



Elsword Time Trouble Volume 8

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0. Return and then Awakening

All the fighting ended.

Elesis bitterly stared at the Devil's back. A dark hole created around 3 meters above the Devil was strongly sucking in air of the throne room.

“So that's.....”

Space-Time Gate leading to center of the universe started to open. If D enters it, it won't just end with time twisting to bend cause and effect..... even fundamental laws of the universe could be changed.

Elesis made up her mind and took a step forward. Raven gave eye gesture telling her to stop but she didn't oblige.

Now that Aisha has fallen..... there were no more chances left for her, and for the El Search Party.

“Stop, where are you going?”

The Devil looked defenceless because he was focusing on opening the Space-Time Gate. Karis blocked Elesis' path.

Elesis grabbed her sword hilt instead of answering.

“Are you insane.....”

Karis couldn't finish her words because she was astounded. Betrayal? Why would she do it now after watching the El Search Party fall?

Karis was about to attack despite being confused when an unexpected voice was heard.

“Don't get in her way.”

“What?”

Not just anyone, but the Devil who was being targeted ordered Karis to step aside. Karis felt puzzled but she couldn't imagine going against the Devil's order.

As Elesis' footsteps approached, the Devil didn't look back and asked.

With a voice mixed with laughter for some reason.

“I'm impressed you restrained yourself when I killed Elsword, Elesis.”

“It's not the first time I saw it happen.”

There was a vague shaking in her voice. The Devil noticed this but didn't pry further.

"Yes, so what's the reason for you going against me now? You've seen it happen countless times."

"I can't let you open the Space-Time Gate, D. I won't accept you changing this universe's history however you like."

"Why can't I?"

The Devil finally looked back. His dark eyes gave off chilling aura.

"I invested uncountable amount of time to get to this point."

".....Eve you know won't come back even if you do this. You should know very well."

Murderous intent dwelled on the Devil's face when Elesis' words hit the mark.

But the Devil... unexpectedly chose to converse instead.

Elesis who endured so much torment during those innumerable times she stood on his side was worthy of his respect.

The Devil turned his head again and looked forwards at fallen Eve leaning against the wall..... he looked at the scene for a moment then turned his gaze towards the ceiling.

As if he couldn't bare to look any longer.

"Do machines have life? Do you think there is individuality between Nasods? No, do you think such a thing exists across all lifeforms?"

The Devil's lonesome voice rang across the throne room.

"If they have the same structure, same voice and same appearance, then is that really the same Nasod? Is that really the same lifeform? In the first place, is me from 5 minutes before really the same person as me? Even in this moment cells are dying and being born. If lifeforms are just collection of cells, if they are moving from stimulation of electric signals..... Then those variables are continuously changing even as I'm speaking right now. To be strict, it's difficult to say me from just a moment before is a same individual as me right now."

"....."

"So in the end, just how am I defined? How are you defined? Can you give me an acceptable answer to this question?"

"I'm not an engineer. I'm a tainted knight."

The Devil chuckled in a low voice from the answer. Elesis who turned her back on the El Search Party together with him still had righteous side to her after all this time.

“I already knew long ago about what you pointed out. That’s why I’ll create the world I want, with Eve that I can accept.”

Elesis slowly swung her sword without answering. The Devil didn’t even bother to look towards her direction.

“No matter how hard you try, you cannot defeat me now that I have control of both time and space. You should have attacked me together with Aisha you were seriously trying to kill me.”

Great sword slowly made an arc amidst the silence then touched the Devil’s neck.

“Stop this right now.”

“.....This isn’t like you. Instead of making trifling threats, striking without taking questions suits you better.”

The Devil whispered as if singing then closed his eyes.

“Stop this, Elesis. Since we’ve been together for so long I’ll give you an appropriate reward. A time where you can go on an adventure with your brother and the El Search Party to save Elrios. Will you be satisfied with that?”

“I didn’t turn a blind eye on you so I can obtain some garbage like that. I.....”

“Yes, you didn’t want to kill me if possible. You wanted to end this without killing, that’s why you let innumerable amount of time flow by.”

The Devil said this then looked back while grinning. His dimension distortion field could be turned off and on with caster’s wish. Blood trickled down his neck from a cut made by the sword but he didn’t care.

The Devil bleeding from his neck looked at the people that joined his side.

“Raven, should I give you back the time where Seris is alive?”

“.....”

Raven who was carrying unconscious Rena didn’t say anything. He only added strength to his hand that was holding someone dear to him.

“I can return Sasha for Ran. I don’t know what Helputt wants but I’ll listen to whatever request he has. Also for Karis.....”

“Yes, Lord D!”

Karis became overjoyed at the arrangement of rewards. The Devil suddenly smiled coldly after seeing Karis wag her tail in anticipation like an excited puppy.

“Should I give Luciela to you?”

“Huh? Who’s that?”

Karis’ reaction was as if she never heard of the name before. The Devil shrugged as if saying ‘forget it’.

The Devil had an absolute confidence. He didn’t even consider Elesis pointing her sword against his neck right now as a threat.

“It’s a name you wouldn’t know now..... and will never know. Yes, I’ll make you Empress of the Demons. Is that good enough for you?”

“Yes! I’ll be loyal to you forever, Lord D!”

Karis bowed while becoming very exuberant. The Devil looked at Elesis again after promising everyone to grant whatever they wished in the newly created space-time.

“All their wishes will disappear if you kill me. Wishes they tried to fulfill even by turning back time and changing the universe will be all for naught. Will you strike me down despite knowing this?”

“.....I hoped this moment would never come.”

Elesis sighed then slowly withdrew her sword. She wasn’t ceasing hostility, she was positioning herself to swing her sword properly. The Devil could open the dimension distortion barrier at any moment he wanted, so she had to fight properly in order to break through the barrier.

Elesis gripped her sword tightly with two hands then lowered her stance.

“.....Elesis.”

“Don’t say anything more.”

The Devil right now had dominion over both time and space. Elesis couldn’t win no matter how strong she was.

No, she had no chance of victory even when he was proclaiming himself as King of Time.

“But I can still die while fighting. It’s too late.....but I’ll die while trying to stop you just like the others.”

“.....Elsword would have been happy if he saw you now.”

The Devil smiled bitterly then closed his eyes.

Elesis knew all too well that she couldn’t win. She was expressing her will that she had no desire to live in the artificial blissful time that the Devil created.

Just like the Dimension Princess, Aisha did.

“Two of us have come so far.....”

Elesis wouldn't change her mind no matter what he says now. It was time to end their long relationship.

The moment when the Devil opened his eyes and Elesis was about to start the fight where her defeat was certain.....

Boom!!

'That' appeared with a heavy thud.

The Devil turned to look at the purple sphere that appeared at the center of the fallen El Search Party. Elesis also looked towards the direction of the sphere. It seemed she could use this chance to take the Devil's life but he wasn't someone that such simple surprise attack worked against.

Also, she had a general idea as to what that sphere was.

“It can't be.....”

The sphere dissolved along with Elesis' gasp, and the passenger revealed himself.

Throne Room.

He returned to the place he was at before he crossed universes.

Dark red stain below his feet... it was Elsword's dried blood. Add looked down at his feet for a moment then slowly looked around the surroundings. Add closed his eyes after confirming fallen Ara, Chung, Aisha and lastly...Eve.

It was better to close his eyes. Since continuing to look felt like he was going to be turned inside out.

“I thought..... I could arrive at the time I wanted if I crossed universes.”

“That was a wasted hope. You can't time travel anymo-.....”

The Devil who was answering must have noticed because he closed his mouth. Gazes were exchanged without words. Add acknowledged when the Devil's face froze.

“Yes, I'm the only one that returned.”

“.....”

“Eun knew about you. No.....actually, all of you knew each other, am I right?”

Add's gaze passed by the Devil, Elesis and Raven one by one. Add let out an empty laugh when no one denied his claim.

“I thought for a long time while returning. I was wrong. It wasn't that the other universe's El Search Party had banded together..... People that had originally banded together were separated in this universe.”

Before he met Lu and Ciel, Add was overjoyed from seeing the El Search Party with all 9 members together. But that was actually the original El Search Party.

Combining how Elesis and Aisha recognised each other, and other various conversations that went back and forth, it was certain that the 9 member El Search Party had existed in this universe at one time.

“And the one who destroyed that is.....”

Add slowly opened his eyes then looked at the Devil. His future, someone he couldn't defeat right now.

It was obvious. It was painfully obvious that him in the future who mastered more knowledge and skills was stronger than him from the present.

How can anyone surpass their own future?

“You must have learned some useless information while moving across universes. So? What's your point?”

The Devil spoke coldly then slowly raised his hand. His hand was directed towards Add's chest. It was a death sentence.

“I.....”

Add spoke slowly and clearly while putting emphasis on each and every word. He needed to suppress this surging rage, urge to shout and madness and declare clearly so that everyone could hear.

For the sake of that fox he can never see again.

“I'm going to get rid of you, Diablo.”

“There were days when we spoke about things like this, remember the talk about rolling a dice?”

The Devil smiled coldly. This comparison about rolling a dice until you got the result you wanted was used numerous times before.

“The dice I’ve been rolling is you.”

“.....”

“You’re not surprised. You must have understood now.”

Theory that Add made while returning turned out to be correct but he didn’t answer.

If D had planned all of this, if he had used the demons to get in the way of the El Search Party..... then there must be a reason for it.

Just why did D target the El Search Party? No, if he did target them, why did he let it drag on?

The El Search Party would have been annihilated if D appeared in Ruben.

“No, it would have been all over quickly if you sent Ran and Karis at the same time.....”

Ran and Karis faced the El Search Party separately in Hamel. Add’s gaze lingered on Ran and Karis for a moment then returned to the Devil.

“But you never intervened directly until the 2nd Velder Liberation operation.All you did was toy with us.”

It was vexing but this was the truth. But D wouldn’t have done this without any reason. It must be part of the method to achieve his goal.

The Devil nodded to Add’s question with a bored face.

“That’s right, I stopped this universe’s time, stopped the flow of history, then kept rolling the dice. I kept rolling, rolling and rolling the dice.....waiting for the result I wanted.”

It was just as Add expected. This wasn’t the first time situation like this happened.

There must have been numerous standoffs like this during more than 20 million fights Add had repeated.

“Normally at this point, Eun would send you back to the past, to the starting point. And since Aisha wasn’t present..... I’d just turn a blind eye.”

“.....”

It meant that all the fights until now have been merely dancing on top of the Devil’s palm.

The Devil gripped his fist lightly as if to show off. Even with that light movement, space nearby crumbled then twirled back into its original state.

The Devil didn’t look interested at all despite obtaining truly overwhelming power.

“But boring dice rolls are finally over. I conquered space..... and that damned fox died in middle of nowhere.”

Remorse flashed by the Devil’s face.

“How foolish of her till the end.....”

“Shut your mouth.”

The Devil stopped speaking from Add’s clear reply. Add slowly and calmly glared at his future.

“That damned fox’s efforts weren’t wasted. She gave her life, she gave everything she had and fought together with me. Her efforts in both times I remember and don’t remember..... they were all so she could make me destroy you.”

The Devil made an astonished face for a moment then burst out laughing.

“Kahahaha! That’s funny! That’s so funny! Are you saying you are going to defeat me? Me, who obtained time and space, and became King of Space-Time? Nonsense!”

“You’ll see if I’m speaking nonsense or not. Also.....”

Add clenched his fists tightly.

“Don’t you dare call her a damned fox.”

“.....”

There were many uncertain intertwining feelings regarding this but there was only one answer.

“.....I’m the only one who gets to call her that.”

“How boring.....”

The Devil became disinterested then flicked his finger lightly. Then space shattered consecutively six times to tear apart Add’s body-.....

Clank!!

But It couldn’t. Add had opened miniature dimension distortion barriers at each point of the Devil’s attacks the moment they activated.

“What.....”

The Devil frowned after witnessing the unexpected result. He realized the change that occurred to Add.

“You can’t possible have.....”

“It’s the power that damned fox left me.”

Add’s eyes momentarily became dyed in red then returned to normal.

Clairvoyance, Add could read how the Devil would attack and prepare accordingly thanks to this power of seeing into the future.

Even if his powers lacked, he could respond readily long as he could read couple moves ahead.

This was an unimaginable situation but the surprised look on the Devil’s face disappeared quickly.

“And? So what?”

The Devil launched 2 Space Distortions and 3 Void Impacts this time. Add intercepted them by opening dimension distortion barriers again but the Devil didn’t stop there and also launched Void Field and Void Breaker.

“Kugh.....!”

Sweat dripped down along Add’s face after managing to successfully counter all of them. In contrast, the Devil didn’t show even single drop of sweat on his face.

“Is that all you got after declaring so confidently that you’ll defeat me? This isn’t even a warm-up-.....”

Sword strike aiming for the jeering Devil flew in. Elesis had lunged and swung her sword aiming for the Devil’s neck. 2 layers out of 10 dimension distortion barriers casted around the Devil instantly got destroyed.

The Devil managed to buy some time thanks to the barriers as he immediately backed out and attacked at the same time.

“Reverse Circle!!”

Elesis quickly performed a backflip to dodge the Devil’s attack then landed beside Add. Add had seen with Clairvoyance that Elesis would attack the Devil, but he didn’t know the reason.

“Why?”

“I changed my mind.”

Elesis spoke coldly while looking ahead.

“You’re the only one who can defeat D. I didn’t want to believe that..... But I’ll believe it unconditionally now since Eun even gave up her life. I’ll become your sword and shield. So.....”

“Alright.”

He'll defeat the Devil for sure. At Add's answer, Elesis didn't even nod as she dashed towards the Devil without any hesitation. Add also mobilized his Dynamos and followed closely behind Elesis so he wouldn't get left behind.

It was start of the Time War's final battle.

1. Knight and King

Karis' eyes gleamed after seeing that Elesis and Add joined hands. She flew up immediately. This was the perfect chance to execute that eyesore Elesis.....

“Don't interfere.”

Something strange happened soon as the Devil spoke. Karis was certainly flapping her wings and moving forward, but the distance between her and the Devil and Elesis didn't close at all.

Distance between the Devil and Karis was becoming further.

Physical distance literally increased..... and now, distance that had been merely 5 meters away stretched to become 100 meters.

This was the power of the Devil that controlled space!

But the power to stretch space was only used to prevent Karis and other allies from interfering. Elesis had instantly closed the distance and was swinging her sword.

Dark-red blade struck the neck-zone, instantly spun around, then struck the waist. Normal being would have been dismembered from their neck and waist then died instantly. But the Devil was being protected from the dimension distortion barrier.

“Void.....”

“Void Field.....!”

The moment when the Devil was about to activate Void Field to restrain Elesis, Add opened it first instead. Add fell far behind in space controlling abilities but the story changes now that there's Elesis running around in the front line.

Add wasn't close quarters combatant in the first place. He was more suited for supporting allies from mid-range, he can display his full potential when there's a tanker who can keep the enemy occupied.

Slash!

Elesis read Add's intention and kept up the pressure on the Devil. The Devil quickly shattered Add's Void Field then attempted to attack Elesis by backing out with Reverse Circle.....

“Void Impact!”

Add read ahead into where the Devil will reappear with clairvoyance and attacked that location. He didn't have enough firepower to break through the Devil's dimension distortion barrier but he can at least stall him for a moment.

And in a battle like this... that moment determines life or death.

“Hah!”

Elesis slid in then strongly slashed upwards. It was heavy and precise attack. Distortion barrier did its work so the attack didn't reach its target..... but the Devil's feet got lifted slightly.

“?”

Surprise rose in the Devil's face for the first time.

No matter how strong Elesis was, she couldn't defeat him who conquered space-time. That's why he had been treated her half-heartedly..... but the strength behind her sword transferred over the distortion barrier and lifted his feet?

Seeing that Devil was taken aback, Add quickly calculated another Void Impact formula. The Devil felt his body shake from the layers of distortion barriers breaking.

“.....How annoying!”

But the Devil's surprise lasted only for a moment. Coldness dwelled on his face.

Combination of Add with clairvoyance and Elesis was impressive but it was only a petty trick in the end. They didn't manage to inflict even a slightest damage on him.

And it will continue to be so.

“Void Impact!! Quadruple!!”

The Devil ignored Elesis whether she was swinging her sword or not then fired four Void Impacts towards Add at the back. Add read them coming already. But.....

He had to give everything he had to block this one! Add was quickly about to respond then froze from the vision that emerged in his head.

“Elesis, dodge!!”

Elesis who was about to launch more ferocious attacks using the moment when the Devil was occupied heard Add's warning then quickly backed out from Add's warning.

But the enemy was the Devil who even obtained power to rule over space.

Elesis quickly dashed backwards..... she could gain 10m of distance in a single breath under normal circumstances, but she couldn't escape even 1cm right now.

Her legs were moving backwards but the distance between her and the Devil didn't get further at all. It was getting shorter instead.

Elesis realized the situation and stopped moving her feet.

“.....”

The Devil stopped in front of Elesis then wordlessly stretched out his hand. The hand in front of her, everything ends if that hand closes into a fist.

Elesis knew this but didn't say anything.

Even now, Elesis knew she could live if she changed her mind and decided to follow the Devil's will. But she merely just stared at the Devil.

The Devil spoke instead.

“.....Rest now, my knight.”

Boom! Sound of space tearing was heard then Elesis' body shook violently. Her body seemed to collapse suddenly then she knelt down.

It would have been normal for Elesis to collapse on the ground entirely..... but she maintained a kneeling stance by stabbing her sword on the ground.

“.....”

Elesis' bloodstained back came into Add's view after finally managing to nullify the Devil's Void Impacts. The result wasn't different at all from the future he saw with clairvoyance.

Elesis died when the Devil became serious.

“Did you just.....”

Add knew what he was saying was absurd. But he couldn't help but to say it.

“Did you..... just kill her?”

“.....Yes.”

The Devil narrowed his eyes as he spoke. Add knew his words right now weren't rational at all, but he couldn't help but to say it.

“E-Elesis was your subordinate. No, she was on your side. But you killed her? Just because she helped me?”

“It's normal to kill traitors.”

“.....I don't want to hear something so obvious!”

Add threw up the shout that was boiling from within him. His head wanted to deny that this guy was his future..... but he was admitting it in his heart.

But in this moment, he wanted to deny it even in his heart.

“Y-you didn’t have to kill her! Why did you kill her?!”

“.....”

“Don’t give me stupid excuses like you executed her because she betrayed you!!”

