster's body

and immediately

all the concentrated mana exploded.'

'Engulfed by light

Leon was sent flying backward while he was feeling the mana destroying his body at a fearsome rate. It was only natural that one attack like that would also damage him. Still

the pain wasn't nearly as intense as Leon thought it would be. As if that wasn't weird enough

he stopped flying after just a couple of seconds. When Leon stopped

he noticed that he was still quite ahead of Ilyana and Tyrselle. Their mouths were hanging open while looking at where the monster was supposed to be. Leon turned to face the monster

only to see the mana that was supposed to cause a big bang had stopped expanding. The monster's body was covered in light

but it wasn't because the attack was damaging it. It was because its eyes were absorbing the mana.'

"What the..." Leon said and then felt a terrible shiver.'

'That attack even made Leon lose all his limbs

yet

he couldn't sense the body of the monster suffering any damage. The presence of the creature hadn't changed as well. No... it changed... it had become larger and more fearsome.'

"Now that all of you used your best attacks

it is time to teleport everyone here."

'For a second

Leon thought that was just a figure of speech

but then suddenly

all that empty space got crowded with many different life forms. Monster of all kinds and apparently near infinite. Leon also saw the sapient species of worlds in the lower stages of assimilation there. Unfortunately

those quickly began to die thanks to the cold of outer space since they didn't have Ice Resistance at a sufficient level or any other skill that could prevent them from suffocating.'

'Leon saw his allies

who still decided to fight despite the monster's fearsome presence

but they weren't the only ones who came. All the one hundred million warriors he managed to reunite were forcefully teleported as well. By the look of things

that monster had truly summoned all the life forms of the universe.'

'Panic quickly spread among all of Leon's allies. It was only natural after seeing such a grotesque and massive monster like no other. Some tried to run

and those who turn their backs the creature exploded.'

"Please

don't show your backs to me. As far as I know

you humans have the habit of respecting your elders

so I ask for the same treatment."

'As usual

there was no animosity in the monster's voice

but that didn't help Leon's allies from panicking. Those who had decided to fight quickly began to shot magic projectiles toward the monster

those who couldn't do that flew to attack the creature with their weapons and fists. Hector

Amanda

Maya

Sasha

Betty

Tom

Lennar

Gisela

Ren

and Yuki were among them.'

"It is all or nothing

Leon

" Ilyana said. "Let's fight up close and use our mana just to prevent casualties!"

'Leon nodded at Ilyana's words. However

before his body could obey his mind

suddenly

all the humans exploded

with no exception. In the blink of an eye

Leon

Tyrselle

and Ilyana were the only ones left alive to fight the beast.'

"No..." Leon muttered in shock.'

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'Ilyana was also caught off-guard. She did expect that eventually

she would be forced to rewind the time of many dead people

but she didn't expect that she would have to do it for all of them. Still

with the help of Serena

she focused all her senses in that red cloud of blood and made time move backward. Suddenly

millions of humans were back to life

but Ilyana was forced to use an overwhelming amount of mana. Her whole body didn't get only numb

thanks to that. She began to bleed from all the pores of the body.'

"Ilyana!" Leon shouted in shock.'

"This is nothing

" Ilyana forced a smile. "Let's focus on that thing."

'However

the damage

despite having being countered by Ilyana

had already been done. The fear of losing finally was stuck in Leon's head and in the head of those who realized what just had happened. They died for real

and they were brought back to life... they died without being able to do a single thing. Many lost the fighting spirit and tried to run away again... only to be decimated like the others.'

"How futile... I can't understand how all of you managed to survive when you only have this much willpower. Regardless

a few of you might counter my attacks

but I wonder for how long can you do it."

'Leon

Ilyana

and Tyrselle had already used a lot of mana before their allies appeared

and after reversing the time of so many individuals

it was clear that they didn't have much more mana left

and the remaining they could use was being sucked by the monster. Even if they wait for a while for their recovery to help them

Leon couldn't see their victory ahead.'

"I'm sorry

everyone

" Leon bit his lips. "It looks like we don't have any other choice..."