Even if Elesis and Add fought together, their chances of defeating the Devil wasn’t even 10%. No, this was already being too generous... would their actual chances be around 3%?

Two of them did launch a ferocious offensive but couldn’t even manage to draw a single drop of blood from the Devil.

They weren’t any threat to the Devil after all. So... why did he kill Elesis as if it was nothing!?

“You could have not killed her. You didn’t have to. No, not just Elesis. Not just Elesis, but.....”

Add pressed down on his chest that felt like it was about to explode. This wasn’t because fear of being killed now that he was left all by himself.

Rage..... and sorrow came first.

He couldn’t change Elesis’ death even though he saw the future.

He couldn’t change Eun’s death despite crossing universes.

He jumped across time but couldn’t change deaths of people dear to him.

Even though he struggled so much to obtain power..... he couldn’t stop the El Search Party from being wiped out.

“W-why are you killing everyone!? You shouldn’t have to!!”

“.....”

Yes, Add could cope with the fact that the Devil was playing dice rolls with him. No. He wasn’t accepting it, but he could at least comprehend it.

He could understand that something like this could happen if their positions had been switched.

But this was different. The Devil killed... Elsword, Ara, Chung, Rena, Aisha, Elesis.

And Eve...

“Just, why.....”

The Devil possessed truly overwhelming power. He could have easily incapacitated without killing. So why would he go so far as to kill?

The Devil who was quietly listening to Add's cry of despair asked calmly.

“Why should I keep them alive?”

“.....”

“Eradicate any obstacles disregarding ways or means. This should be same for you as well.”

Yes, that should have been..... Add's way of doing things. Add had never truly belonged in the El Search Party.

Everything was so he could look for a chance to steal Eve's core.

“Dice rolls are now..... over.”

The Devil slowly raised his hand. Attack that ended Elesis' life was about to fly towards him next. Add looked ahead with clairvoyance then quickly opened up a dimension distortion barrier. But the devil ignored Add's act of defense and snapped his finger consecutively two times.

Crash!!

Add's body shook violently with the sound of glass breaking. The attack just now looked like a single space distortion that could have been blocked easily. But that wasn't the case.

Add pressed down on his torn waist as he slowly stepped back. Blood was dripping even from his arm.

“Hundred.”

The Devil was looking up at the ceiling with a bored expression. As if ignoring Add's existence, as if Add wasn't worthy of his attention.

The Devil had just fired 100 compressed space distortions in an instant. The fight so far had been space distorting powers colliding and nullifying each other. But the Devil's attack just now was in a totally different class in terms of ability of controlling space.

It was at a level that Add didn't think was theoretically possible. Even if Add realized the scope of the Devil's ability now, he lacked the strength to respond appropriately.

Even if he can read the future, it's no use if he doesn't have enough strength to defend against the incoming demise.

"I had to dispose of Elesis because you were running about."

"....."

He'll lose like this. Add pressed on his bleeding wound as he ran his brain desperately to seek for a solution.

Should he run away using time travel? Against King of Time?

"Kill yourself. That should be easiest for both of us."

It was a declaration saying he wouldn't go out of his way to step on an ant crawling on the ground, but Add had no choice but to agree. The Devil's ability was truly terrifying.....and Add had no chance to win with his current strength.

"....."

Add panted as he activated clairvoyance then sought for a future where he could turn this dire situation around. But there was absolutely no chance that he could win in this situation. The Devil was merely not stomping down on him.

The Devil will resume attacking if this allowed time was over. He won't be able to block it this time. Even if he somehow managed to block the next attack, he won't survive the attack after that.

"Lose....."

He didn't want to say it, but defeat was right in front of his eyes. He thought he could definitely find a way to win if he crossed time and universes.

Even though everyone believed in him.

Even though Eun gave up her life.....Even though Elsword, Elesis, Ara, Chung.....

And Eve believed in him and fought by putting everything on the line.

He'll lose to the Devil here and die in the end.

The El Search Party will lose in the end.

"Ah....."

His face felt hot. Add realized he was crying. Tear drop from his left eye trickled down his face then followed along his chin as it dropped.

The Devil frowned after seeing Add shed tears. It looked as if he witnessed something really unpleasant.

“It’s me but this is unsightly.....”

“No.....”

Add didn’t wipe his tear or blood as he slowly straightened his back. His brain hurt from performing overburdening calculations, his body didn’t move properly due to excessive blood loss, but he couldn’t stay crouched down.

“You’re the one who’s unsightly, Devil.”

“.....”

“I thought you were my future self. But I get it now. You’re not me. I won’t become you.”

Add’s voice was low and calm despite tears trickling down his face. It was voice of a man that clearly knew what he had to do.

“You’re not me. No matter what happened, no matter how obsessed you were with Eve..... I can’t admit you and I are same individuals.”

“Is that your final words? Confession that you won’t become someone like me?”

The Devil had an annoyed sneer on his face. If Add was despairing from looking at his future, the Devil was looking at his past deplorably.

“No, this is a declaration..... for what I’m about to do.”

Add slowly reached inside his pocket. The Devil looked on as if to let Add try whatever he wanted.

But confidence disappeared from the Devil’s face when he saw what was in Add’s hand.

“You.....”

The thing in Add’s hand was Memory of Time and Space. Add scoffed from noticing the Devil’s face become grave.

“I see, so you’re wary of this too. Are you scared I might activate this?”

“.....”

“There was something I forgot. It wasn’t for Eve, but Ara and Elsword’s physical appearance changed when they awakened their Memory of Time and Space. To put it precisely, they aged. It won’t be wrong to say they grew.”

The Devil did remained wordless to confirm Add’s hypothesis. Add grinned.

“Thus, I’ll grow too if I awaken this. I’ll become my future self, so would I become like you?”

“.....If you can awaken it.”

The Devil’s gave a short response. Add shook his head from how the Devil was being extremely cautious.

“Yes, but as you know already, I couldn’t awaken this thing. I never figured out the method even while Ara, Elsword and Eve were all successful. And I still don’t know how.”

“.....”

“But..... I know how to forcefully make its power explode.”

Add smiled violently then threw the Memory of Time and Space into his mouth. The Devil stretched his hand to attack but the Memory of Time and Space had already gone down Add’s throat.

Space shattering shockwaves rushed towards Add who just swallowed the Memory of Time and Space.

“.....This is something I learned in the other universe!”

Energy dwelled in Add’s fingertips. Add immediately stretched his hand forward and opened a dimension distortion field that surrounded the wide area around his body.

Dimension distortion barrier worked by restructuring the surrounding space according to Add’s will. It was reinterpreting laws of physics to achieve the result of ignoring physical shock. It usually didn’t get much larger than 3 meters in radius..... but the one he opened right now was 10 meters in radius.

All the space distortions the Devil fired were blocked by Add’s distortion barrier. This attack would have normally pierced right through, but the barrier’s density and additive calculations was in a different class this time.

It was different than before. It was impenetrable at least in this moment!

But the Devil didn’t look particularly fazed despite his attacks being nullified or how Add’s skill level increased to entirely new stage.

“Is that it?”

Only his voice became slightly more serious.

Add smiled while panting from the pain that felt as if his body was on fire.

“No, I can’t beat you with just this.....”

“I couldn’t even scathe your hair even though that strong Elesis helped me.....”

Add bit his lips in frustration while looking at lifeless Elesis who was leaning her body on her sword.

Elesis did her part perfectly. It was Add who was lacking.

“Even that muscle head grew.....”

Elsword magnificently awakened his Memory of Time and Space and decided to buy Add time to escape despite learning the entire truth.

This situation itself was allowed because there was Elsword.

“And that idiot too.....”

They could defeat Ran and come this far because there was Ara. Add could confront the Devil because there was Chung who lay fallen right now and Rena who was unconscious in Raven’s arms.

And because there was Eve..... he couldn’t give up now.

“I... I’m..... lacking by myself.”

“.....”

“I can’t win by myself. That’s the kind of ability I have!”

Add was strong but he wasn’t all-powerful. He fell behind in physical strength compared to others in the group and had zero close quarter combat abilities.

“I kept holding back saying we can win next time. But there is no more next time..... I won’t run away anymore. I’ll defeat you right here, Devil!”

“How can you be so confident knowing that you’re weaker? Did you see that kind of future or something?”

The Devil smiled as if he was taken aback. Add didn’t back down and smiled back.

“I can’t see that kind of future. But one thing I’m sure of is that.....”

Add can display his full potential when he’s with others, when there are others supporting him.

Add’s conveyed his heart with a burning voice.

“Sorry, I’m sorry everyone..... But one more time, let me ask all of you for help just one more time. Our fight isn’t over yet. This moment right now..... this is the time where we have to win.”

The Devil frowned from hearing Add’s words. Enough conversations, the Devil was about to finish Add once at for all but then his eyes widened in surprise from Add’s next words.

“It’s not the time to end it just yet. That’s why, starting now..... I’m turning it back, you idiots!!”

Add shouted loudly as he activated the calculations he formulated using the Dynamos.

In that moment, white seal that was emitted from Add’s body spread out across the entire throne room. A gust encompassing everything and a formless energy wave followed.

Then..... all time started rewinding.

“What.....?!”

The Devil gasped in shock at the scene in front of his eyes.

Blood flowing out of Add’s side slowly flowed back into his body then the wound closed. Pieces of Add’s broken Dynamos from before floated up then slowly reassembled themselves. Ground that was shattered from the fierce battle became cleanly restored.

It was literally a miracle. But the condition of Add who was performing that miracle wasn’t good at all.

“Kuuugh!”

There was pain as if his fingers were being torn off. It was much worse than performing double or triple.

Add was someone who tried to obtain his goal by moving through time. But abilities he displayed until now were abnormalities like double and triple that made use of shockwaves, space and time to assist in battles, and even that had massive feedback on his body.

He had never attempted to entirely rewind time of the present.

But he can do it. He should be able to. There was no way that a boy who can jump through time as he wished..... couldn’t control time of the present as he wished!!

Crack.

Add’s eyepatch broke from the shockwave created as the time was distorted. White part of Add’s left eye that was revealed started to become dyed in black.

The Devil gasped as he saw Add's eyes becoming just like his.

“You're insane! What you're trying to do is going against the will of the universe! You'll never succeed.....”

What Add was doing right now was completely insane. Swallowing Memory of Time and Space to make his powers explode? That was same as putting poison in one's body but that could be understood as last ditch effort.

But trying to turn back time of the present instead of time traveling?

“You going back and forth in time and turning back time of the present are entirely different issues!! Your existence itself will be obliterated if you fail!!”

“I..... don't care.”

“.....What?”

The Devil had a face as if he seriously couldn't comprehend. Add, with even his tears dried now, shouted with a sensation as if he was throwing up blood. All his senses were becoming numb from the pain akin to his body getting shattered but he didn't care.

He wanted to turn it back.

His mistakes. Get back the lost time.

Add's one sole wish that he yearned to fulfill.

“I'm.....”

He wanted to fulfill his wish. For that sake, he didn't care if his body and soul broke down.

“I'm going to fight together with these idiots!”

From Add's shout, the Devil frowned then quickly stretched out his hand. Add's abilities improved drastically but he still wasn't a match for him who was king of space-time.

He just had to stomp Add down with force and stop this insane farce.....

“Haaaah!!”

Then there was a shout that slashed through everything along with a sword smashing down. The Devil saw the sword flying in towards his head and dodged quickly towards the back.

Crash!!

The large sword swing performed from a high leap smashed down and shattered the ground. It was a good ambush but went to waste. Attacker would normally want to chase after the Devil and pressure him further.

But the red-haired boy maturely withdrew his sword slowly.

“Don’t you dare touch Big Brother Add.”

As time rewound, Elsword who had fallen rose back up. Add grinned as he looked at Elsword’s back with blurry vision.

That boy was detestable, but he trusted him right now.

“Big Brother.”

Elsword spoke while looking forward and being guarded against the Devil. It was quite mature and very reliable voice.

“Keep going. I’ll hold on for you.”

Turning back time of the present wasn’t something that was done instantly. Only person that stood back up right now amongst the El Search Party was Elsword.

“.....Don’t die, you idiot.”

“Yea.”

Elsword fixed the grip on his sword then glared at the Devil. The Devil made a bitter face after witnessing revival of Elsword who had been particularly annoying and persistent until the end.

“I’m insane too but this is seriously insane..... Just what’s going to change from doing this? Didn’t all of you lose to me once already? Do you want to taste pain of death once more?”

While in disbelief, the Devil fired Void Impact towards Elsword’s head.

Even if Add turns back the present’s time to revive the El Search Party, all the Devil had to do was repeat what he did before.....

“Hah!!”

But Elsword seemed to hold his sword in a short reach then swung it while spinning around. The space that was about to crumble got torn apart from Elsword’s sword strike and returned to normal.

It was a method to nullify space related attacks that strong individuals like Elesis and demon generals performed.

“.....”

But to think Elsword would reach this level of mastery? Skill of Elsword who revived was above expectations.

The Devil was frowning when Elsword spoke confidently.

“It will be different this time.”

“.....Just what makes you so sure, you idiot?”

“Big Brother Add is with us now.”

Elsword collected his breath then put strength in his legs. Add was turning back time while enduring pain of his body being torn apart so he could resurrect his fallen comrades. This was clear from seeing the phenomenon of everything including the broken walls and floors rewinding back to how they were originally before the battle.

“I asked Big Brother to make us win for sure next time. I trust Big Brother Add.”

“.....”

“I’ll believe Big Brother who said we’ll defeat you, that we’ll win this time! Armageddon Blade!!”

Elsword gripped the now gigantic sword then confidently charged forwards. His gaze momentarily lingered on Elesis who had fallen while leaning on her sword but that was only for a very slight instant.

This was an enemy that even his sister couldn’t defeat. Elsword knew down to his bones how powerful the Devil was, how difficult it would be to face him alone.

But Add will raise everyone back up again. He’ll certainly find a way for them to win.

Elsword believed in his comrade behind him as he charged towards the enemy he could never defeat.

The Devil was feeling quite unpleasant. He could accept personally disposing of Elesis. The time he spent together with her was so long that it was pointless to count. Level of understanding between two of them was too complex to be described with words so that’s why he could understand why she turned against him and could accept dealing with her personally.

“But you’re..... unpleasant.”

The Devil completely ignored Elsword then looked back. 100 meters behind him were Karis, Ran, Helputt and Raven carrying Rena in his arms.

These were people that had no choice but to obey his words.

“Haaah!!”

Elsword swung his sword towards the Devil who seemed to be completely wide open but the attack couldn't pierce the dimension distortion barrier.

Previously 10-layer barrier, now 6 layers after fighting Elesis and Add, nullified all physical and magical attacks. Even Elesis could only manage to transfer some shock across. The Devil didn't have any scratches on him yet.

The Devil ignored if Elsword swung his sword or not and asked.

“Raven, will you fight?”

“.....”

Raven who was carrying unconscious Rena in his arms only stared back quietly with sullen eyes. Raven was worthy of respect in a difference sense than Elesis.

The Devil redirected his gaze then waved his hand lightly.

Then Ran appeared right beside the Devil. Forced movement. Ran was quite surprised by this phenomenon which wasn't a teleport but an act of changing the space coordinate itself, but he still managed to swing his sword.

Clank!

Elsword's sword trying to break the Devil's barrier was blocked by Ran's blade. Elsword became surprised then shouted.

“Why are you siding with him? Aren't you Big Sister Ara's older brother?!”

“.....”

Ran began to wordlessly wave his sword to push Elsword back. But Elsword's skills after his growth was formidable as well so he didn't get pushed back greatly and started to fight back.

The Devil was now free after having Ran confront Elsword so he turned his eyes towards Add again. Add was giving every ounce of power he had to completely turn back time of the throne room.

If Add was going to do something reckless like turning back the present's time, then it would have been more optimal to narrow the task down to turning back only the El Search Party's time.....

“He's anticipating my intervention.”

To make a comparison..... if two opposing armies meet in an open field and if one side uses a wide formation, then the other side cannot completely ignore this. To prevent Add from turning back time of the throne room, the Devil has to try to keep time of the throne room fixed.

But as the Devil mentioned already, directly interfering with the present's time was incredibly dangerous. Even the Devil who possessed the right to call himself the King of Time and Space didn't try to change the time directly and chose to open the Space-time Gate instead.

Feedback and risk was too large.

“.....I shouldn't have to play his game.”

Add was risking everything in a gamble, but the Devil with absolute power didn't need to play along with this farce. Destinies and times will be broken and made anew. All he had to do was quicken the process of rewriting time.

Add who swallowed the Memory of Time and Space and was now displaying power beyond his normal limits as he attempted to rewind time. Elsword was fighting with everything he had while believing in Add despite knowing how much odds were against them.

The Devil ignored these two then closed his eyes to concentrate. Then dark hole floating above the throne room gradually started to get larger.

The moment of achieving his goal was close. He had no reason to play with ants moving around him.

“Black..... Destiny!!”

Purple shockwaves swept over Elsword when Ran waved his blade.

Elsword quickly jumped sideways to dodge but blood was seeping out from a slight cut on his face. His breath became heavier as well.

“Haah, haah. Why.....? Why are you getting in my way, Ran!”

“.....”

It was such a foolish question. Ran destroyed Hamel and faced against the El Search Party as their enemy before. But Elsword couldn't help but to ask.

“You saw him killing Big Sister Ara too!! So why are you stopping me?”

“.....”

Ran was silent for a moment when Ara was mentioned, then he let out a light sigh.

“It's something that's been repeated countless times already. There's no point in putting any significance into such things now.”

“Yes, I know! I know that something like this happened many times already! And also how Big Brother Add kept trying to avoid this by jumping through time!!”

Elsword threw himself as he smashed down with his sword in a wide arc. Ran managed to block the attack but couldn't help his feet getting pushed back slightly. Although Elsword's skills were unrefined, his strength was extraordinary.

Battle of strength by locking swords. Elsword shouted angrily as he pressured Ran.

“So what if this happened many times? That's why we're giving everything we got to shatter that fake time! You should be helping us instead! Why are you getting in the way?!”

“.....”

Ran frowned then shook his head.

“What you know right now are only vague knowledge. I've seen this conversation, this situation over dozens, hundreds of times already. And the result was always the same. Don't expect any change from me now.”

“.....”

“Remember this. I'm not Aren Haan. I'm just a demon Ran who's getting in your way.”

Ran said this then summoned shadow clones. Elsword quickly pulled his body out. 1 versus 1 was difficult already so fighting Ran's clones at the same time was difficult.

“.....”

After pushing Elsword back, Ran turned to look at the Devil bitterly. The Devil was concentrating on opening the Space-time Gate with his eyes closed.

One could supposedly rewrite the time of everything after going through the Space-time Gate and reaching the center of the universe.

The reality Ran desired will appear once the Devil opens the Space-time Gate. The Devil promised and he wasn't someone who would break a promise for no reason.

“Give up. You guys cannot win no matter how much you struggle.”

“I can't afford to lose.....not this time.”

Elsword ignored Ran's suggestion and focused. Seeing how Elsword was aiming for a quick finish, Ran sighed then gathered this strength. He didn't want to stain his sword with blood at this point but it couldn't be helped again.

“Haaaaah!!”

Elsword's body turned widely as he flew in towards Ran while spinning in a huge circle. It looked like a foolish attack at first glance but this was to keep both Ran and his clones inside the attack range. This was an inevitable choice since unlike Ran who just had to stall for time, Elsword had to break through.

“How foolish.....”

But instead of dodging, Ran summoned three more shadow clones. The clones started to get cut down by Elsword's great sword one by one but the final clone managed to block the attack. Just when Elsword's face got filled with dismay because he never imagined clones to be used as expendables... Ran cleanly slashed his blade downwards.

“It's over.”

Elsword was about to fall again. But he couldn't let Add's hard effort of rewinding time to allow him to fight again go to waste! Elsword was pulling back his body in an attempt to at least avoid critical injury..... when something unexpected happened.

Clank!!

Orange spear had deflected away Ran's blade. Owner of the spear didn't just save Elsword and stabbed consecutively to force Ran to fall back.

Elsword saw who rescued him and shouted gladly.

“Big Sister Ara!”

“Are you alright, Mr.Elsword?”

2nd person to get back up from Add rewinding time was Ara. Ara fixed her gaze on Ran then spoke calmly.

“I'm sorry Mr.Elsword, but please take on the Devil. We'll lose if the Devil opens the Space-time Gate.”

“How about you? Will you be okay.....?”

Wouldn't facing Ran be too much of a task for Ara who just got back up? But Ara replied resolutely.

“Stopping Elder Brother is something I have to do. So I'll be counting on you Mr.Elsword!”

“Alright!”

Believing in Ara's feelings, Elsword turned and dashed towards the Devil without hesitation.

When Ran tried to chase after Elsword, Ara quickly followed Ran and blocked his path.

“.....It would have been better for you to stay put quietly.”

“I have to stop you if you stray from the righteous path, Elder Brother. I can’t turn a blind eye to this.”

Despite just getting back up, Ara’s voice was calm and mannerly. But Ran’s next words stuck the emptiness in Ara’s heart.

“Do you think you’re a match for me..... even though that fox isn’t here now?”

Woe momentarily dwelled on Ara’s face. Ara knew that Eun who escaped along with Add didn’t come back and that she wouldn’t come back.

“Even if Lord Eun is gone.....”

But Ara gripped her spear tightly.

“The justice I must exact doesn’t change. Prepare yourself, Elder Brother!!”

“.....So there’s this kind of result too.”

Ran didn’t hide the mysterious gladness in his voice as he swung his blade against Ara.

Everything was over if the Devil opened the Space-time gate. Elsword gritted his teeth as he ran towards the Devil.

He could only inflict damage after breaking layers of dimension distortion barriers around the Devil..... But the Devil wouldn’t stand idly as Elsword did this.

The Enemy who possessed overwhelming offense and defense. They honestly had no chance.

‘But..... I can’t give up!!’

Add was burning his soul away to resurrect the El Search Party. Elsword clearly knew what he had to do.

He had to disrupt the Devil from opening the Space-time Gate until everyone in the El Search Party got back up!

Whether Add resurrecting the El Search Party was first or the Devil opening the Space-time Gate was first.

This showdown will not only be between Add and the Devil. It will involve all members from both sides.

Elsword sensed this beforehand so he wasn't surprised when a man in giant armor suddenly blocked his path.

He was Helputt, the man who used to be called the Guardian of Hamel.

“Get out of my way, old guy!!”

“Uwwooooooh!!”

Helputt who appeared by moving through space from the Devil's call stretched his arms widely and gave a loud shout. It was a dignified but menacing shout that shook people down to their very souls.

Even ever so brave Elsword momentarily lost strength in his legs and staggered. Helputt didn't miss this chance and stomped down on Elsword with his cannon. Elsword barely managed to lift his sword to block but couldn't help getting thrown back.

“Kugh!!”

Helputt who blocked Elsword's path didn't pressure with additional attacks and just stood still like a giant mountain. He didn't have to defeat Elsword, it would be all over if the Devil opened the Space-time Gate.

Their side could accomplish their goals by just stalling time for the Devil.

Ran and Ara's shouts were coming from behind Elsword. Helputt was blocking the path in front and not pressuring. Elsword noticed Helputt's intention of only defending and stalling for time but he couldn't afford to back down.

“I won't go easy..... even if you're Chung's father!!”

Determined, Elsword was about dash in and try to finish the fight quickly but someone grabbed his shoulder. Elsword looked back in surprise to see Chung who had risen again making a calm expression.

Elsword tried to greet him in joy but Chung was only staring at Helputt.

“Go, Elsword. I'll handle my father.”

“.....Okay!!”

At Chung's word, Elsword ran without looking back. Helputt tried to attack Elsword who was slipping by his side, but Chung jumped even faster and smashed his Destroyer downwards.

Helputt's body shook from the monstrous strength that came from Chung's small body.

“Hmm.....!”

Even while being impressed, Helputt waved his cannon to bounce Chung back. But Chung anticipated Helputt's response and spun around in midair once then landed safely on the ground.

Helputt stared at Chung proudly then shook his head.

“Son, there's something I haven't told you.....”

“I know, father. I managed to see one side of time when I got back up from Mr.Add's power. I understand now that this isn't the first time this situation occurred. I understand now why you turned your back on Hamel and sided with the demons.”

Chung made a grave face as he answered.

This endless maze of time, to break through this endlessly repeating time..... Helputt decided to obey D so he could finish these repeating times with minimum casualty as possible.

“Father, you didn't wish for me to join the El Search Party.”

“.....”

The El Search Party were people that opposed demons and D, they were people destined to fail and fall innumerable. The biggest reason Helputt joined D was because he wanted to prevent his son, Chung from getting caught up in this horrible destiny. And Chung did actually suffer rather fewer casualties during this Time War that occurred over 20 million times.

It was all because Helputt had endured through disgrace and humiliation of becoming subordinate of the Devil.

“Thank you, father.”

“.....”

Chung bowed after understanding everything. But his hand didn't let go of his Destroyer.

He gripped it even tighter and looked straightly at his father.

“Father, I finally understand your feelings of trying to spare me from painful times. But I have comrades that I've been fighting together with until now. No matter what kind of result this fight comes to..... My fate is together with the El Search Party.”

Chung shook his head. Such polite words, it wasn't fitting for this situation where two opposing parties were facing off against each other.

It wasn't a conversation that father and son about to clash with every ounce of their abilities should be having.

“No, I’ll surpass you father. Then I’ll combine my strength with that of my comrades to defeat the Devil and end this ever so long Time War.”

“Do you honestly believe..... that’s possible?”

There was a very strong regret mixed in Helputt’s voice. Of course, Helputt initially had thoughts and desires about defeating the Devil as well. But he witnessed down to his bones that it was impossible. That’s why he became the Devil’s subordinate to at least assure Chung’s safety.

“It would be impossible by myself. But I believe in my comrades.”

“I can’t believe them.”

“Then let me show you starting now!!”

Chung’s armor started to get enlarged then surrounded his entire body. Secret skill of the Seiker Family, Berserk mode. The son who brought out his abilities to their utmost limits charged towards his powerful father without hesitation.

After leaving Ran to Ara and Helputt to Chung, Elsword quickly dashed forwards.

Less than 20 meters remained between him and the Devil who was concentrating to open the Space-time Gate. There was no one standing in his way now.....

“Know your place, heckler.....”

Seductive woman with red hair blocked Elsword’s path. Karis flapped her bat wings to land softly on the ground then grabbed her scythe while making a sinister smile.

“Get out of my way!”

Elsword didn’t slow down and waved his sword immediately. Karis who had obviously thought they would fight after they exchanged some words got startled and fumbled around.

To think he’d charge in so stupidly!! Karis urgently moved her wings to back out far away.

“You stupid brat.... Kyaah!!”

Karis screamed as she swung her scythe when Elsword ran in after her and attacked even after she dodged with low flight. But Karis received the sword in a bad angle so her body got thrown back far.

After throwing Karis away, Elsword turned around to attack the Devil. Karis’ eyes became enflamed with rage after getting completely ignored.

“How dare you! Death Strike!!”

Purple orbs concentrated on small area around Elsword fell from the sky. Elsword stopped his charge towards the Devil then dodged the orbs by strafing, rolling and cutting away the orbs if necessary.

He managed to evade the Death Strike but couldn't afford to carelessly charge at the Devil anymore.

After stopping Elsword in his tracks, Karis sighed while tapping away the dust on her clothes.

“Ah, seriously. I wanted to kill Elesis personally no matter what. But I'm stuck facing her brother instead. How unclassy..... But I have to stay loyal to Lord D.”

“.....”

“I'll send you off to your sister now. I hope you siblings have a good trip in the netherworld!”

There were no particular changes to Elsword's expression even though Elesis was mentioned.

His calm demeanor. Karis had anticipated Elsword to charge at her like an angry boar so she opened her eyes widely in surprise when he stayed calm.

“What? Why do you look so confident?”

“I'm not the one who you'll be facing.”

“What are you saying? Your high and mighty sister is already dead. Will you wake up from your stupid dream if I chop off her head or something?”

Karis let out a hateful giggle then gripped her scythe.

Add turning back time and resurrecting the El Search Party was surprising but wasn't something to be worried about. They were all weaklings D could take care of alone, and even Karis could easily take care of likes of Elsword.

Well, it would get annoying if Ara or Chung joined in but they both had their respective foes. Rena was still unconscious and Add couldn't move because he was turning back time.

“Did you go insane after seeing your sister die? I'll put you to rest now!!”

Karis laughed wickedly then rushed towards Elsword. She got thrown back during their first encounter because she was too taken aback..... Karis who possessed magic skills and ability to fly could easily take the upper hand in close quarter combat.

It would be simpler to finish Elsword off from a distance with magic.....

‘I couldn't savor killing Elesis close and personally so I'll have to make do with her brother.’

Karis slashed down her scythe determined to direct all her pent-up negative emotions against Elesis towards Elsword instead. But unlike before, Elsword didn't even make an effort to defend himself.

“Kyahahahaha!!”

“Gosh, you’re so noisy.”

A chill went down Karis’ spine when that voice reached her ears.

Wait, didn’t she forget something? Add was tied up from rewinding time, Ara was with Ran, Chung was with Helputt, Rena with Raven so Elsword who remained should be alone.....

“You seriously lost your nerves, Karis.”

At a girl’s voice, Karis halted her attack then immediately twisted her body to dodge. But lightning that soared towards the sky struck her wings.

“Kyaaaah!!”

When Karis backed out while screaming, Aisha, the girl who casted the lightning just now cut off all attention on Karis. Whether small fry ran away or not didn’t matter, reprimanding Elsword was more urgent.

“What are you doing spacing out like that? You should keep your head up even if Karis mentioned Big Sister Elly!!”

Despite Aisha reprimanding him, Elsword’s expression was as if it was no big deal. Yes, he always did have a face as if he never did anything wrong even though she helped him!

Aisha was about to get even more angry from the reaction she was so accustomed to when Elsword replied.

“I thought you’d block it for me.”

“Just how long do I have to..... Huh?”

Aisha who was about to become angry blinked vacantly from the unexpected word. Elsword didn’t say anything more and turned his gaze towards the Devil.

“Aisha, could you take care of Karis?”

“What?”

“I can’t fly so I’m at a disadvantage. I’ll face the Devil so you take on Karis.”

Elsword who couldn’t fly and fought with a sword couldn’t defeat Karis easily. Even if he were to defeat her, it would be after wasting a ton of time. It wasn’t a good match up considering urgency of the current situation.

“.....Who do you think I am? I’m the great magician Aisha. I can take care of that messed up demon with just one finger.”

“Yes, I believe you. Do your best, Aisha.”

Aisha wanted to say something the moment Elsword turned towards the Devil. It was probably because she was still shocked by Elsword’s unexpected response and words..... she didn’t want to let him go like this without saying anything.

But they were currently in a battle where every moment was precious. Holding Elsword back with her pointless words was a stupid thing to do. Aisha was accepting this fact regretfully.....but realized that Elsword didn’t head out right away.

“.....What is it?”

Aisha asked wondering there was something she missed, then Elsword spoke in a low voice while only looking forwards.

“I’m sorry that I couldn’t remember you all this time.”

“Ah.....”

Aisha understood what Elsword’s words meant and froze in her place. Elsword was talking about Aisha’s lonely fight of holding back the Prince of Time by herself all this time after parting with the El Search Party.

Elsword, with his feet still stopped, while still looking at the direction he had to go, conveyed his feelings.

“Thank you so much all this time..... Aisha.”

“D-don’t say something stupid!!”

Aisha unintentionally shouted. Then she hastily turned her head away and snapped as Elsword stared back at her confusedly.

“I just couldn’t help but to lend my hand with few things since I’m so great! You don’t have to be so thankful!”

“.....”

“You can’t do anything without me in the first place! Don’t just simply compress all my suffering until now with just couple of words like that! Even right now, Karis would have killed you if I didn’t help you. Gosh, I seriously can’t keep my eyes off you!”

It seemed her face turned red, but it wasn’t true. Not true at all!

“Don’t say something so stupid when you can’t do anything without me! Just prepare yourself to keep thanking me from now on too!”



Elsword's lips loosened from hearing Aisha's reproach that wasn't a reproach. Then, Aisha who had her head turned away heard a refreshing sound.

It was a sound of laughter.

"Alright, so thanks again."

"Ugh....."

"Then I'll be counting on you from now on too!"

Elsword left these words then energetically ran towards the Devil. He charged in knowing clearly that it was hopeless. Aisha bit down on her lips while looking at Elsword's familiar yet unfamiliar back.

"This is no time for me to be immersed with emotions.So, could you please get lost on your own, Karis?"

"Haaah, haaa....."

Karis panted heavily as she pressed down on her broken wings. Aisha waved her staff lightly.

"Although D took away control over space..... You're still no match for me. Let's not waste time when the result is obvious."

"No, you..... should know all too well what the result will be if you go against Lord D."

Aisha sighed when Karis spoke out angrily. She was correct, if you compared their strengths, if Karis was rather ferocious rabbit and Aisha was a strong fox, then D was a tiger.

Not just any tiger, a tiger strong enough to leave its name in history.

Just like how Karis couldn't defeat Aisha, Aisha couldn't defeat D. It was a result that had already happened..... and this result wouldn't change easily even if Add rewind time to buy everyone another chance to fight.

"That's sensible, but its not something you should be worrying about. Why don't you run away if you don't want to die?"

Aisha said this then pointed her staff towards Karis. Although Aisha was speaking tough right now, it would be difficult for her to finish off Karis quickly since she now lost control over space.

So chasing Karis away with threats then quickly going to assist Elsword should be.....

But Karis shook her head in terror.

"Going against Lord D only means death....."

“Going against me also means death.”

So the rabbit is more afraid of a tiger that's far away than a fox right in front of her? Aisha started to gather mana when the threatening strategy failed. She should try to hasten the fight much as possible now that it's come to this.....

“Ah..... ah!”

In that moment, Karis suddenly made strange noises as she shivered. Aisha who was preparing a magic spell opened her eyes widely in surprise.

Unprecedented explosive mana beyond Karis' limits was flowing out of her.

“Wait, it can't be.....”

Aisha glanced back quickly to see D withdrawing the hand he stretched towards Karis. D had obviously done something to Karis.

“Hahaha, ahahahahaha!”

And that something can't be a good news for the El Search Party! Aisha smiled nervously while looking at Karis' body becoming large and emitting powerful mana.

“I saw that form multiple times, but this is the first time you became this much powerful, True Karis.....”

“True Karis? Is that my new name?”

Succubus Queen who got her inner potential forced out of her by D nodded in satisfaction. Abundant power dwelling in her body right now, she was now confident she could destroy everything.

Why did D grant her this power? It must mean she should kill everything in his place!

“I understand, Lord D. I'll kill everyone for you!”

“If you can beat me that is.”

Karis after being recreated by D was unprecedently powerful. Aisha had to fight her using all her powers.

Aisha made her resolve then commenced her attacks on True Karis.

His head hurt as if it was burning. Add realized his body had already surpassed the breaking point long time ago.

He could understand why D left him alone. He would destroy himself if left alone anyways.

He could barely make do and manage to stay alive because the Fox Orb Eun left him and the Memory of Time and Space supported his calculations.

He would have died instantly from overloading his brain under normal circumstances.

But he was successful. The throne room's time all went back to how it was before. Add slowly lowered the hand he couldn't feel since long time ago.

Fatigue he had been ignoring suddenly flowed in and made his vision dizzy.

It felt like he would die if someone were to tap him with a finger. Senses were disappearing from his body as he hung on in his completely worn out state.

Add saw Elsword charge towards the Devil far away and was about to click his tongue but then paused. He didn't know since when, but fresh blood was trickling down from his mouth.

Add had literally thrown away his entire body..... to resurrect the once defeated and fallen El Search Party members.

But will they be able to win with this?

“At least.....”

Rewinding time like this to bring everyone back shouldn't have happened in any other previous fights. This was at least certain judging from D's shocked reaction.

Add looked down at his shivering hand then made a thin smile.

No matter how this fight turned out..... Add's end won't be pretty. Internal parts of his body was breaking down even in this moment, and even if they could defeat D somehow, that didn't grant him any bright future.

Wishing for a good ending after destroying his own future is illogical.

“Mr.Add!!”

Ara looked back and screamed when Add staggered as if he was about to fall at any moment. Add wanted to shout to Ara and say stop getting distracted when she was fighting Ran. But Ran's blade was faster than Add's words.

“Kyah!!”

After getting slashed on the shoulder, Ara quickly repositioned herself and faced Ran again. But her mind must be elsewhere because her movements were completely out of the fight.

Ara shouted while clashing her spear fiercely against the incoming blade.

“Wait just a little longer! I’m come to help you quickly!”

“Idiot.....”

Add smiled bitterly at her urgent voice. There was no way for Ara to help him even if she came here. But he could understand how she felt when she shouted those words.