'Using the Absolute Mana Link as a medium

Leon used Skill Bestowal and gave everyone the knowledge of using Absolute Future Possession. It was the only thing they could do to turn the tide of the battle at that point in time. Despite all that

only a few individuals use it. Although they were facing a monster that could make everyone explode without effort

they hesitated in sacrificing their lifespan to beat it.'

'Those who used it without hesitation were Leon and his friends

Ilyana

Tyrselle

Sylas

and their followers

alongside Crik and his men. Only a couple of thousand people... however

considering all the strength they obtained by using such skill

they imagined that they had a chance.'

"Don't hold back!" Leon roared. "Attack with everything you got!"

'While he was charging toward the creator of the system

Leon had another idea. He passed to everyone the knowledge of how to use all the draconic skills. In the blink of an eye

Leon turned into a half-black dragon

and the others also transformed. Their power increased exponentially once again

and the small horde of half-dragons attacked the massive monster at the same time. Using magic was a waste of time

so they punched

kicked

headbutted with all their might.'

'After the first punch

Leon noticed that his fist was red

and a little blood was coming out from the spot he attacked. The same thing happened where his allies attacked... they could win. Leon smiled confidently. They wounded the beast

and if they could wound

they could kill it.'

"Impressive... I congratulate all of you for reaching such a level of power. If only your goal were different

perhaps we could have worked together to find and learn everything that ever existed. It is truly a pity..."

'Leon didn't know that he could feel goosebumps in that new body

but he felt some crazy ones. The monster was still as calm as ever

even though it was losing health. That much was nothing in their eyes. Noticing that their leaders could cause damage

many warriors decided to take their chances. Using Alternative Future Possession

they forced their bodies to become much stronger to the point where they could endure the draconic skills toll. However

after they transformed

those who wanted to join Leon and the others suddenly exploded. Things didn't end there; the system's creator did the same thing to all others who weren't attacking him.'

Ilyana clicked her tongue. Although their mana pool increased with the skills they used

there was a limit of how much she could do if she brings everyone back again. Yet

Ilyana did it. Those were the allies Leon had after working hard. They were her allies as well. Although most of them lost the will to fight

perhaps if she brings them back

they will understand that fighting is the only option.'

'The red cloud of blood and destroyed flesh disappeared and once again took shape in the form of their allies. However

Ilyana opened her eyes widely when she saw they getting destroyed again after a mere moment.'

"If you want to oppose me that badly

then you will join them first."

'When Leon heard that

he felt as if a cold hand grabbed his heart and begun to smash it. He couldn't let that happen... Leon wasn't as skilled as Ilyana in the control of time

and the current power he had to control time was thanks to Serena. If Ilyana dies

then all the spirits will disappear

and even if he learns time manipulation by himself as fast as possible

it wouldn't be enough.'

"You don't have to panic

Leon. I already understood that this is meaningless. You and everyone else already served your purpose and taught me new things. So

as a sign of gratitude

I will erase all of you at the same time. That way

neither of you will be alone on the other side."

'Leon bit his lips in annoyance. He couldn't remember many things that he hated as much as that attitude. Those old feelings returned to Leon's heart... he would die first instead of letting everyone die. Without considering his body's limits

Leon infused all the mana he could gather in his right fist. He would explode his whole body

and if he had to

but he wouldn't see his friends die again. In the blink of an eye

Leon gathered a stupid amount of mana and then let it explode while he punched the monster. That would definitely kill him

Leon could feel the mana of three Big Bangs behind that attack

but that much was fine. He would take the monster with him. Then

time stopped before his fist could land.'

'Leon couldn't move his body

but his conscience was still active. Using Clairvoyance

he decided to confirm the safety of everyone. However

he regretted that... one after the other

everyone exploded. Hector

Amanda

Maya

Gisela

Lennart

Tom

Sasha

Betty

Yuki

Ren

Tyrselle... and Ilyana. Their connection with the Absolute Mana Link was cut off

and Leon felt the spirits disappearing.'

'Trying to channel all that mana to transport them to the past

Leon focused all his senses

but then all the mana inside his body had gone wildly and begun to move insanely fast. Leon tried to control because he knew what would come next

but he failed... a moment later. Even Leon's strengthened body that was equivalent to a black dragon exploded. Leon died for the last time.'