Because Add himself was also stretching his hand towards Ran right now.

“Ah, seriously.....”

His body was in tatters and his brain became mushy because he performed an anomaly like turning back time of the present..... He obviously wasn’t in any state to fight. Never mind fighting, he couldn’t live for much longer even if he healed and recuperated after this.

But he still couldn’t just watch.

He barely managed to revive all of them. Rather than seeing them get hurt and suffer, seeing them be defeated again and fall, it would be better to rip his own eyes out.

He was planning to fight and win even if his body literally broke down.

Not only that, but that damned fox left him a word saying please take good care of Ara. Not just anyone but Ara. He couldn’t let her die again.

Add was making calculations again with his stiff brain when he realized there was a strange sensation on his shivering arm. He wondered if his body finally gave out and he fell on the ground, but that wasn’t the case.

Someone was holding him firmly so he wouldn’t fall and supporting his arm so he could aim properly.

“Leave the calculations to me.”

It was Eve. Add who was completely worn out thought he might be seeing things. But the owner of the hand holding his wrist to assist his aim was certainly Eve.

“I’ll send the space coordinates to the Dynamos.”

“How can you.....”

Add who didn’t know if this was a dream or not questioned unknowingly.

Of course, Eve was a Nasod and Dynamos were Nasods too so they could interact. Not only that, but since Eve summons her weapons through a dimension gate it wasn’t like she was inadequate for the job.....

Eve who was supporting Add spoke while calmly looking ahead.

“I now understand what you’ve been doing.”

“.....”

Add shuddered at those unexpected words. This wasn’t a dream. Add wished that Eve would never find out this truth even in his dreams.

The truth that the one trying to destroy her, the one who was trying to destroy the El Search Party was actually Add’s own future..... And how he jumped through time countlessly to stop that from happening.

“No, I actually don’t understand. There’s a confusion in my memory circuits. It must be due to moving against time.”

“That’s.....”

Add didn’t know if he should be glad or not. He closed his mouth after seeing Eve speak ever so calmly. There was nothing good from Eve knowing about the circumstances behind this fight.

“But there’s only one thing you and I have to do right now. Fight and win, isn’t that right?”

“.....I’ll take care of myself so go help the others.”

It was true that Add was barely hanging on because Eve was supporting him but he spoke toughly. Eve replied coldly.

“I refuse.”

“Everyone is having a difficult battle. You have to join in.....”

Ara against Ran and Chung against Helputt looked evenly matched. Aisha at least looked to be advantageous against True Karis, but the fight wasn’t settled yet. If Eve were to join in this state, they could turn the tides and grab hope for victory.

But Add’s attempt at logical persuasion was blocked with couple of words from Eve.

“Add, I won’t leave you behind when you’re about to fall. That’s because.....”

Eve hesitated for a moment then concluded with a slightly startled tone.

“You’re our precious comrade as well.”

“.....”

The words he never imagined struck his heart. Add forgot about the circumstances and looked at Eve. Eve was looking forwards with a prudish expression.

“I’m glad you returned safely, Add.”

“.....”

Add didn't know what he should say in response so he merely nodded. His head somehow heated up and he didn't know what this meant. Add concluded that it was due to side effect of overly pushing himself then turned his gaze towards the front.

If he couldn't convince Eve out of her stubbornness then he had no choice but to make use of her.

“I'll send the formulas to Reby starting now.”

“Yes, let's start, Add.”

Eve laid her hands over Add's hand then announced the start of a new battle.



There were no enemies left to stop Elsword now that he broke through Karis. Elsword waved his sword ferociously against the Devil.

“Haaaaaaaah!!”

Great sword with added momentum from the dash shattered the dimension distortion barrier around the Devil. The Devil who had been focusing on opening the Space-time Gate finally opened his eyes to look around at the current situation.

Ruckus had ensued during the short period he had his eyes closed but he wasn't particularly startled.

“To think he'd really turn back time.....”

The El Search Party members that once fell by his hands had all risen back up and were lively moving about. It felt like witnessing a dice he had been rolling all this time in boredom suddenly perform tricks to duplicate itself.

“But..... it's still all within my control.”

The Devil concluded the current situation as insignificant then was about to close his eyes again but then saw Elsword swinging his sword again and frowned. It was already after 3 dimension distortion barriers had broken from Elsword's fierce attacks.

The Devil clicked his tongue in disbelief.

“Do you seriously not have a brain? Don't you realize I'm not stomping you out of existence because I can't be bothered with it? It would have been smart for you to stay hidden somewhere. What makes you so confident to think you can defeat me?”

10 layer barrier was an absolute shield. Foes had to put all their efforts into breaking it while the Devil could attack leisurely in meantime. This defense had never been broken before.

Even if only 3 were left, that was more than enough to eradicate Elsword then have 3 more years left over.

And Elsword knew this too.

“Being confident or not isn't important! All this fighting will end only by defeating you!”

“No matter how much you try by yourself.....”

The Devil lightly stretched out his hand in middle of his words. Elsword who had been attacking the barrier quickly evaded and swung his sword.

Double Void Impact was nullified but the Devil fired three more immediately.

“Kugh!”

Elsword couldn't completely prepare himself for the continuing attacks. Blood flowed out of Elsword's legs, arms and head after landing on the ground.

The Devil clicked his tongue from the dissatisfying result.

"You're being really annoying. Why are you doing something so stupid when everything is finally about to end.....? I'll change all of history if you all just stay put quietly. Everyone won't even know the fact that time has changed."

"Don't you dare..... think about changing time however you want."

Elsword grabbed his sword even stronger despite his injuries. The Devil who was about to ignore Elsword suddenly became filled with rage.

"What..... did you just say?"

"I said don't change the time however you want."

Process of opening the Space-time Gate stopped if the Devil focused on battling. Elsword determined he managed to buy some time as he caught his breath.

But the Devil was seriously furious.

"You talk as if there's a problem with me changing time. What's wrong with it? What's wrong with changing the past and future to get the result I want?"

"Of course it's wrong."

Elsword's face was as if asking 'why are you asking something so obvious?'. He wasn't intending to provoke the Devil but it was still effective. The Devil started getting angry for real.

"Nonsense! Who wouldn't change the past if they got the chance?! Don't you have something you regret in the past? Don't you have any memory you want to change no matter what? You can't possibly say that you don't!"

"....."

"Don't you want to revive Elesis behind you?"

Elsword didn't answer. But the Devil sneered from seeing the anguish and pain on Elsword's face.

Yes, no one wants to lose people important to them.

"I can bring her back. In the new space-time I'm about to revamp....."

"Stop."

Elsword stubbornly shook his head. The Devil frowned from the unexpected reaction.

“You revived yourself..... but you’re saying Elesis reviving is wrong?”

“That’s not it. I can’t let you..... no, I can’t let Big Brother do whatever you want. No one should change time however they’d like.....”

The Devil clicked his tongue when Elsword spoke with a dark expression. They couldn’t talk on the same level after all.

“With such obscure words.....”

“People aren’t existences that live by themselves.”

The Devil frowned from Elsword’s answer.

“What does that mean?”

“Time isn’t for just one person. Because you did something like this, Big Brother..... times of so many people were broken. Bonds between everyone that should have existed disappeared. In the first place..... didn’t Big Sis change like that because she got caught up from you twisting time?”

Elsword’s question didn’t have any resentment or rage so the Devil couldn’t answer immediately.

Although he could answer that choosing to join him was on Elesis’ own accord.....

“Time is for everyone. It shouldn’t be twisted to satisfy one person’s desire. Because that’s ruining everyone else’s time.”

“Don’t joke with.....”

“No matter how painful of a past you had, Big Brother, that doesn’t justify ridiculing the present time of everyone else living in this world.”

The Devil’s expression froze. Elsword pressed on boldly.

“You’re evading this fact and talking about gifting us a time we want, but don’t you realize it already as well, Big Brother? That what you’re doing is wrong?”

“.....”

“I don’t want to be gifted with a time tailored for my tastes! I want a time I’ve been fighting in all this time, the present time where I’ll continue to fight together in with everyone else!!”

The Devil was silent for a long while at Elsword’s declaration. He stayed frozen for a long while as if struck on the head with a hammer then finally let out a thin sigh.

“I see, you and I can’t understand each other after all. There was never a time when we could talk on the same page.....”

Soon as the Devil said this, giant dimension gate started to open above on the throne room's ceiling. Hundreds, thousands of gravity orbs were about to rain down from there.

It was Quadruple Stardust Shower.

Attack like this would annihilate both foes and allies! Elsword became abhorred as he shouted urgently.

“Big Brother!!”

“I'll erase everyone clean. You don't want to turn back time? You don't want to change the past? You want to keeping fighting in this present?”

The Devil smiled sinisterly after mouthing sorrowful series of questions.

“That's if you survive! Try saying that again after feeling the powerlessness of not being able to do anything as people important to you break, Elsword!!”

He just had to teach this naïve boy how the world worked!

Just when the Devil was about to destroy everything regardless of allies and foes.....a chilling voice was heard all of a sudden.

“You became chattier, D.”

“.....”

Soon as the Devil turned his gaze in surprise from the voice he thought he would never hear again, a dark-red sword flashed as if lunging like an angry snake.

Crrraack!!

Sword that shattered through last 3 dimension distortion barriers grazed by the Devil's cheek. He was only alive because he dodged by instinct at the very last moment. He would have died instantly otherwise.

“Reverse Circle!!”

The Devil immediately cancelled the Stardust Shower as he pulled out. He wouldn't have cancelled it normally, but he didn't know what might happen if he underestimated this opponent.

Elsword opened his eyes widely after looking at the person that just ran in like the gale to help him.

“Big Sis!!”

Elesis who had been certainly killed before was standing perfectly healthy as if nothing had happened. Elesis didn't look back from Elsword's call and replied composedly instead.

“Always act first before you talk, Elsword.”

“.....Yes.”

While unable to hide his gladness, Elsword followed Elesis’ advice and stood side by side with his sister. The Devil who caught his breath after pulling back had a face of disbelief.

He should have finished off Elesis personally..... so why was she alive now?

“I was dead. But I revived from time getting turning back.”

Elesis quietly answered the Devil’s curiosity.

“This was unexpected. I didn’t think Add thought of me as his comrade too.”

“Big Brother Add is actually a good person.”

Elsword added and Elesis nodded lightly then pointed her sword towards the Devil. This was a similar situation from before but it was different now.

All the dimension distortion barriers were broken and.....

“I’m sorry D, but things will be different starting now. I’m not by myself anymore.”

“You’re bluffing too much. Is it because you’re in front of your brother.....?”

Elesis dashed in instead of answering.

“You’ll have to see if I’m bluffing or not. Let’s go, Elsword!!”

“Yes, Big Sis!!”

Elsword answered energetically as he dashed in as well.

Siblings united their swords and minds as they ran towards the Devil.

Combined attacks of Elsword and now revived Elesis was coming but there were no dimension distortion barriers left.

The Devil was startled by this unexpected development but smiled sinisterly soon after.

Yes, this was the first time something like this happened during countless fights in the Time War. In the first place, Add turning back time to resurrect his comrades had never happened before.....

“Maximum Strike!!”

The Devil unknowingly burst out laughing then fired space-time projectiles in intervals. Elesis slashed widely to cut away the space-time projectiles flying towards her. Elsword also blocked all of the Maximum Strike projectiles just like Elesis.

But the Devil used this moment to start surrounding himself with dimension distortion barriers again. But even he couldn't create 10 barriers instantly.

Elsword shouted urgently after seeing the Devil trying to quickly surround himself with barriers.

“Big Sis, we have to break that!”

“Yes!!”

Elesis held her sword in long reach then started to gather huge amount of demonic energy. So much demonic energy gathered that space surrounding the sword shimmered from heat then started getting distorted. Elsword also collected his breath as he gathered every ounce of his strength into his sword.

“Go, Elsword!!”

Elesis swung the dark-red sword that was now huge enough to pierce through the ceiling towards the Devil. The sword with enormous amount of demonic energy compressed inside shattered through space and targeted the Devil's neck.

“Fate Smasher!!”

Some distortion barriers the Devil managed to restore broke with a loud shattering sound. But there were still 3 left. The Devil was about to counterattack leisurely but attacks from the siblings haven't ended yet.

Elsword who came running while Elesis was attacking waved his sword immediately.

“Gigantic Slash!! Haaaaaaaah!!!”

Blinding sword aura flashed as it struck and broke a dimension distortion barrier. But Elsword's strength wasn't enough to break through all of them.

The Devil was about to scoff but then his face froze after noticing Elsword's attack didn't end with just one strike.

“You muscle brain.....”

Elsword was restlessly waving his sword with immense fighting spirit.

He battered on the dimension distortion barrier with a vigor of wanting to finish this fight here, with a spirit of how he'd rather bite his tongue and die than retreat from here. Each and every strike being waved was filled with power that nullified space distorting abilities.

The shock from the impacts didn't reach the Devil directly. But..... Elsword will certainly break through all the barriers!

“.....”

The Devil's face became frozen after unknowingly taking a step back. To think he'd sense fear from this idiot.....

Another barrier gave away and now only one remained to protect his body.

But the Devil didn't supplement himself with more barriers. He couldn't win by just defending..... and he couldn't accept backing out from Elsword!

“Fine, I'll play your game!”

The Devil backed out far using Reverse Circle then called upon a Void Field with 30 meter radius. They couldn't move after getting caught by this so he just had had to pick them off easily after.

It will all be over once they were caught!!

“Big Sis!”

Elsword realized the danger and stabbed his sword into the ground in front of him. He was using the power to shatter space on the ground to secure his safety.

But Elesis who came running didn't do the same as Elsword.

“I'll borrow your back.”

Elesis stepped on Elsword's back then soared up. The Devil opened his eyes widely from seeing Elesis fly towards him.

Is she trying to jump 30 meters across.....? But my Void Field should bind enemies above ground too.....

“Haaaaah!!!”

A sharp shout shattered the Devil's predictions. Elesis pointed her sword forwards and was piercing through Void Field's binding force as she flew towards the Devil.

She was trying to pummel into him!

The Devil became startled as he quickly utilized his control over space. Even if Elesis was stronger than his expectations, he defeated her already once before..... He could defeat her again if he used his control over space. If he just attacked after widening their distance so her sword can't reach.....

Space wasn't widening.

The Devil became very startled when his control over space didn't work but still managed to back out. There was no time to activate Reverse Circle and he could just walk sideways to avoid Elesis' trajectory.

But Elesis who flew in 25 meters used a landing technique to roll on the ground then stood back up immediately while waving her sword widely.

Her sword made a sharp arc to shatter the final dimension distortion barrier.

“.....”

“.....”

The sword stopped right beside the Devil's neck. It was a distance where even a slight movement would cut his throat. It was a situation like before but there were dimension distortion barriers protecting him back then. He was completely defenceless right now.

Elesis declared in a low voice.

“.....Checkmate.”

“So..... it was a Knight that captures the King?”

The Devil answered in low-spirits then turned his gaze. The situation right now where his neck was right against Elesis' blade was an unprecedented crisis but he remained calm.

The Devil's gaze headed towards Add who was supporting the other El Search Party members together with Eve.

“.....How foolish.”

The Devil shook his head exaggeratedly. His neck grazed the blade and blood spilled but he didn't care.

Since he was the one who had been foolish.

“How extremely foolish of me. I took that idiot turning back time too lightly..... As the King of Time, time should have been my domain. It was my territory but I let it get invaded. I lost a portion of control over this throne room's time because of that..... and it seems my control over space has diminished as well.”

“.....”

D had been self-proclaiming himself as King of Time, and he actually had the power to back that up..... But he thought of Add turning back time too lightly. No, his decision at the time was justified. What Add did was just an insane suicide.



“.....Checkmate.”

“So.....it was a Knight that captures the King?”

D knew Add's capabilities very well since he was his own' past. Normally, Add wouldn't have lasted even a moment and dropped dead.

“Seriously, that damned fox.....”

To think Add was still alive after completely turning back time..... Assistance that the Fox Orb provided was beyond his imagination.

“No, I was an idiot in the end.....”

He had been too obsessed with opening the Space-time Gate. He wanted to open it soon as possible that he overlooked swarm of ants running about in his palace.

To think those swarm of ants would crawl up to his throat and try to suffocate him!

“They say even an elephant cannot beat swarm of ants..... it seems that was true.”

“Is that your final word?”

Elesis asked sorrowfully.

9 member original El Search Party was scattered..... Amongst members of that group, although D and Elesis had different thoughts and goals, they had been together the longest. Aisha chose to fight against D and Raven prioritized Rena's safety.

It was finally time to end two of their relationship that lasted through the ever so long repetition of time.

“What will you do..... after you slay me?”

The Devil asked while looking far out into the distance.

“None of you will achieve your wishes when I die. Or..... will you ask that idiot instead? If I die, then the Ruler of Space-time disappears..... and my past has the qualification to succeed that position. So I guess my past will restructure the universe according to your wishes.”

“.....”

“If that's the case then there's no reason for us to fight in the first place. Isn't that right? Me doing it or that guy doing it, what's the difference?”

The Devil's voice was extremely calm. He wasn't trying to convince anyone. He was asking out of curiosity. Hesitation passed by Elesis' face for a slight moment but Elsword approached from the back and replied.

“Big Brother, we won't remake the universe however we want.”

“.....Then why did we fight for so long until now? You idiot, even your wish of restoring peace in Elrios and restoration of El can be achieved by going through the Space-time Gate and restructuring the universe.”

The Devil asked with a face as if he absolutely couldn't understand.

“Elesis, the world you want where you live peacefully with your brother is possible too. What's the difference in me granting it or my past granting it?”

“.....It's true that I want such a world.”

Elesis acknowledged readily but there was no more hesitation on her face.

“Elsword and I think slightly differently. Elsword says no one should lay their hands on time since time is for everyone..... But not me, I think that someone could distort time per their own desires, for the sake of someone precious to them.”

“Big Sis.”

“But I'm not saying that's a right thing to do or it's something that should be forgiven. But I do think one could commit that kind of sin because it's too painful..... because they can't stand it.”

Elesis didn't look back and spoke while still leaning her sword against the Devil's neck.

“Yes, I understand how you feel, D. That's why I've been together with you all this time.”

“And so?”

The Devil asked with a voice devoid of any expectation.

Elesis had a personality where she never looked back once she made a decision so her stopping the sword strike like this and talking in itself was something very exceptional.

She was making an exception because this was the Devil who she spent countless amount of time together with.