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'It was hard to know what was happening. Leon didn't feel anything when he died. Maybe that monster had been merciful enough to destroy his nervous system before killing everyone in order not to let them suffer. Then again

only someone insane would that monster for it. Although the monster spared them from the pain

the bastard took away their most valuable possession: their lives. By losing their lives

one loses everything. The only thing remaining was the memories of those who continue to live. However

the monster took away even that from them. The universe returned to its original state... where no sentient or sapient beings exist.'

"Mmm?"

'Leon noticed that he thought he had died

but his mind was still functioning. However

he couldn't do anything aside from that. He couldn't feel his mana or even more a finger. Rather

he couldn't even feel his body. By the look of things

Leon was in his real spiritual form.'

"So

this is it

huh? I guess I was a bit greedy too. I wanted the perfect ending

but I failed

and since I bet everything on it. I lost everything."

'Leon didn't have eyes

so he couldn't open them. Although he was surrounded by darkness

he wasn't that afraid

even though he couldn't do anything. Leon had tried his best

and even though he failed many times... he failed trying his best. He failed by his actions

not by inaction.'

"Oh

man... We failed in reaching our perfect end twelve times. Why couldn't we just reach it just one time? That is so depressing... I worked so hard for it. We worked so hard for it... for so long."

'Leon began to imagine a quiet life like the one he had before the monsters appeared. However

in this one

despite being a regular dude

he would be friends with Makoto

Yuki

Tom

Gisela

Lennart

and even Ilyana despite the fact that she was from another planet. Although fighting for survival was what put them together

Leon knew that the bond that he had with them was more than just that. Yet... that was what was left to him. Imagining how nice things could have been... if he had won.'

"What now? Will I meet God? Buddha? Morgan Freeman? Well

at least I wish that whoever I met

they are willing to listen to my complaints."

'There was also the possibility that Leon might not meet anyone

but he didn't want to think of that. In the deepest part of his heart

he thought that he might convince them to revive him and try again to defeat that freaking ass monster. However

after a while

nothing happened. No one came... and Leon was left with that feeling of absolute loneliness that he felt so many times.'

"So

this is it

huh. There is no one on this side? Or perhaps I did so many crimes that I don't deserve even a trial... Damn it."

'Once Leon thought that feelings were just a response of his nervous system to certain situations

he noticed that wasn't the case now that he was dead. Leon lost his body. Still

he could feel so many things that it was difficult to put into words... anger

shame

guilt... living for who knows how long only to have such an ending was incredibly disappointing

to say the least.'

"I'm sorry

everyone... In the end

I wasn't cut to lead anyone. I only lead everyone to their deaths."

'Despite his words

Leon noticed that he had the chance. He wouldn't change anything. He would do everything over and over again if necessary. As if he would leave a monster alone to toy with their lives just to satisfy its greed for knowledge. As far as Leon knew

his friends wouldn't change anything either. Just like Leon

they weren't perfect. They were many things

but they weren't cowards. They wouldn't let themselves become pieces in someone else's chessboard. That was one of many reasons Leon took pride in having them as friends.'

"I'm sorry

Ilyana... but it looks like this is it. We won't be able to live an ordinary life after all this. Ah... how I wished to feel your soft boobs touching my back again. Crap... I'm thinking of this when I'm dead. I'm the father of nine very old kids... I think I need to be more respectable considering that. No... I was the father of nine kids."

'Although Leon wanted to talk more with his kids and give them the chance to grow up in a more ordinary environment

it looked like they wouldn't have that chance. Now that he thought about it

growing up in a destroyed world while watching their father rapidly grow old seemed to be a life much harder than the one he had

even after the arrival of monsters.'

"I guess I was a failure as a human being

as a mage

and as a father..."

'Ilyana and Leon tried to repair Earth as much as they could before the first Reset

but there was only so much they could. Besides

despite all the power they had

nothing could be compared to the real thing. That was one of the things that he hated most about loneliness. He hated the introspection because Leon was quick to feel depressed and recognize his mistakes. Yet

there was nothing he could do there aside from that. Leon didn't know how much time had passed in that dimension

but even after what it felt like a week

nothing happened

and his conscience wasn't disappearing either.'