“I understand how you feel..... But I cannot let you commit that sin.”

“You're not making sense. If that's what you thought then there was no reason for you to help me in the first place.....”

“I had no ways of defeating you on my own. Even Eun, Aisha and me together had no chance of overcoming you. You're the one who's loved by time, one who could rightfully proclaim himself as Prince of Time.”

The Devil frowned in displeasure.

“Not Prince. I'm the King of Time.”

“Thus, Eun said your past had to defeat you, I waited for Elsword to grow and Aisha took on the task of holding you back until both of our goals were met.”

“You were all in it together.”

The Devil was at a loss for words but he didn't look too upset.

“And..... Eun sacrificed herself to bring your past that can defeat you here.”

“.....”

The Devil didn't want to but he had no choice but to admit it.

He took Add too lightly. Add was a mere dice for the Devil. He considered Add turning back time of the present as a suicide and never worried about how his control over Space-time could be shaken if Add was to succeed.

The Space-time Gate, his sole wish that he spent almost endless amount of time waiting for was right in front of him. Why would he have worried about a weakling attempting something clearly impossible?

But thanks to the Fox Orb that Eun left behind, and because Add forced the Memory of Time and Space into his body with the determination of burning his life away, he was successful in resurrecting everyone in the El Search Party..... and he even blocked the Devil's control over space.

Even if Elesis and Elsword came at the Devil together, even if their combination was extraordinary..... The Devil would have defeated them with ease long as he still had control over space.

The King of Time's arrogance of thinking he could stomp down on anyone with brute force any time he wanted had led to his downfall.

“And I could point my sword against your neck right now because grown up Elsword was with me. Eun's sacrifice, Add's determination and Elsword's growth..... defeated you.”

“Kukukukuk.....”

Yes, Elesis was right. The Devil finally admitted his defeat.

“I see..... So why are we still talking? Are you trying to convince me? Will you ask me to stop opening the Space-Time Gate?”

“.....”

“Don't joke with me. Does everything end with just a single defeat? Isn't there that thing you guys always say?”

The Devil spoke the words as if he was mocking.

“If you lost this time then you just have to win next time.”

“That’s.....”

The Devil scoffed when Elsword became surprised.

“Did you think this saying was for you guys alone? Just why do you think I have been rolling the dice all this time? I’ve been waiting and waiting, thirsting for the result I wanted..... Do you honestly think I’ll give up after just one defeat?”

“You probably will never give up. Too much time has passed to give up now.”

Elesis concluded coldly with a bitter tone.

“Your longing for Eve is.....not just an obsession anymore, it’s a sickness.”

“Eve?”

Elsword couldn’t understand why Eve was being mentioned right now. But the two conversing didn’t have any intention to explain.

The Devil looked at Elesis with extreme displeasure then averted his gaze.

“So? You’ll slay me..... then what? What will Ara do now that Eun is dead? What about you who became a traitor to Elrios? Do you think everything will end with happily ever after once I’m gone?”

The Devil’s words were as if he was begging for his life but it was actually different. His face was ever so cold.

He was sneering.

“That guy who did something so ludicrous like turning back time of the present is my past. Is there any grantee that he won’t become me?”

“.....”

“Will he adjust to and live inside this broken world? No, in the first place..... that guy’s goal is to return to the past. And he doesn’t know how to give up. And because he doesn’t know how to give up..... he becomes me.”

The Devil mocked. He mocked himself who was finally about to achieve his goal but blew everything because of single act of carelessness. He also mocked his foes who managed to stop him but will never achieve their wishes.

He mocked, ridiculed..... and sympathized with all of them.

“We cannot escape from this prison of time. Alright, kill me already. Kill me so it can start all over again.”

“You’re the one who made that prison, Big Brother. I.....”

“Shut up, Elsword.”

The Devil glared at Elsword with a gaze filled with rage.

“You’re so high and righteous. It must be nice to be so popular and loved by everyone. But not everyone is like you. They can’t just discard all their sorrows, say that past is just a past then move on or say that time is for everyone so no one should lay their hands on it..... They can’t all make righteous and just decisions like you.”

“Big Brother.....”

“Don’t address me as Big Brother! Just like you said, me and that pitiful guy are different! You guys will never understand me! I never wanted anyone to understand me anyways so just shut up already!!”

Elsword made a blank face from hearing the Devil’s hateful shout. Elesis slightly pressed her sword on the Devil’s neck but he didn’t stop shouting.

“You never lost anything for real!! You never lost something truly precious so shut your mouth!! Go play being a righteous hero on your own!”

“.....Stop.”

Elesis’ blade pressed into the Devil’s neck and blood started spilling even more. But the reason the Devil closed his mouth was because he didn’t like how he got so riled up and not because he was afraid of the sword.

Elesis sighed.

“D, what you’re saying is right. It’s not like peace will suddenly return to Elrios once you’re gone..... and Add might try to go back to the past then make the same mistakes you did. The world could be much more difficult place to live in than the universe you were trying to create.”

“And?”

“But that’s something those of us remaining should deal with. It’s not something you should worry about.”

Ever so cold response. It was a cruel answer saying that the Devil who was about to die here had no reason to worry about what’s to come.

The Devil suddenly burst out laughing. On second thought, Elesis was absolutely correct.

“Kukukuk, of course. I..... must have fought for too long as well.”

“Also, I’ll keep an eye on Add so he won’t become like you. So don’t worry.”

The Devil shook his head.

“No, no matter what you do, you can’t stop my obsession.....”

“I’ll stop Big Brother Add if he does something wrong.”

The Devil looked displeased when Elsword spoke strongly but he didn’t reply to him.

Elesis’ face suddenly became sorrowful.

“So this is goodbye then, D.”

“Yes.”

Maybe if he tried whatever he can to get out of this..... No, Elesis’ sword will be faster no matter what he tried.

After preparing for his end, the Devil’s took a slight glance behind him. He was looking towards the place beyond the curtain where the throne was.

“It’s annoying how that damned fox is already in the netherworld before me..... I’ll send her your regards.”

“Alright, my Prince.”

Elesis quietly said her farewell.

“As your knight..... I’ll end your life!”

Sword strike was flying towards him. The Devil closed his eyes as he thought everything will finally end.....

But there was no pain. Was it because Elesis’ sword strike was too sharp? The Devil thought this as he unknowingly opened his eyes, but the scenery waiting for him wasn’t the netherworld.

“Kugh.....”

Elesis was staggering as she grabbed her shoulder and backed out. It was an injury as if a surprise attack hit her. But who could land this kind of surprise attack on Elesis at this point?

The Devil’s gaze landed on Elsword who was supporting Elesis.

Elsword should have gotten furious since his sister was attacked..... But Elsword’s face had turned pale.

After seeing what was behind the Devil's back.

“It can't be.....”

The Devil let out an empty laugh as he turned around. There was no way a miracle happened after all this time.

Curtain covering the throne flew away.

And the Devil blinked vacantly after seeing the girl who was sitting on that throne. The girl who he thought had stopped moving forever was slowly raising her head.

The scene he had been longing for all this time, but the scene he never expected to see once again. The Nasod that made him conquer space and time and become a Devil rather than expect some sort of miracle from god.

The time that was thought to have stopped for eternity started moving.

“Code Battle Seraph, Start”

The sole time the Devil wished to turn back.



The time that was thought to have stopped for eternity started moving.

2. Emotionless Angel and Insane Devil

Gazes of everyone in the battlefield turned the moment when a sudden white beam of light struck Elessis.

Ran and Helputt withdrew their weapons and turned around. True Karis also flew to a safe distance. Everyone's gazes focused on one point amidst the abrupt silence.

Add gasped from sight of the girl who just landed beside the Devil. It was the same no matter how many times he looked.

The girl standing beside the Devil was Eve.

".....It's me."

Eve who was supporting Add and helping him with space coordinate calculations trailed her words. Add spoke gravely after confirming he wasn't hallucinating.

"Just what is....."

"I'm not sure. I had no information that different versions of myself existed."

There were vague hints of confusion mixed inside Eve's voice. Her expression didn't change but her hand that was supporting Add was shaking thinly.

Add unknowingly grabbed Eve's hand tightly. He didn't know what he should say but felt like he had to at least say something.

"I might be able to explain. That is....."

"Is that me in the future?"

Eve reached a level-headed conclusion despite still being overwhelmed by indescribable feeling. Add was impressed by her cool-headedness as he nodded to acknowledge.

If D was Add's future, then that pure white Eve should be the current Eve's future. But atmosphere of that Eve was somewhat strange to confirm this guess. Why was that Eve standing on the Devil's side in the first place? According to Eun, didn't Add turn into the Devil because he was too obsessed with Eve?

Couldn't the Devil just go back to the past if he had Eve's core? Why was he going out of his way to open the Space-Time Gate when he had Eve on his side?

Could it be that he couldn't steal Eve's core after all.....?

"Don't get any wrong ideas."

The Devil answered coldly. He must have read Add's thoughts from his expression.

"It's not just the core that's required. Codes inside the core are needed as well. If the core is a hardware, then the code is a software. You should already know that both are required."

"Then....."

Did it mean that while this other Eve looked fine on the outside, she wasn't fine on the inside? That's why he couldn't obtain the core? This other Eve who haven't said a word since she appeared was indeed strange.

If original Eve stubbornly insisted that she had no emotions, then this future Eve's insistence was in a whole different level.

Add and Eve were standing in front of her but this other Eve wasn't paying them any attention. She didn't even look at the Devil right beside her and only stared far out into the distance.

"Just what happened.....?"

"She's merely broken. To the point where she's irreparable."

The Devil spoke as if it was something trivial, but his expression looked strangely uncomfortable.

There exists a damage that even the Devil who possesses power to control time and space can't repair?

No, how did such damage occur in the first place if such powerful Devil was beside this other Eve?

"How.....?"

Add who was about to speak suddenly understood everything from the Devil's expression. Although there were no words, the two man's thoughts united in that one moment.

The order was different.

Eve didn't end up like that after Add turned into the Devil. Eve ended up like that then Add turned into the Devil after.

"It was because of my selfishness. That's all."

"....."

The Devil slowly closed his eyes as if he didn't want to mention the exact details. It was an overly relaxed attitude to show in front of his enemies but both Add and Eve couldn't bring themselves to attack the Devil at this moment.

The Devil's voice contained that much of an overwhelming regret.

“I can’t forgive this failure. I can never leave such an error unfixed. Never.....”

“So, that’s why you did something like this.....”

Add sighed in response to the Devil but Eve asked as if she couldn’t understand.

“Then why did you try to destroy me?”

“.....”

Add wanted to know that as well but he didn’t ask because it wasn’t a topic he wanted to bring up in Eve’s presence.

But Eve pressed for an answer as she looked straightly at the Devil.

“If that’s my future, then it should be my other possibility. So why were you trying to destroy me?”

“.....I just needed some variables. That’s all.”

The Devil answered with his eyes still closed. Eve’s voice became even lower.

“Add, look at me and answer.”

“.....”

“Add, look at me and talk.”

The Devil sighed as he shook his head.

“Don’t call me Add. I have no wishes or right to be called that. I never cared for such name in the first place. I threw all that away when I started the Time War.”

“You’ve been doing all of this because you were trying to fix me after I was broken?”

Eve abruptly poked at the truth, Add couldn’t do anything but to listen, and the Devil chose to keep silent. Add understood the truth despite there being no explanations.

Dice rolls. The act of D attacking and overwhelming Eve and the El Search party was nothing more than data collection.

To search for a way to return that Eve to normal.

“Is that the truth of this broken world?” Eve continued to press for an answer.

“.....How stupid.”

The Devil finally opened his eyes then sighed. He looked strangely relaxed compared to how arrogant and destructive he was acting before.

Was it because he saw the future Eve activating again? Or was it because he was being questioned by the present Eve?

“I just wanted to obtain the time I wanted. I didn’t particularly do this because of you. Don’t get the wrong idea.”

“.....”

“There’s no way I’d be interested in a Nasod that broke on her own because she was covering for me.”

The Devil’s words were extremely cold..... but there was a complicated feeling of regret mixed inside his gaze as he stared at the future Eve.

Mad beast that had been running rampant had suddenly calmed down.

“But.....”

The Devil sighed as he slowly stretched his hand out towards the other Eve that was standing beside him.

“So it’s the Queen who comes to the King’s rescue when he’s in danger.”

“.....”

Add understood by reasoning that this situation was dangerous. You could tell that this other Eve was very powerful from how she stopped Elesis with a single strike. Add nervously calculated defensive formulas but the Devil’s face looked quite relaxed and peaceful right now.

It didn’t look like he will attack any time soon.

Amidst the silences, Ran and Helputt slowly backed out beside the Devil. Chung, Ara, and Elsword supporting Elesis also naturally gathered around Add and Eve.

“That’s.....”

Elesis tried to speak but coughed out blood instead.

“Bis Sis! Don’t talk! Just rest for now! No, cut me! You can recover by doing that, right?!”

“I can’t use that to recover from those two’s attacks. That Eve is.....”

Elesis had the ability to cut down her enemies and recover herself, but injuries received from the Devil and that white Eve was an exception. Two of their existences were against the natural law. It was the same principle as how you couldn’t recover from an injury received from a ghost with merely potions and bandages.

An empty voice finished what Elesis was about to say.

“An Angel.”

“.....”

“She’s my Angel.”

The Devil laughed emptily as he slowly stroked Eve’s, no, according to him, the Angel’s face standing beside him.

His hand moved as if handling a precious doll. Eve who just got called an Angel showed no reaction to the Devil’s touch. She showed completely no response except blinking occasionally.... You couldn’t see her as anything but a doll.

“.....”

Eve was looking at the interaction between the Devil and the Angel with an extremely reluctant face. Add was.....also encompassed by an indescribable feeling as he looked at the scene. He was battling seriously against despair, even sacrificing his own health, then all of a sudden, it felt like he witnessed a compromising scene.

This scene of the Devil(Add in the end), touching the Angel(She’s Eve no matter how you look at her) dearly..... He didn’t get why everyone had to gather around and watch this uncomfortable scene.

Aisha clicked her tongue.

“To think she’d move in this situation. Didn’t she stop moving permanently, Prince of Time?”

“.....”

The Devil’s hand that was dearly stroking the Angel’s hair stopped. Aisha narrowed her eyes then frankly spoke the truth.

“Reason behind this whole crisis was because Eve from that time whom you’re calling an Angel lost her emotions.....and stopped moving. So why is she moving now?”

“.....Wait a moment.”

Eve intruded in on the conversation.

“Just what happened, Aisha?”

“That’s one of your possibilities. Battle-Type Nasod that lost her emotions and closed her heart.”

“I never had emotions from the start.”

Eve managed to leave a prudish remark despite seeming to be still in quite a turmoil. This sudden ceasefire, and the appearance of other Eve called 'the Angel' was surrounding both sides in confusion.

Add frowned as the mood began to turn strange. The Devil didn't look like he would start fighting any time soon. This whole situation could get dragged on needlessly.

"So what?"

Add could taste blood whenever he spoke. He didn't know how long his damaged body would last so they had to finish this fight quickly.

Add smiled sinisterly so he would not lose to the gradual tides of pain coming over him.

"I don't know if that's Eve or something else but I get it now that it's something unnatural. So you've been doing something this crazy merely so you could repair some broken Nasod?"

"Mr.Add."

But wasn't she still Eve? Ara warned Add carefully but he didn't listen.

"And here I thought. Gosh....this is seriously stupid. It's so unsightly...."

Add twisted his lips.

"I still had some expectations since you're my future and all but this is the truth? What you wanted to obtain by conquering Space and Time was..... merely repairing a single broken Nasod?"

"No, it's still not perfect....."

The Devil who had been stroking the Angel's face spoke in a low voice. It seemed, for the Devil, observing the Angel in front of him was more important than Add's words or anything else going on around him.

"Once shut-down emotion circuit cannot be recovered. To return everything back to normal.... Space-Time has to be restructured."

The Devil took his hand off the Angel while letting out a perplexed sigh. He then turned his gaze towards the El Search Party.

"But this is the first time she activated like this again. I'm overjoyed. Thank you for struggling to bring about this result, El Search Party."

"Shut your mouth, it's disgraceful."

Add reprimanded sternly.

“We’ll resume the battle starting now. Everyone, blow away anything that stands in your way with everything you got.”

Then Add’s detailed battle instructions followed in a low voice so their enemies couldn’t hear. But everyone looked reluctant to fight.

Elsword who had been tending to Elesis’ wound carefully expressed his opinion.

“.....Do we really have to Big Brother?”

“What else is there?”

Everyone had difficulties speaking back when Add replied coldly. Heat had disappeared from the group that had been enflaming their fighting spirits even against their own family.

Although D was Add’s future self..... he was an evil they had to stop. Everyone had no hesitation regarding fighting D, but the story was different with the Angel, the newly appeared Eve.

They were.....unsure now after hearing that the Devil’s reason for doing all of this was for Eve’s sake.

Wasn’t there a way they could settle this peacefully by talking? Did they really have to defeat those two by force? In such manner?

This doubt was dwelling in everyone’s hearts despite no one speaking it directly.

“Don’t mind and resume combat. I’ll also do my best.”

Eve opened her mouth as if she read the group’s doubt. Ara who had been nervously looking at the Angel looked back in surprise.

“But that’s you, Ms.Eve! If we fight, you might be.....”

“Why didn’t you worry about that when fighting D?”

Add spoke sarcastically. Defeating D who was Add’s future might bring direct harm to Add. It was an obvious consequence to think about. But wasn’t bringing that up now only after another Eve appeared a bit too harsh for Add?

Ara hastily shook her head after understanding what Add meant.

“No, Mr.Add! I don’t mean it’s okay for you to get hurt!”

Aisha started explaining in a sharp voice.

“Add and Eve won’t get hurt from fighting them. The Angel and the Devil are already existences separated from the timeline of this Space-Time. It won’t be wrong to say that they are ghosts. Those

two can only exist physically inside this throne room. Of course, D, the Prince of Time can exert his power outside using other methods, but they are fundamentally ghosts that are bound to this place.”

“.....So they are no different from lost spirits. That’s why they can exist despite being same entities.”

Aisha gave a cheeky response.

“They are lost spirits that have the qualification of opening the Space-Time gate, that are ever so close to an existence called god. Although it seems they lost their control over Space-Time thanks to you turning back the throne room’s time.”

Aisha spoke sternly then gripped her staff even tighter.

“We have no other choice. They will try to open the Space-Time gate and restructure the universe..... and we have to stop them! No matter what!”