741 Chapter 737

"Well

I guess this isn't half bad... it is much better than suddenly stop existing. Still

this situation is troublesome because it will eventually make me think that there is still a way."

'Death was different than Leon had imagined

he existed

but he couldn't do anything. That was kind of scary since he didn't know for how long that would last. Would his sanity keep him going for long? After surviving so many battles

Leon wanted to think of himself as someone mentally strong

even though he was quick to feel depressed. Still

there was so much one mind could withstand in the situation.'

"I wonder if I'm experimenting this because I had too much mana. If that is the case

maybe I can find Ilyana and Tyrselle

but how? I can't feel anything. Besides

why would the mana I had in life interfere with things here when I can't feel it? I thought that I wouldn't have so many questions in my mind after death

but once again

I was dead wrong."

'Leon laughed after thinking of that pun. He wasn't someone funny

so thoughts like that had to be treasured by him. Regardless

Leon tried to call Ilyana and Tyrselle

but even though he tried to raise his voice

his voice didn't change. He was only thinking

after all. He couldn't shout inside his mind.'

"In the end

I can't do anything in this damn place until when?"

'Leon began to think about what might happen in that void where he couldn't see

feel or hear anything. Based on his life experiences

he probably would continue to exist until he begins to forget about things. He couldn't use mana to relive those memories and keep his mind fresh. So

it was clear that something like that would happen. To make matters worse

he couldn't do anything about it

even though once he could.'

"I can't let this happen... but what can I do? I had the power to create mana before

but that power was something that was borrowed from that monster. I can't use it here. Even if I could

it would strengthen that bastard even further."

'Although he had many ideas

all of those were related to the use of mana. That was the price of using something like that for thousands of years. In the beginning

Leon somehow knew that it was a borrowed power. That was why he never got carried away. Despite forgetting about that

Leon never stopped training

but also never stopped being humble... now and then.'

"The profession system won't help me here... since it is closely related to the use of mana. I had to create something similar... but without mana. Can I create another type of energy even in this realm?"

'Leon couldn't feel anything in that state

so he wouldn't be able to put them into practice if he has some good ideas. He really was in a very troublesome situation. Leon couldn't even tell the directions in that situation

after all.'

"The monster said that mana was something it came to him naturally after living for quite a while... maybe it was the same process that occurred to me before the first Reset. The problem is: Do I have the luxury to wait for a new idea and concept of energy come to me? I'm not smart

so this might take forever. Besides

that bastard is leaving this universe

and that puts me into a race against time."

'As if creating a new type of energy wasn't difficult enough

Leon had to create one that could match mana in usefulness

and that could also grant him the strength to face the monster once more. In fact

he had to find a source of that energy in order to counter all the magical effects caused by the monster. Leon needed a powerful and useful energy that he would force the monster never to try to mess with him ever again.'

"I feel like I'm getting ahead of myself here

but in fact

I really need to create a new type of energy while considering all that."

'Easier said than done. Again

it was impossible to tell how much time has passed there

but Leon was quite sure that weeks have passed while he was thinking. At that point in time

Leon began to question if he wasn't already too late. Tyrsele and Ilyana were more talented at that kind of thing

yet

if he was still dead

it meant that they didn't find a way to revive themselves. In Leon's mind

if he managed to think that perhaps the only way to solve that predicament was to create a new type of energy

then it was clear that they would be able to come up with the same idea

or perhaps one even better.'

'Suddenly

Leon felt his existence getting smaller. It was a weird feeling

he felt that he had lost a piece of himself

but that wasn't something that should be possible. However

after a while

Leon noticed that something had changed. He had lost a piece of the memories that were related to his time in college. His predictions were correct; he would eventually forget about everything and become nothing since that was what people would become without their memories and feelings. Still

Leon didn't imagine that the process would be so direct. Leon had to do something before he becomes empty.'

"Shit... this is bad. This is really bad..."

742 Chapter 738

'After concentrating for quite a while

Leon discovered which part of his life he had lost. He didn't lose a single moment of his memories; he lost the entire semester of his last year in college. Leon couldn't quite sure understand why he lost six months' worth of memories in a single instant

but it wasn't hard to come up with an explanation. It was probably because those six months were the most intense ones.'

"Regardless... I feel like I have been here for one month. At that rate

I will lose more than six months' worth of memories in the next month. I can't let myself forget about everyone... about my struggle. I won't let that happen."

'No matter what happens

Leon would never give up. Not even death would stop him... at least that was what he was thinking. His mind was the only thing that was working

and he decided to use it fully before even that stops.'

"That monster said that mana is the power of mind... the stronger the mind

the more precise powerful becomes the use of mana. That was why that freaking monster had so many nervous systems

to power up its control and power over mana. I don't have a nervous system right now

only a mind... so what can I do with it to defeat the ultimate enemy

that is death and that bastard?"

'After suffering a total defeat

Leon didn't know if he still wanted to follow the path of magic. After training for thousands of years and still only scratch the last enemy was depressing

to say the least. However

only a miracle created by magic would make him revive. Besides

only magic would make things return to the right path. So

it wasn't like Leon had a choice there.'

"I have to create a new type of energy using only my mind

and before I lose even more memories. The problem is

even that bastard had to train to obtain the stupid high amount of mana that he has... I can't train here. Nor do I have a body to train

and I don't have the time either... Still

I feel like I'm missing something."

'Based on Leon's experience

he felt like he forgot an important detail. However

he couldn't quite pinpoint what that was. After thinking for a while

I concluded something. Even though he had Mana Creation

he couldn't just create the mana out of nowhere. He didn't notice

but he probably paid a certain price to create mana. After all

mana

despite being like miraculous energy

it is a form of energy. It can be created out of nowhere.'

"Not many people can create mana... it is a powerful skill

and essentially

it counters all downsides of recovery and all spells that are used to make one's mana recover faster. So

what is the price of using such a skill? I feel like if I learn that

I will be able to find the answer I'm looking for."

'After thinking for quite a while

Leon understood one thing. He learned Mana Creation only after he lived for hundreds of years. During the resets

he died early. He didn't learn it... perhaps the answer was there.'

"I learned Mana Creation only after living with Ilyana many times and during with long periods of time... so what is the key to learning that? Using happiness? No... when I learned this skill the last time

I was quite suspicious of her behavior. So

what is the secret? Living a long life? Life experience?"

'Considering the system

perhaps life experience was probably the key for mana. Planets were considered living beings by the system

but they don't have a mind

yet

they possess mana. Not only that

Leon was pretty sure planets have memories... at least physical memories. Vegetation grows and dies

people and animals change the environment somehow

and sometimes

disasters happen and leave marks that last for a pretty long time.'

"This is weird... when I used Mana Creation

I didn't feel like I was losing my life experience. However

considering how much grind one has to do to become strong using the system

perhaps that is the actual answer. Oh

I see now... mana is the physical form of our life experiences

and the stronger they are

the more powerful our skills can become!"

'Although it was weird in Leon's head that life experience could become energy and then create things out of nowhere

it wasn't weirder as that bastard who was a monstrous creature that suffered so many mutations until it becomes the size of a planet. In the end

a monster could only create a form of energy that couldn't make any sense but still had many limitations.'

"Now

my goal is clear... I have to create a form of energy that makes sense and doesn't have any limitation... easier said than done."

'Since Leon had to counter that monster's power

he had to consider things like that. It would be nice if he could use life experience and create another type of energy

but he was dead

and Leon was pretty sure that he wouldn't be able to use something like death experience. Still

he had to sacrifice something to create a type of energy that would be as effective against mana and as convenient enough to make him powerful as fast as possible. However

after thinking for a long while

Leon didn't find anything he could sacrifice. Right at that moment

he only does have one thing... his memories.'

743 Chapter 739

"Well

now... it looks like I don't have any other choice."