“.....Yes, Aisha’s right.”

Elesis stood up while staggering. Elsword saw how Elesis was barely standing despite her injuries and quickly tried to support her.

“It’s fine, Elsword.”

Elesis shook her head then sighed after looking at the Angel.

“Eve who haven’t shown any reaction during the countless flow of time before..... is moving now for some reason. I don’t know the reason either, but today is the day when we end this long fight. We don’t have the choice of giving up fighting.”

“But.....”

In contrast to how Ara was still hesitant, Elsword looked like he made up his mind because he spoke strongly.

“I’m reluctant but we cannot back down now!”

“Understood. I’ll take on my father.”

Chung also made up his mind. Aisha sent Chung a gaze as if she was proud of him then shrugged.

“Leave that stuck-up succubus to me. I’ll blow her away immediately.”

Ara sent a strange gaze to Add when everyone resolved themselves to fight.

Add frowned from Ara’s gaze that seemed to be pleading for something.

“Mr.Add, can I ask you just one thing?”

“.....I refuse.”

He put the nail in the coffin since he felt that Ara was going to say something stupid again. But Ara didn't listen to him like the usual.

“If this fight ends, please make Ms.Eve happy.”

“.....”

Hey, this isn't the time to say something like that! Also, no matter how you think about it, the way you said it have so many ways of being misunderstood.

Of course.....Add experienced enough of this overly soft-minded El Search Party to get a gist of Ara intention when she said this.

Fighting against another Eve and D, after it was revealed that D was fighting to fix another Eve is painful = they are saying it's fine to defeat the two of them but it still feels uncomfortable = So two of them should get together and be happy after the fight!

In contrast to Add who became frozen solid, Eve remained calm.

“Ara, I appreciate your thoughts but don't impose something like that. I'm not too glad to hear it.”

“But.....”

“Everything can be decided after we fight without any regrets right now.”

Ara made a regretful sigh after Eve's stern conclusion then she grabbed her spear and turned her gaze towards the enemies.

The Devil, now in command of Ran, Helputt, True Karis and the Angel beside him was quietly looking at the El Search Party. He could have easily taken the advantage by attacking first..... but it looked as if he waited on purpose.

“Time is passing.....”

Or maybe he wanted this time to last even a slight moment longer.

The Devil murmured in a raspy voice then opened his eyes narrowly.

“It's fine now. Things I never imagined are happening..... but I'll clean up everything now.”

“.....Let's finish this, King of Time and Space.”

Immediately after Add's reply, members from both sides ran in towards each other.

It was the final battle.

Even as the fierce battle for control of Space-Time was occurring, two people were completely apart from it all.

They were Raven and Rena.

Even when the Devil's life almost ended, even when the Angel moved to reset the situation and the final battle ensued, Raven didn't move.

He only had his eyes closed as he disregarded the situation.

“.....”

Whether Add won or the Devil won..... Raven had no intention to get involved. He had no interest in the destiny of this universe.

Opinions of the original 9 member El Search Party became divided once Add turned into D and proclaimed himself as the King of Time.

There were 5 people that became aware of the broken world by D. Eun, Elesis, Aisha, Raven and.....

Eun considered Add was the key to defeating D and tried to assist him during the course of endless Time War. Elesis considered Elsword's growth as the answer and tried to promote Elsword's growth. Aisha took control of space and stopped D from opening the Space-Time gate all by herself.

Although their methods differed, they all had the same desire of wanting to stop D. But..... Raven didn't have such a thing.

“.....”

So he merely watched. Fate of this universe didn't matter to him. He'll be satisfied long as he can protect the precious life in his arms right now.....

Raven unconsciously added strength to his arms holding Rena then suddenly flinched. Strange touch was moving down along his Nasod hand.

She smiled weakly when Raven looked down.

“.....Since when did you?”

He had certainly made her lose consciousness. Raven wasn't too adept at these types of skills, but the one he used on Rena was the one he learned specifically from D.

There had been no instances of Rena waking up in this situation before.....

"It's probably..... because Add turned back time."

Turning back time didn't end with just resurrecting those that were dead. It turned back what happened into how they were before. Thus, Rena who fell unconscious returned to how she was before. Even her gravely injured arms and legs healed back to normal.

Raven who had been unknowingly meeting Rena's perplexed gaze hastily tried to put his hand over Rena's forehead. But Rena's pretty hand covered over his hand.

"Don't do it, Raven."

".....Rena."

"You shouldn't do something like this."

Her voice was gentle as if lecturing a child but her firm will was conveyed to Raven.

"Because Add turned back time..... I somewhat got a grasp on the whole situation. About how this isn't the first time this happened. I still can't quite believe it, but those nostalgic feelings apparently weren't just a dream."

"....."

I never wished for you to know. Rena spoke carefully when Raven kept silent.

"Raven, I don't know why you're choosing to be a bystander to all of this. But you must certainly have a good reason for it. Even so, I have to fight to help those kids."

".....No."

Raven spoke stubbornly. His Nasod hand's gripped tighter as if not wanting to let Rena go. Rena let out a confused sigh.

"What are you afraid of?"

"....."

It was clear that Raven wasn't siding with D for some simple reason. Rena asked regretfully.

"We can end all this fighting if you and Elesis..... No, if all of us combine our strengths."

"It's too dangerous."

Rena unknowingly laughed from Raven's simple but stern answer.

"It's a fight, of course it will be dangerous. But if we don't risk the danger....."

"I didn't mean it like that."

Raven sighed. No matter what he said..... Rena won't change her mind.

There was no way Rena would overlook the El Search Party in danger.

That's why Raven had used the method of making her unconscious until now..... but that won't work anymore. The method Raven used took advantage of weakness in one's heart. It won't work on Rena now.

Raven shook his head then let Rena down as he slowly stepped back. Rena was momentarily perplexed after getting to stand on her own feet then her face froze after seeing what Raven did next.

Raven raised his blade.

"I can't let you go to that fight."

"....."

His words were short but the meaning was clear. He was telling Rena that she had to defeat him first if she wanted to go help the El Search Party.

Rena became very startled by Raven's declaration then her face slowly started to become enclosed with sorrow.

"Will you not explain why you're stopping me?"

"No matter what I say, you'll try to fight D as a member of the El Search Party. Countless times until now is a proof to this."

Rena momentarily searched for a reply to Raven's stern attitude but shook her head in the end. It was clear that Raven wouldn't listen even if she pleaded.

He wouldn't have taken away Rena's consciousness otherwise.

And the El Search Party was increasingly in danger as more time passed. Raven could achieve his goal by just stalling for time.

".....It can't be helped then."

She didn't like it but she had no choice but to clear open a path. Rena slowly raised her bow.

Time War.

A fight to bring about a different result by repeating time breathtaking amount of times.

What was this fight for in the first place? Was it so D who took control of time could roll the dice as many times as he wanted? Was that really the only reason?

Ara who ran at the head of the El Search Party swung her spear with this question in mind. Ran who came running first amongst the enemies easily deflected her spear.

“.....Your strikes are light. Is it due to Eun’s absence?”

Ran’s blade flew in quickly aiming for the opening in Ara’s defense after her failed attack. Ara quickly pulled her body out while waving her spear. It was true that Ara skills fell behind overall..... but she was skilled enough to fight equally against Ran if she assumed a defensive stance.

Basis of Ran or Aren and Ara’s strength was Haan family martial arts. They knew each other’s tactics and skills like an open book. Ran didn’t chase after Ara and spoke calmly.

“Come at me with Flying Kite.”

“.....”

Flying Kite was one of the highest-grade skills amongst the skills Ara learned when she awakened her Memory of Time and Space. The skill did actually contribute heavily in defeating Ran back in Hamel.

“Elder Brother Aren.”

“Do we have any need for talk now?”

Ran looked at Ara with a subdued gaze. Ara hesitated for a moment then tried to open her mouth when a sharp voice came from above them.

“What are you doing Ran?! Don’t tell me you’re going easy because she’s your sister..... Uwah!”

True Karis who was about to attack Ara dodged then pulled out due to Aisha’s fireball.

“.....”

This made Ran frown but Ara continued the conversation.

“Why have you been fighting all this time Elder Brother?”

“Why do you ask?”

Ran's cold tone was conveying 'don't ask something so pointless'. But Ara didn't back down.

"For me..... at first, it was to return Elder Brother back into a human. But after meeting everyone in the El Search Party, I resolved myself to defeat any adversaries even if that may be you, Elder Brother, so I can stand together with them."

"Then you should do just that. If you can."

Ara shook her head to refuse.

"That's my reason. I don't know your reason, Elder Brother. You knew that the time was being repeated over and over again, am I right?"

"....."

"This wasn't the first time me, and everyone else in the El Search Party have fought. We kept fighting inside this infinitely repeating time. Although I can't quite bring myself to believe it still....and it's terrifying to recall..... those events certainly happened."

Ara slowly raised her gaze to face Ran.

"I tried to turn you back to normal in this eternal battle..... and kept failing. I'll run out of strength and fall in Velder, or in Hamel, or maybe even in Feita..... That's the result I've met until now."

"....."

"You knew that I failed countless times already. Wasn't that why back in Hamel, you invited me to watch the end of time together with you?"

There was no answer, but Ara could understand Ran's feeling.

Finally..... she could begin to understand why Ran made such an offer at that time.

"So, you knew this fight was the Time War, and that it has been repeated time and time again..... Then just what is it that you want out of all of this, Elder Brother?"

Ara and the El Search Party were basically dices so they had no awareness of this broken world.

But didn't Ran know from the start? And it was difficult to say that he was enjoying this endlessly repeating battle.

Just what did Ran hope to gain by assisting D?

"What I want..... huh...."

Ran answered his sister's question with a completely empty voice. It wasn't that he was trying to avoid the question..... his tone was as if he really couldn't remember.

“Unlike all of you, I do remember most of those times but don’t remember at the same time. There’s no meaning to those times. I’m at a loss for an answer if you ask me what I want at this point.”

“.....”

“There was something I wanted at the start..... but it’s vague now. No, the goal is still the same but I question myself if that’s what I really want.”

Motivation slowly started to return to Ran’s eyes while he talked almost as if he was talking to himself. It was a drastic change as if life was being imbued into a statue.

“.....Although I’m doubtful, I can’t change my goal now. That goal is what defines me at this point. I’ve been moving forward for so long so I can’t change my direction now.”

“So, what is it that you want?”

“There’s a woman I must meet.”

There was a bitterness mixed into Ran’s voice.

“She probably won’t remember me. Even if time were to turn back from D granting my wish as he restructures the universe..... I don’t know if that meeting will be in a form that I want. Even if I get to meet her again, I’m not sure if that’s what I really want now.”

“.....”

“But I still have to meet her. This goal is the only thing supporting me.”

Ran’s eyes started to become enflamed with will. Ara’s question had awakened the desire that had been dormant inside Ran for a long time.

Ara’s voice became quieter.

“So, you did something so terrible to our hometown to achieve that goal?”

“It’s something I’ve done so many times already to the point where it’s tedious now.”

Ara’s face became filled with sorrow at Ran’s words. Ara also understood that it was difficult to sense value in acts that were repeated continuously.

Tomorrow has its value because it’s different from today.

What meaning was there to tomorrow if it was same as today? And if the day after tomorrow is the same once again and this repeated endlessly?

“So, that’s why you’ll assist D..... and strike me down?”

“To achieve my goal, yes.”

Ran gripped his sword even tighter. Ara looked at him ever so sadly with her mouth closed tightly.

She tried to hold back..... but tears eventually flowed down her cheek.

Paths of these siblings had diverged completely in this immemorial flow of time. No amount of talking would make them converge again.

No matter how sorrowful and heartbreaking it was, it was time to decide.

“I’m sorry, Elder Brother. But I can’t let you do as you wish.”

“Then try to stop me..... if you can!”

Ran shouted then dashed towards Ara. In that moment, Ara who concentrated all her body’s energy into her feet also jumped off the ground.

Her movement was even quicker than a tear drop trickling down her face and dropping on the ground!

“Flying Kite!”

Ara dashed at a speed that couldn’t be caught with a naked eye as she swung her spear. Fatal attacks flew in towards Ran with each flash of light.

Flying Kite was certainly an amazing skill. It was only passed down as a spoken legend and it was an exquisite skill even Aren couldn’t master.

But you could block it if you anticipated it was coming!

Clank! Clank! Clank! While hiding his uneasiness, Ran used every senses available to him to wave his blade. Making his blade clash with the spear was the best he could hope for. He couldn’t do anything about receiving cuts and stabs all over his body.

But Flying Kite was a skill that drained Ara’s stamina drastically so it was Ran’s victory if he could hold out just a bit longer!

Ran postured himself to avoid fatal wounds much as possible as he prepared for a counterattack after realizing he made his 6th successful block. His eyes could catch Ara’s movements now unlike before. Flying Kite’s effectiveness was running out so this was the time to counter!

Ran smiled with satisfaction of victory as he stabbed his blade towards Ara’s chest. Ara who was just dashing in will never react in time.....

Girl’s eyes that were scattering tears but containing a strong will struck at his heart.

“.....”

Those eyes...he should have seen them somewhere. Ran unconsciously blinked blankly at this sense of déjà vu. Those eyes he couldn't remember clearly but saw long ago.....

Sasha.

“Ah.....”

This was probably what he wanted to see one more time. White spear stabbed towards Ran's chest the moment he exclaimed.

There was no pain.

Steel and steel, white armor and black armor clashed. In middle of a contest of strength to push each other away, Chung asked regrettably.

“Father, why are you still trying to stand on D's side?”

“.....”

Helputt only grunted and didn't answer. Chung shouted wholeheartedly.

“I've shown you plenty of the El Search Party's and my strength! Chances of defeating D will become higher if father lends us your strength right now!”

“Then what happens if he isn't defeated?”

“Pardon me?”

Depressed voice flowed out from Helputt's helmet.

“Even if I help all of you and fight against D, what do you think will happen when we fail? Do you honestly think I haven't thought about going against D myself? And do you think I don't know what will happen as a result?”

“.....”

Helputt obviously had the same thoughts as Chung initially. No, not just a thought, Helputt probably had times where he put his thoughts into action.

“Just where is the proof that it will be different this time?!”

“.....Kugh!!”

Chung's legs started to get pushed back gradually. Helputt was displaying unprecedented strength as if he was releasing all his pent up frustration.

But Chung couldn't let himself be beaten. If Chung fell here, there was no one left to guard Add and Eve at the back. It wasn't a set rule, but everyone had an intuition that this fight was over if one of Add or D fell.

"Then just what....."

He won't get pushed back anymore. Chung shouted loudly right in front of Helputt's surprised face.

"Then just what is it that you want, father?!"

"Ugh?!"

"Because it didn't work out last time, it won't work out again. Is that your conclusion father?!!"

Chung's words struck Helputt's heart.

"Father, you must have seen countless battles that I don't know about. That's why you must have made such radical choice of turning your back on Hamel and joining hands with the demons! I do understand. But that doesn't make that choice a righteous one!!"

"Then what is righteous?!!"

Helputt who had been getting pushed back by Chung's sudden counterattack shouted angrily and started to hold his ground. Helputt retorted when two of their strengths came to an equilibrium.

"You don't know about the despair of this broken time! About this time that keeps repeating itself no matter how much you struggle!"

"Yes father, I won't know well as you with fragmentary memories I have!"

Chung's continuing words..... will be a cruel attack to his father. Chung's face became momentarily filled with anguish inside his helmet but he made up his mind.

He had to defeat Helputt to lead this battle into victory.

"But even so, I won't cowardly give up like you, father! No matter how hopeless the situation may seem, I won't submit to it and go down an unrighteous path!"

"....."

Helputt's movements instantly stopped. His heart became stifled soon as he heard Chung's words and..... he literally broke down.

There shouldn't be any father that could maintain his composure after being called a coward by his own son.

Not only that, but to think he'd hear such words from a son he tried to protect no matter what from this Time War!

Helputt got pushed back largely because his stance completely broke down after showing a huge opening. Chung spun his destroyer around and aimed it forwards.

"I'm sorry."

There were no more words.

Ran opened his eyes narrowly and looked down. White spear had stopped directly in front of his chest.

There was no pain because he wasn't stabbed.

".....What is this?"

Ran let out an empty sigh. Even though this was a fight that had been repeated countless times, they were fighting with their lives on the line..... This really spoiled the mood.

Ara who gave up on taking Ran's life at the very last moment slowly withdrew her spear.

"Elder Brother, you lost to me."

"I won't go back to being a human even if you do this. Let me tell you since we're on the topic. You fought countless times trying turn me back but there wasn't a single time that you succeeded."

Ran mocked bitterly. This revelation was obvious since the El Search Party had never defeated D, but listening to it directly from Ran's mouth was different.

Ara was shocked internally but her will didn't waver.

"Elder Brother Aren, give me a chance to turn you back into a human."

"That's not even funny....."

Ran sent his sister a sympathetic gaze.

She wasn't too bright in worldly affairs and used to worry him a lot. But to think she'd say something so naive after coming this far...

"Do you think that can happen just by wishing? Situation in this broken world is always the same. There were times when trivial things had changed but the general flow is always similar. Only the place and time where you guys were defeated had changed, there was never a time when I turned back to a human."

“No.”

Ara shook her head adamantly.

“That’s because Elder Brother never thought about going back to being a human.”

“.....”

“It’s because you decided the history and time was fixed and gave up.”

Ara’s words were right on the mark. Ran obviously didn’t cooperate with D from the start..... He resisted in the beginning and tried various attempts to escape but all those tries only confirmed that there was nothing he could do to end the Time War.

His role was to be forced into participating in this endlessly repeating time, the game of dice rolls.

Ran gave up in the end and accepted this truth. He also had his wish of meeting with the Water Priestess Sasha which was the gift that D was going to grant him. But the despair that nothing will change no matter what he did had consumed him.

Ran unknowingly spoke out because his sister whom he thought was only innocent and naïve was now sending him such a righteous and imposing gaze that seemed to be piercing right through him.

“What a joke. Why do I have to go back to being a human? I’m enjoying killing humans as a demon so much.....”

“Elder Brother, don’t say such things even if it’s a lie.”

Ara must have become very upset because she shook her head sorrowfully.

“If that’s what you really thought then you wouldn’t have made such suggestion to me in Hamel.”

“.....I don’t remember too well.”

Ran closed his mouth after realizing his answer was empty.

Was it because he saw Sasha’s face in the brink of death? He was talking too much unlike himself.

Ara who dropped her spear approached Ran slowly. Ran instinctively waved his blade and small piece of Ara’s hair got slashed off.

“.....You didn’t attack seriously.”

“.....”

To think she’d risk her life to test him..... Ran tried to take a step back then frowned.

He couldn’t help but to ask.

“What use is there in me turning back into a human? Will anything change by doing that?”

“If Elder Brother wants to turn back into a human..... then we have to end this broken world first.”

So was she trying to convince him to help her fight against D? Ran smiled bitterly.

“Your words don’t make sense. D needs to be defeated for me to turn back into a human. But since D couldn’t be defeated, I accepted the fate of fighting against the El Search Party as a demon.”

“.....You’re mistaken, Elder Brother.”

Ara tone was slightly hesitant but she replied seriously. Ran shook his head bitterly.

“It wasn’t like I was glad to be imprisoned in this endless battle. I made over hundreds of attempts to escape but they were all for naught.....”

“There’s still one thing you haven’t tried.”

Ran unintentionally payed attention to Ara’s next words. Just what mistake did he make?

“You never asked me for help, Elder Brother.”

“Even with your help.....”

“I might seem weak to you, Elder Brother. But we, the El Search Party aren’t weak. See how we’re still fighting right now?”

Yes, Ara did fight on equal level as him at least. And..... Ara was right.

Ran had never imagined even during his tens and hundreds of failures, the choice of revealing the circumstances to Ara and asking her for help.

Even back in Hamel he only tried to detain Ara and never explained the exact circumstances to her.

Ara should be weak so she couldn’t even defeat him. Asking Ara for help would only increase the corpse count by one. And.....

“.....”

And since an older brother who begs his sister for help looked like the biggest idiot in the world.

Ran became completely frozen from the thought that flashed by his head. Part of his mind that he wasn’t conscious of had surfaced for a moment..... and although he felt reluctant about it, he sensed that this was the truth.

“You got to be kidding me.....”

Revealing everything to Ara and asking her for help was so lame..... so he never took that option into consideration.

Wasn't it useless since Ara was weaker than him? If that was the reason, then he should have changed his mind the moment Ara defeated him back in Hamel.

If not back then, he should have at least got slight hints about it when Ara was fighting equally against him just moments before. But he had never imagined the choice of borrowing Ara's strength.

Because of his pride as an older brother.

“Elder Brother?”

“.....It's nothing.”

Ran frowned as he placed his hand over his face. He felt so dumbstruck after realizing his own feelings.

Ran sighed after rubbing his eyes to ease the fatigue.

“Why do I have to listen to you?”

“What do you mean?”

“If I let D win like this then I'll obtain the time I want. So why should I join you now?”

He wanted to listen to what answer his sister gave. Ara hesitated for a moment then slowly opened her mouth.

“No matter what happens, my feeling of wanting to turn Elder Brother back into a human won't ever change.”

Was that all to her answer? Thankfully, Ara's words weren't over yet.

“My wish is to turn Elder Brother back into a human.”

“That's your wish.....”

“Yes, so I'll also grant Elder Brother's wish.”

Ran was silent from Ara's conclusion. Ara spoke carefully, but resolutely.

“You'll grant my wish, Elder Brother. And I'll help you grant your wish.”

“.....”

“As Elder Brother should know very well already, Ara always keeps her promise.”

Ara made a face filled with determination then abruptly held out her hand. She was asking for a handshake. Ran was keeping silent while looking down at his sister's bare hand then he clicked his tongue.

She was his little sister..... but she's so hopeless.

“You must think that's a good answer..... But as I said, D will quickly clean up this situation. I have no reason to go with your offer that has a low chance of success. Why do I have to go out of my way to walk a difficult path?”

“Ah.....”

Ara became flustered as if she didn't expect this response. Her strong and reliable demeanor disappeared instantly and she was struggling very hard to think of words to convince Ran.

She was his little sister..... but he had to admit she was cute.

“I thought you'd try to rely on bonds of siblings.....”

Ara face suddenly became surprised while attempting to think of additional words to convince Ran. Ran had lightly grabbed her hand then let go.

“That was good enough considering it's you. I'll let myself be tricked.”

“.....Huh?”

“As someone who was once part of the Haan family, I'll fight together with you this time.”

Ara became overjoyed from Ran's acceptance that she opened her arms widely then hugged him. Ran didn't expect her to do something like this in the battlefield so he couldn't react in time and let himself be hugged.

“Thank you, Elder Brother Aren!!”

“.....If you're going to convince someone next time, do it without any flaws. If there is next time that is.”

Ran didn't know how to handle his sister hanging on to him like this so he just let her be.

“Ah, it was Mr.Add who told me I should convince you. He said there shouldn't have been a time when Elder Brother and I were truly on same sides.”

“.....”

Well, it was certainly unusual for Ara. Ran felt strange sense of displeasure from the name Ara called so familiarly but shook his head.

Ara's skills had already improved drastically to the point where she could match him equally. But it was only her spear skills that had improved. Her innocent and naïve personality was still the same.

And it was the older brother's job to cover for his little sister if she was somewhat lacking.

“Siblings.....”

“Elder Brother?”

“.....It's nothing.”

It would be lame to say he recalled the memory of when he was a human. Ran collected his mind then raised his blade.

“I'll open a path. Don't fall behind.”

“Yes, let's go together, Elder Brother!”

Siblings of the Haan family united their wills to fight together and end the Time War.

Words were over but actions didn't follow through. Helputt looked at the cannon aimed at his chest then let out a big sigh.

“.....Why aren't you firing?”

Chung slowly withdrew his weapon instead of answering. Add's plan was to persuade Ran and Helputt to join their side. According to Add, Ran and Helputt were so deeply consumed by helplessness and despair that they had no choice but to take the Devil's side.

But Chung wasn't doing this because of Add's plan. For him, there was never a choice to finish off Helputt in the first place.

“Father... How could I ever shoot you?”

“.....”

Chung spoke while looking up at his answerless father.

“Although father made a wrong choice..... that was to protect me who didn't know anything. Even if the time repeated infinitely, father would have never betrayed Hamel if it weren't for me.”

“It's a choice I made on my own, Prince.”

Chung shook his head after being called by his real name. Because he was weak, because he didn't know anything, he made his father fall into darkness.

“Father, please lend us your strength.”

“I said it already, but even with my help.....”

“It doesn’t matter. Help us still.”

Helputt was speechless from this unreasonable request. But Chung wasn’t saying this without reason.

“Father, you’re the Guardian of Hamel who’s been protecting Hamel with the will of steel. Even if one’s life were to end, at least never give in your soul to darkness and evil. You should know very well that this the spirit of the Seiker Family.”

“But.....”

“I may get hurt or even killed while fighting together with my comrades. But I’ll accept this gladly. No, this probably happened many times already.”

Chung raised his head and requested confidently.

“Just like your fears, since we lost last time we might lose this time as well. And we might lose next time too. Even so, we’ll still fight for Hamel and for Elrios.”

“.....Prince.”

Helputt exclaimed after reading his son’s determination. No matter what happens, no matter how strong of an enemy he faces, his son will fight without fear.

Even if that meant risking death. No..... didn’t he already die once by D? He obtained another chance to fight because Add turned back time.

His son resolved to fight for justice.... Even beyond time and death.

Helputt let out a sigh from witnessing his son’s strong demeanor that he never imagined.

“.....I was very wrong. I should have believed in you and fought together. I saw you too much as a kid.”

“No father, I was immature and weak. I thought you have passed away and tried to act carelessly because I was burning with desire for revenge.”

Son consoled the father who was filled with self-blame and regret.

“After meeting the El Search Party and sharing time together with them, I learned to fight while seeing much more broadly. I now know what it means to fight together and what I should fight for.”

“Yes, I see..... I was wrong to have tried to separate you from the El Search Party and keep you tied down in Hamel.”

His son had already become a man before he knew it. He had grown up to be a man whom Helputt could stand together with on the battlefield as equals.

“You weren’t wrong father. I was too weak and was holding you back. But..... I won’t be a burden anymore.”

“.....”

Helputt only nodded at his son’s determination. His fatigued heart from the endlessly repeating time..... melted down instantly.

Maybe he had endured until now so he could hear these words.

What should the father do for his son who grew up so much to the point of surpassing him? Helputt already knew the answer.

Helputt slowly turned around as he shouted.

“Then let’s fight together, my son!”

“Yes, father!”

Father and son’s hearts united for the first time as they headed to battle.

It obviously becomes battle for control of range if bow and blade face off against each other. Bow has the advantage at long range while blade has the advantage at close range.

But Rena and Raven’s fight didn’t proceed this way. Raven who should be closing the distance wasn’t moving.

Rena was about to aim her bow but frowned.

“What are you thinking?”

“Shoot.”

“.....”

Was he planning to deflect the arrow with his blade? Of course, she knew that Raven’s skill with the blade was amazing. It was to the point where there were very few in Elrios that could match up to him. It wouldn’t be difficult for him to defend himself even from rain of arrows.

But if Raven is master of blades, then Rena is master sharpshooter. They knew each other’s skills very well because of the time they traveled and fought side by side.

Rena who had been staring at Raven’s face for a long time lowered her bow.

“So, you don’t care what happens.”

“.....”

“You’re just planning to stand your ground regardless of if you can deflect my arrows or not.”

Rena let out an anguished sigh. She had sensed something was odd and she was right..... Raven had no intention to guard his life in the first place. Blocking Rena’s path right now was a symbol of his will that he’ll stop Rena no matter what..... It wasn’t because he was confident in his skills.

If Raven was thinking about fighting properly then he would have tried to secure a safe distance first. Rena looked at Raven regrettably while letting out a sympathetic sigh.

He was basically saying shoot me first if you want to get past me..... but Rena just couldn’t bring herself to do it.

Rena might look like she’s always gentle but she also possessed ability to make cold and level-headed decisions. If it was necessary, she wouldn’t hesitate to take the target down even if they were her acquaintances.

Since the El Search Party was in danger, she could do anything to assist them.

If the one blocking her path right now wasn’t Raven.

And if the method he was using to stop her..... wasn’t so much like him.

Raven stood silently. Rena who had been looking at him sympathetically asked slowly.

“Do I die?”

“.....”

Raven’s eyes shook very slightly. Rena became certain now from Raven’s wordless answer.

“So, there were times I died.”

Raven was hesitant if he should answer or not but he chose to keep silent. But Rena had already understood everything.

“Inside this endlessly continuing battles..... I died countless times, right?”

“.....”

It wasn't that she remembered being killed clearly..... but there was no way she would have been unharmed if such dangerous battles occurred countlessly. Even if Rena's archery skills transcended common sense, the enemy was a devil who controlled time.

It was difficult enough for her to fight Dark Nephilim that D enhanced..... so result of a direct confrontation against D was obvious.

“So, that's why you're stopping me from joining that fight. To prevent me from dying.”

“.....That's right.”

Raven gave up keeping quiet. Rena's face looked as if she was about to cry. Raven begged.

“Don't move.”

“.....”

“Just ignore it, just for a bit.”

D will win after just little longer then open the Space-Time Gate. The situation turned out a bit strange but the El Search Party couldn't overturn the fundamental differences in strength.

But Rena didn't listen to Raven's plea. She looked hesitant, but slowly began to approach him.

Raven had numerous thoughts as Rena came closer.

What should he do? Suppress her with force? He had never done such a thing before. Technique to make her unconscious won't work anymore. But he couldn't let her get past him. He even thought about suggesting they should run away.....

As Raven became completely halted from not being able to choose any of those options, Rena stood right in front of him.

“Move, Raven.”

“.....”

“Even though we're standing still, time is still moving. No one can stop that.”

Rena spoke with an anguished expression.

“Even if the result is someone's death.”

“I.....”

Raven gritted his teeth. He didn't want Rena knowing the truth in the first place. Rena would certainly act like this if she knew about truth of the Time War.

The reason Raven acted separately from the El Search Party in the first place was because he wasn't confident that he could continue to keep the truth from Rena.

Inside the time that kept repeating because of D, amongst 9 members of the El Search party, five that became aware of the truth were Eun, Aisha, Elesis, Raven..... and Rena.

Rena had originally known the truth of the Time War. But, she had forgotten until Add turned back time to resurrect her.

Make Rena forget everything.

That was the deal between D and Raven.

Raven shook his head as memories of the far past resurfaced. So many nauseating scenes rose up in his mind as various emotions whirled around within him.

Raven had no idea what he should do, or what he should say.

“Even so..... I don't want to see something like that again.”

“.....”

Raven's shaking voice. It was such a weak voice but this was honestly his true feelings. He was afraid of what face Rena might be making so he continued his words with his eyes closed.

“I know this isn't right and that this is cowardly. But even so, I can't bare to.....”

He couldn't bare to see Rena die anymore. This was Raven's one single wish during the Time War.

But..... he couldn't convey this feeling straightly. The feeling of not wanting to see someone important to you die was given for any people, but Raven couldn't help but to feel guilty about himself for his actions.

Because Rena looked strikingly similar to the beloved fiancé he lost. They were so similar to the point where they could pass as same people.

“I.....”

Seris was killed right in front of him and he couldn't do anything to stop her death. Raven was thoroughly broken by this fact and fell to the very bottom of the abyss as a result.

Until he met Rena who looked ever so like Seris.

He could make a new resolve and pull himself together because of the times he spent together with Rena. He could look at tomorrow instead of getting tied down by the brutal past.

But that Rena dies.

Under name of the Time War, D's dice rolls, El Search Party members were put through enormous pain and Rena wasn't an exception. No, she suffered the most out of everyone because unlike Eun or Aisha, she chose to face D head-on.

Raven couldn't stand this anymore and got a promise out of D to not lay hands on Rena in exchange for his cooperation. Of course, there were times when Rena fell by someone other than D, but it was still much better than before.

“.....”

Yes, it was a reasonable decision if you only looked at the cause and result.

A man who couldn't stand to watch her suffer anymore that he joined hands with the devil and erased her memories.....

Maybe from view of a third-party, they might say his actions were understandable, that he didn't make a wrong choice..... but Raven who was directly involved couldn't dare to say he was right.

“Don't go any further than this.”

Raven slowly stretched his hand out with his head still lowered. He could feel Rena's soft cheek then her round shoulder. He was afraid to confirm what face Rena had, what she was feeling as she looked at him acting like this.

“It's my selfish request..... But I can't stand it anymore.”

“.....”

“I.....”

Did Raven really do this for Rena? Wasn't it just for his self-satisfaction?

He couldn't stop Seris' death.

The biggest, irrevocable regret in Raven's life.

So he at least wanted to protect Rena who looked similar to her no matter what..... could he really say he didn't have such thoughts?

Can he be sure that he wasn't equating Rena and Seris in his mind? That he wasn't projecting his feelings of regret as he pleased?

Raven asked himself countless times during those innumerable repetitions of time but couldn't find the answer in the end. But he was at least aware that he could never say that he made the right choice, that he had no shame in the path he walked.

Yes, it was greedy, it was selfish. Equating Rena and Seris... projecting them in each other is..... such a huge disrespect to both of them.

He knew.

He knew down to his bones that this wasn't right.

But he didn't want Rena to die.

He wanted her to live.

Watching Rena smile brightly at him, towards the very person who made her unaware of the Time War, made him happy but guilty at the same time. If you looked back, the biggest reason he separated from the El Search Party was..... Because he couldn't look at her smile directly.

Because it felt like her smile was reprimanding him for his sins, because he couldn't stand the sense of guilt that he was tainting her smile.

"Raven."

He heard Rena's voice coming from above his head. Raven didn't want to raise his head but Rena was waiting for him to. When Raven suppressed his fear and slowly raised his head..... he could see Rena's face.

Rena was smiling with a face as if she was on the verge of tears.

"It's okay now."

"....."

"You don't have to overburden yourself anymore."

Rena conveyed quietly as if she was whispering.

“Raven, you’re an extremely righteous person. You’re not someone who would feel at ease doing something wrong.”

Tear trickled down along Rena’s cheek.

“If you were to do something wrong, it’s for someone else. It was for me.”

“But I.....”

He couldn’t say it was out of such pure intentions. But Rena slowly shook her head.

“I know, so you don’t have to say it.”

Rena continued to speak slowly, being cautious of each word she said.

“I know about what you lost, what you’re afraid of.”

“.....”

It wasn’t that Rena heard from Raven directly..... but she could tell from times she spent together with him that Raven was bound by regret from his past, and that he was being very careful so that his feelings of regret wouldn’t get conveyed to Rena.

“No, it would be too inconsiderate to say I know everything. I think two of us.....”

Rena forced herself to smile.

“Were too careful with each other.”

“.....”

Rena tried her best to make her voice sound light as possible.

“Isn’t it strange? You and I have been together for so long. Not only that, but time has repeated countless..... but there’s a wall between us. We never opened up to each other until now.”

“That’s.....”

“I know. You didn’t want to talk about what you lost and I avoided bringing it up out of respecting your choice. We were together but you were still in the past and I didn’t know what to do about it.”

Rena grabbed the Nasod hand on her shoulder and slowly brought it to her cheek. She sensed the cold steel on her face.

“So, we both ignored and didn’t touch upon that topic. I thought that was the right thing to do. But.....”

Rena had quite an hesitant expression but spoke out in the end.

“I shouldn’t have done that. If you were caught up in the past and was in pain because of it, then I should have brought you back to the present. Even if there might have been conflict in the process, even if we might have misunderstood each other.....”

“.....”

“Since you wouldn’t have had to feel so much anguish for such a long time.”

Raven didn’t know what to do from the sense of his heart being struck..... then he let out a sunken voice.

“It’s..... what I chose on my own.”

“And you wouldn’t have had to say something like this either.”

“.....”

There was no way to beat her with words. When Raven kept quiet, Rena slowly stroked the Nasod hand on her cheek.

“I didn’t want to break the wall between you and me. Because I thought that was respect. But it wasn’t respect, it was ignorance. I didn’t try to break it even while knowing you were in pain because of it.”

Rena forced herself to smile.

“In the end, I was afraid too. Afraid that I might hurt you.”

“.....”

Raven agreed wordlessly. His precious lover, Seris whom he couldn’t protect and Rena who looked just like her..... Trying to look at them separately was extremely difficult..... so there was no choice but to distance himself from Rena.

Rena spoke quietly as if understanding Raven’s feelings.

“But I’ll have to be brave from now on. I don’t want to leave you inside the wall suffering in pain. Even though this is rather reckless, I have to break the wall.”

“Rena.”

“You can stop sacrificing yourself for me now.”

Rena looked at Raven earnestly. Just like she said..... she was being brave.