'Someone once said: if you want something

you must sacrifice something of equal value to obtain it. It was the law of the equivalent exchange. That law applied to most things in the physical realm. For example: to build something big and durable

one's has to spend time learning how to build it and then spent perhaps even more time building it. It was a troublesome process

but it wouldn't leave any pitfalls along the way. To obtain unlimited power... Leon will have to sacrifice his memories; he will have to sacrifice who he was.'

"Well

by doing this

at very least

I won't become someone unreasonably greedy like that fucking monster... I just hope this will be enough."

'As long as Ilyana

his kids

and his friends receive back their lives

Leon was fine with it. Although most of his memories were filled with hard memories

the few moments where he felt happy were already more than enough to him. To sacrifice himself to those who he loved was something that was only natural to Leon because

without them

he wouldn't have never felt happy like he once felt. Besides

it was a cheap price

considering how much he could obtain if he succeeds. Still

then again

Leon felt as if he was getting ahead of himself

considering the best possible outcome when he hadn't even discovered a new type of energy yet.'

"In any case

the only thing I can use it here as fuel are my memories

but how do I do that?"

'Leon was aware that he couldn't use mana's knowledge to solve that question because it could make him lose the edge over that monster. He couldn't lose anymore

Leon had to win and kill the beast

but he wouldn't mind banishing that thing to another universe as long as he is sure that he won't be bothered by it anymore. Leon couldn't be greedy and want to kill a monster that had the power to destroy all life in the universe was insane if not just wishful thinking.'

'Suddenly

that sensation returned. Leon felt his existence getting smaller once again and

at the same time

felt that he lost an important piece of himself. Although he was curious about what memories he lost this time

Leon decided to focus on that feeling that he had. It was insane

but maybe the process that was slowly leading him to his doom would actually help him solve that enigma.'

"Feel... try to feel where those memories had gone... try to control my memories the same manner. You can do it

Leon. You have to succeed."

'Despite wishing for all his might

Leon didn't manage to feel what happened to those pieces of him that disappeared. If he was in the void

perhaps the very moment those pieces separate from his mind

they disappear forever. That means that Leon couldn't recover them...'

"Shit... I need something. Just a single clue will be enough."

'Leon could use his mind to think. He could recall most of his memories. At least

the most intense ones at that moment. However

he couldn't make them burn as fuel. He recalled the feeling of mana exhaustion and tried to replicate it. Even though he didn't want his power to have such a weakness

but right now

he needed anything to help him find his answer. However

he failed in doing that...'

"I already knew this would be difficult

but... damn."

'It was only obvious doing something magic without mana would be difficult. Leon was trying to create a new concept of mana

after all. He was trying to accomplish many crazy things

revive alone

defeat a monster that is looking for God

use Reset without deleting everyone's memories... Still

he couldn't help but be impatient. To do just one of those things

he will have to sacrifice who knows how many memories

and there was a chance that he might not even find that monster anymore. So

Leon thought that it was natural to feel that way.'

'Leon lost the notion of time while he was thinking about what to do

and then it happened again. A fragment of his mind begun to detach itself from his mind

but this time he didn't let that happen without trying anything. While thinking as fast as possible

Leon identified the memories that he was losing and used all his willpower to recall those moments in order not to lose them. Suddenly

Leon felt that the process ended

and he didn't lose his memories... it was weird to succeed like that

but Leon didn't think too much about it. After all

the memories he almost lost were related to his first months on that island. That was probably why he identified that so fast.'

"If I can stop his process

then I definitely can turn my memories into power."

'Leon succeeded in protecting his memories

but then after a while

he tried to replicate the reverse process. Trying to separate them from his existence without risking losing them. It was risky

but at that point in time

there was no point in hesitating. Besides

he already witnessed that process a few times

so Leon was a bit confident in doing it. However

time and time again

he failed. Leon failed in making his memories become energy.'

'Suddenly

Leon succeeded in detaching the memories of the time he spent inside the galactic snake. However

even though he succeeded in preventing the memory loss when it happened naturally

he failed in doing that when it happened by his own will. Leon didn't give up

yet

he was having difficulty reliving those moments while keeping his concentration. Suddenly

the process ended

and Leon felt those fragments returning to his mind. However

he couldn't remember anymore what memories he was trying to protect. While Leon was reflecting on that failure

he noticed something odd... he was feeling cold.'

744 Chapter 740

"I am feeling cold... why?"

'Leon was fully aware that he shouldn't feel cold without a physical body. Something changed... something changed after he messed with his memories. After investigating for a while

Leon noticed what had changed. It was small

incredibly small compared to the massive reserves of energy that he once had before

but by concentrating

Leon could feel some energy inside of him.'

"I see... so that is the key to transform my memories into power

huh. When I forcefully made my memories leave my mind

those lost their properties because they spent too much time outside of me. Yet... I managed to recover something. Something that wasn't the memories..."

'Leon learned plenty of things by accident in the past

but he didn't feel satisfied in learning things by chance when so many things were at risk. His memories

his future

everyone who he cherished... he never relied on luck before

and he didn't want to start relying on it right now. Still... at the very least

that made him save some time.'

'Regardless

Leon had energy now

but how can he use it? It was fine to start some tests when he just obtained a little bit? Should he sacrifice more memories for the sake of more energy? Those questions were troubling him...'

"I don't think this amount will be all that useful. Considering what I'm trying to pull off

it is only natural that it isn't enough. Still... it would be helpful if I could see the numerical value of it. I am already too used to that

after all."

'Leon wasn't quite good at measuring things by feeling

so he wanted to develop his own system

which doesn't rely on mana. However

Leon had a long way ahead of him before he becomes skilled enough to create it.'

'Without wasting any more time

Leon began to repeat that process of detaching his memories from his mind and then struggling to make them return in the form of energy. However

the more he did it

the easier that process became. It was obvious that his newfound energy was helping him on that. Also

Leon learned that the more intense the memories

the more energy he could obtain

making the whole circle much easier and convenient. Not only that

but Leon discovered one fascinating thing... he also could use the memories of his time in the void. So

he wouldn't have to sacrifice his entire self... the problem with that was: he might lose the notion of time there

and by the time he manages to revive himself

it would be already too late.'

"As usual... everything on my path has its merits and demerits... Still

I'm thankful for it because it only means that I won't get ahead of myself and end up falling on some pitfalls."

'Even though it was the answer he came up with

Leon was still a bit worried about the energy he was obtaining from his memories. Until he could fully understand the process

he would never be able to use it fully. However

the more energy he obtained

the more his senses sharpened until he understood how the energy was created. It was pretty simple that losing his memories would make his mind lighter by decreasing the things he could remember and diminishing the amount of spiritual energy used to keep it stored. Still

it also would sacrifice the life experience obtained in those memories. It was like mana

but the cost was higher and more complex.'

'Although Leon had plenty of memories that he could sacrifice without thinking too much about it

eventually

he reached a point where the only memories he had left were of the people he cared about and his goals. After sacrificing thousands of years' worth of memories

he felt that he had enough energy to face Netro again

but not to defeat the assimilation system's creation.'

"Shit... to think that this would be the limit. There is also the fact that I can't recover energy without a physical form. I don't know even if I can recover energy based on my memories without sacrificing even more memories...
Crap

what should I do?"

'Leon was walking in a fine line. Even though he didn't sacrifice his most cherished memories

he already could tell that his determination was wavering. The feelings of hatred for the last boss and sheer determination weren't the only things that kept him moving forward. All the memories of his lives also had a pivotal role

and he had sacrificed all that.'

"Can I return to life by using this amount of energy? Even if I could

the chances of me defeating that bastard are dim..."

'Leon was fully aware that reviving himself at that moment would be meaningless. Now that he thought about it creating a new form of energy that was far more complex yet easier to produce would obviously have its downsides. However

he didn't give up. He still could sacrifice all his memories and leave only the wish to defeat those moments and revive his allies

but that would be his last card. Those memories were the intense ones

so he was pretty sure that it would be enough to revive him

Ilyana

and Tyrselle. If anything

those two were more than capable of leading others.'

'Still

instead of using his memories

Leon began to spread his energy around his existence. He frowned when he noticed that the energy wasn't decreasing despite being used quite roughly. His memories had become a strength that would never leave him... Leon was closer and closer from getting the unlimited power that he wanted.'