Their relationship was where they cared for each other but felt more difficult about each other at the same time. Rena was now trying to break that wall.

“Instead of you one-sidedly protecting me..... I'd like you to fight together with me. I want you to stop being bound by the past and help open up the future together with me in this present.”

“If you'd like.....”

Dark shadow descended on Raven's face just when he was about to answer. He recalled how brutal Rena's demises were in this despair filled Time War.

Rena spoke gently as if she noticed Raven's thoughts.

“We fought together before we joined the El Search Party. It's now time to fight together again.”

“.....”

“If our time has stopped, then let's fight together to get our time back. No matter how many times it takes.”

Rena's voice was small but the will contained inside was indescribably powerful.

“Never giving up, even if you die, or I die, challenging once again next time.”

Hoping these words can comfort this man's heart.

“Always together.”

Was this how it felt for one's heart to be moved? Raven realized something that had been shackling him was disappearing.

It would be shameless to entrust everything to her gentleness and understanding..... but something was saying it was okay.

It should have been like this from the start. This was the right path.

“I..... may not be able to protect you.”

“Then I'll protect you.”

Rena opened her arms and gently embraced Raven. Blade and Bow, their skills were equal but the strength of their minds were dimensions apart.

Beautiful Elf's sincere voice unlocked his worn-out heart.

“Thank you for protecting me until now, Raven. Now let's fight together. For each other.”

“.....”



“I..... may not be able to protect you.”

“Then I’ll protect you.”

Raven gave a long sigh. He never imagined Rena would make such a choice after knowing the truth..... He never thought she would ask him to fight together even if the battle ahead was only filled with despair.

Rena that Raven knew would have first thought about how to exclude Raven from this fight, she wouldn't have asked him to fight together with her.

Just like she said it herself, she broke the wall and took one step closer towards him.

She was stopping distancing herself from Raven and asking him to be together with her till the end, no matter what danger or ending awaited.

And Raven couldn't refuse.

“.....Because I wanted this too.”

Just like her request, it had been so long since Raven had joined his strength with someone else to break through obstacles. It was a time he couldn't remember clearly..... but the feeling that it was ever so joyful remained intact inside him.

In this moment, Raven realized what he had really wanted during this Time War.

Stopping Rena's death was nothing more than an emergency measure. What he truly wanted was to end the Time War..... and fight shoulder to shoulder together with Rena.

Rena gently held Raven's Nasod hand as she smiled.

“Let's go.”

“Yes.”

Man who was being weighed down by his past realized his reason to fight in the present.

Victory or defeat will be determined by who falls first between Add and the Devil. Elsword instinctively realized this and rushed to face the Devil..... but there was an unexpected obstacle in his way.

“Energy Needles.”

Along with the Angel's emotionless declaration, countless electric spears flew towards Elsword. Elsword quickly raised his great sword to cover his body but each strike was heavy and difficult to withstand. Not only that, but spears had a homing feature because they kept chasing after Elsword even if he dodged.

“Eve!! Stop this!!”

But the fact that was troubling Elsword the most was that the Angel blocking his path was Eve. Although this Eve from a different time, she wasn't someone Elsword could fight without hesitation. Eve was an important friend to Elsword after all.

Elsword begged while withstanding the electric spears battering his sword.

“Don't involve yourself in this fight!”

“Talking to her is useless.”

An empty voice rang in the air then Elsword's body suddenly became frozen. The Devil had activated Void Field to tie him down. Elsword couldn't even move his mouth due to the overwhelming pressure that felt like his body was getting crushed.

The Devil shrugged dejectedly after immobilizing Elsword.

“This isn't Eve you know. She's just a broken doll that stopped functioning properly after losing her emotion.”

“.....”

Elsword had many words he wanted to say to rebuke the Devil but his mouth didn't move. The Devil looked at the Angel with a gaze filled with indescribable emotion.

But the Angel only stared forwards whether she was being watched or not.

“It seems her only feature is to counterattack against those that are hostile to me..... So she didn't activate because I was never in danger?”

Condition for the Angel to reactivate was for D to come into danger.

By strange twist of fate, the condition had never been fulfilled because D was such a powerful existence. The Devil shook his head dejectedly.

“Yes, I was seriously insane after all..... All of that just to see this again...”

The Devil smiled weakly as he stroked the Angel's cheek.

“Just to see this.....”

The Devil closed his eyes while letting out an empty sigh.

The one single moment he longed to see all this time had finally arrived. But rather than being purely glad..... agony came first.

Agony that he wasn't satisfied with just this.

“Well, devils are never satisfied.....”

Becoming emotional about Eve reactivating only lasted for a short time. Disappointment that she was merely a doll without proper consciousness was greater. No, it wasn't that she didn't have any consciousness. She did have ability to make decisions judging from how she counterattacked after witnessing Elsword's attack, then stopping her attack when Elsword was immobilized.

In the end, it was emotion that was missing. Heart that the Angel lost couldn't be recovered again.

"Then will you listen to my orders?"

"....."

Her complete ignorance was such an Eve-like response that the Devil couldn't help but to laugh empty.

"Seriously, what am I doing....."

The Devil who had been shaking his head narrowed his eyes then looked in front of him. His Void Field had disappeared. It wasn't that Elsword broke out on his own or that the Devil's power ran out. The Devil could keep the Void Field open for days if he wanted to.

Elesis pulled out the sword she had stabbed on the ground. Spilt blood dyed the ground with every movement she made.

One couldn't recover normally if the Devil and Angel's attacks injured them since the two were existences separate from this time and space.

"You'll die if you push yourself further in that state."

"I already died once."

".....Big Sis."

Elsword who was now free thanks to Elesis spoke worriedly. Anyone could tell that Elesis was in a very bad condition.

But Elesis didn't complain and spoke while only looking at her foe.

"Look forward Elsword, our enemy is still in front of us."

"But....."

"Even if I die, even if anyone else dies, we have to defeat the Devil right now."

Elesis spoke forcedly with a pale face.

"You must, if you really want to stop one person from selfishly changing everyone's time like you believe."

“.....”

Elesis' decision couldn't be changed. Elsword stared at Elesis very regrettably then finally turned his gaze forwards.

He determined that today might be the first and last time he will fight side by side with his sister as knights.

“You should know that you can't win.”

The Devil made a tired sigh then closed his eyes. It was a gesture as if he couldn't bare to watch any longer.

“I can feel the time that had been rewound returning to the present. I'll regain my control over both time and space soon. And now.....”

The Devil momentarily pondered for choice of words while looking at the Angel beside him.

“I even have this doll to help me. Even if all of you came at us together, you can't beat the two of us.”

“Eun isn't here anymore.”

Elesis said this out of the blue then turned her gaze towards the Angel.

“And Eve is moving again.”

“.....What are you saying?”

“This is the last battle, D. There's no need to hold back.”

The Devil's face froze. Elesis had accurately caught how the Devil was reluctant about taking Elesis' life again.

When the Devil didn't answer, Elesis collected her breath then held her sword in battle stance.

“Then..... let's finish this Elsword.”

“.....Yes.”

Last battle that the siblings fought together for the first time began.

Aisha lost her control over space and couldn't bring forth her possibilities anymore. Not only that, she couldn't even use her mana properly due to the side-effect of losing her power.

“But it's still more than enough to take care of you!”

Aisha fired spells repeatedly towards True Karis. True Karis was managing to block them with her scythe and dodging but she was internally feeling uneasy.

“Just how.....”

Aisha was the Dimension Princess who used to be at almost equal level to D, but wasn't she weakened now? In contrast, Karis herself was granted more power by D. But facing Aisha was making Karis break a cold sweat.

Aisha snapped while True Karis caught her breath after barely dodging series of lightings, flames and blizzards.

“How long are you going to run away, True Karis?”

“Hmph.....”

True Karis scoffed. D's side was advantageous as more time passed so she didn't need to go all out. True Karis would contribute significantly to their victory by holding down Aisha who was one of the most powerful individuals in the El Search Party.

Although Aisha was still quite powerful after losing her control over space, it was still too much for her to assist with other fights while ignoring True Karis. Not just that, but True Karis was probably the strongest amongst the enemies minus the Devil and Angel so she had to be kept in check.

Aisha muttered in frustration from not being able to make any progress.

“How lame. Did you get the position of a general by just acting pretty?”

“Watch what you say.....”

“But isn't it true? You seem to have gotten stronger so I tried to fight you for real but all you're doing is retreating. By the way, why did you change into such a vulgar outfit?”

True Karis couldn't ignore the insults being thrown at her anymore.

“What? Vulgar?”

“I think you heard me right, unless the definition of that word changed while you were running away. Ah, could it be that you lost so much clothing because you weren't confident in your face? I apologize if that's the case. I must have hurt your feelings.”

“.....”

How dare she! Karis scowled in rage. But Aisha's insults were only getting started.

“Come to think of it, you dyed your eyes black? My gosh, were you trying to copy D? Did you really think that was cool? That’s totally not appropriate for a lady no matter how much fashion sense you lack. You could have at least asked me for advice.”

“You, if you don’t shut up.....”

“Ah, sorry. Actually, I don’t think it would have helped even if I gave you advices. Even Elsword should have more learning ability than washed up demon granny.”

“.....Death Strike!!”

True Karis’ boiling rage finally exploded as Death Strike flew across the room.

But Aisha smiled in satisfaction in that moment.

“How stupid..... Lightning Bolt!!”

Defending and attacking at the same time in a battle was very difficult. Death Strike was certainly a powerful attack, but it left that much of an opening in defense!

“Ah?!”

True Karis was shocked when Aisha didn’t dodge and counterattacked. She had attacked first because she was so enraged, but thinking about it now, wasn’t her enemy the strongest magician in Elrios? No matter how much Karis powered up, was Aisha an enemy she could attack so carelessly?

“Ugh!”

True Karis quickly opened her wings and tried to run away but the blue lightning piercing through the Death Strike and flying towards her was faster.

“Ahhhhhh!!”

True Karis shook while screaming in pain after getting hit directly by the lightning.

She landed a critical hit so it was all over. Aisha tried to turn away when she realized something was wrong.

Countless Death Strikes falling towards her had not disappeared. They should normally disappear when the caster was defeated.....

“.....Kuugggh!!”

True Karis had not been killed after getting hit directly by the lightning!! Smoke was coming off True Karis as she covered her body with her four wings. Her injuries were significant but she was still alive.

True Karis had indeed become stronger and Aisha had put that into account.... But Aisha didn't take the fact that she became weaker into her calculation!!

“Ugh!?”

Boom! Boom!! It was Aisha's turn to scream. There was no way for her to dodge the falling Death Strikes. Teleport was impossible in this throne room so she had to dodge with her own feet..... but magicians weren't known for being able to take hits.

And it wasn't just any attack, it was the strongest attack of True Karis after being powered up by D. Even Aisha was in danger if she were to get hit by this!

“Ahh!”

Aisha tried to endure after being swept up by the explosions. Normal human would have died instantly, but she could at least hold out shortly by surrounding her body with mana.

But this had its limits so Aisha wasn't sure if she could hold out for more than a minute.

Aisha who had been holding out in the middle of storm of Death Strikes gripped her staff strongly. She'll die for sure if she kept defending like this, she had to do something.

Just when Aisha resolved herself to push herself to utmost limits and take down True Karis in an attempt stop the Death Strikes, unexpected interference happened.

“Atomic Shield!”

Eve had run in after realizing Aisha's danger and guarded her from the bombardment. But Atomic Shield wasn't invincible so it started to crack after five Death Strikes. It certainly didn't look like it will last long. Aisha who had been gathering mana spoke resolutely.

“I'll finish off True Karis. Take down the shield and escape quickly, Eve!”

“I refuse.”

Aisha stared dumbstruck at Eve's pompous refusal. It was a situation where she was refusing to escape from a falling building. But Eve was level-headedly focusing on repairing the shield.

Even so.... the speed that the shield was cracking was faster.

“Eve, withdraw the shield and escape!”

“I said I refuse, Aisha.”

Eve declared sharply.

“I couldn't stop Ara from getting hurt. I don't want to make the same mistake again.”

Eve's permission was needed to leave the Atomic Shield. But Aisha breaking the shield herself was a stupid choice as well. Aisha gathered more mana while trying to suppress her uneasiness.

The shield will certainly break, she had to take True Karis down in that final crucial moment. But as she gathered mana, she couldn't help but to ask.

“Why are you being so stubborn? Elsword will be sad if you die!”

“Then do you think Elsword wouldn't be sad if you were to die?”

“.....What?”

Even while still gathering mana, Aisha was surprised by such non-Evelike response. Aisha hadn't interacted too much with Eve after separating with the El Search Party.

She couldn't even recall the last time she spoke with Eve.

Eun and Elesis had accepted their circumstances and focused only on defeating D..... but Aisha couldn't accept her situation so cleanly.

The reason for D claiming the title of King of Time and causing the Time War was because of his obsession with Eve.

It was because Eve had lost her emotions.

Of course, the Angel wasn't at fault. She acted for the sake of the El Search Party and contributed even to the point of giving up her emotion circuit. Aisha knew this in her head..... but she couldn't stay so positive when this painful and lonely battle repeated hundreds... millions of times.

Aisha suddenly recalled she had been avoiding Eve because this kind of negative feeling of hers would get found out.

And when Aisha finally came face to face with Eve after all this time, she was being asked a question she never imagined.

“I don't know in detail but I know that you were our comrade as well. And.... the El Search Party never abandons comrades.”

“W-why did you mention Elsword then?!”

“You mentioned him first.”

Aisha's face turned red at the obvious indication. As she turned away, cracked Atomic Shield that was on the verge of breaking came into her view. Moby was desperately repairing it, but it was already at its limits.

“.....It won't hold out anymore.”

“It's fine. We'll win.”

Aisha became confused at Eve's words. Eve was a Nasod. She wouldn't say something without a basis.

But this shield will now break..... and the two of them wouldn't even last 10 seconds when that happens.

True Karis smiled triumphantly as she saw that the Atomic Shield was on the verge of breaking.

“Hahahaha....”

She had a huge advantage now. On second thought, Aisha didn't have particularly strong defenses either.

Her attacks were ridiculously strong but she was a magician in the end. She was a glass cannon.

Of course, True Karis' condition wasn't too good either. Electric current was still flowing in her body and her body temperature didn't show signs of dropping..... She might end up dead if she allowed one more hit from Aisha.

“That's why, I'll stomp you to death like this!”

It was obvious that Aisha was thinking the same thing inside that shield. This was a sudden death match where landing one more hit would decide the fight. Side that allowed themselves to get hit will die.

True Karis carefully continued the downpour of Death Strike. She would have preferred to be up and close to her enemy in close quarters combat, but even the ever so proud True Karis knew that even a slightest error now could mean the end.

“Ahahaha!! Die! Die! Die!!”

True Karis could see the shield's protective radius decreasing down below. She smiled satisfyingly from the victory that was close at hand..... but then realized something was strange.

She saw that Atomic Shield before..... and the speed it was breaking from her Death Strike was faster than last time.

“.....Why?”

Of course, it must be because she became stronger from D's power. But it felt strange to determine that this was correct.

True Karis looked around the battlefield from feeling uneasy then saw something horrifying. Two men in full body armors were aiming their weapons directly at her.

“Wait a moment.....”

Rain of cannon fire flew towards True Karis even before she got to speak. True Karis quickly flew to dodge the cannonballs but she had to stop the Death Strike because of this.

“Help! you betrayed us?! Now? Are you insane?”

True Karis was too shocked to be even angry. D will open the Space-Time Gate soon so why would he betray now?

But there was no time to chat.

“Haaaaaah!!”

Ara jumped up from behind True Karis and swung her spear. True Karis quickly waved her scythe to block but got pushed back from force of the impact.

Crash!

True Karis plummeted to the ground but immediately forced herself to stand up. There was almost no one in the El Search Party that could fly so staying in the air was more advantageous for her. She'd get destroyed immediately if she stayed on the ground!

“I won't let you escape, Karis!”

But Ara closed in quickly and stabbed with her spear consecutively. True Karis had no choice but to give up flight and block immediately. Only good thing for True Karis at this point was that others couldn't interfere because she was fighting too close to Ara.

Ara might get caught up if they attacked carelessly.

“.....Ahahahaha!”

In that case, let's give up on flight! True Karis changed her mind then closed in on Ara. Those idiots couldn't join in because they were afraid of hurting Ara. She had to make use of their softness!

“How dare you challenge me, weakling!!”

“Ah!”

Ara started to get pushed back when True Karis started her offense seriously. Ara could have handled normal Karis on equal grounds but True Karis was on a totally different level.

If you only counted physical might, True Karis was stronger than Ran! No, strongest amongst demons!! With each slash of True Karis' scythe, Ara's arm shivered and blood got split from the cuts she received.

"Ara, pull out!!"

Aisha shouted impatiently from noticing Ara's danger. Aisha was too specialized in magic that destroyed everything in a large area..... she couldn't do much to help if they were fighting that close together.

"You think I'll let you?! I'll win if I can just stall for time anyways!"

True Karis stuck close to Ara when she attempted to pull back. But Ara held her spear in short reach then twirled around to strike as if she was waiting for True Karis to come close. True Karis became internally surprised from the fierce counterattack as she pulled her body back to dodge.

".....Do you really think you can take me on by yourself?"

"Of course, Karis!"

True Karis mocked when Ara's fighting spirit didn't diminish even though she was obviously losing.

"You couldn't beat me when your home town was turned into a sea of blood..... So what's making you so confident now? Did you become even stupider since the last time I saw you?"

"She's confident because of this."

True Karis gasped from the voice that came from behind Ara then quickly stepped back. Giant shadow appeared and slashed at the spot she had been.

True Karis shouted with a face of disbelief.

"Ran! Even you?!"

"We'll take down Karis first, Ara."

Ran didn't respond and rushed in while mixing blade and shadow claw attacks. He was trying to not give True Karis any time to take flight. True Karis knew this too but she had no choice but to focus on defending because Ran's attacks were too fierce.

And Ara's spear was pushing in from the side. True Karis had to accept her losses and dodge, this came at the cost of her chest getting scratched widely by the shadow.

Karis shouted in despair as she was pushed into a corner.

“Ran!! Just why? Why are you betraying D and me now?!”

“My objective was different from yours from the start.”

Ran answered stiffly then made a wide swing with his blade.

“Black Destiny!!”

Powerful wave of demonic energy rushed forwards. True Karis knew that it was all over if she was caught by this attack so she flew up immediately..... but she was struck by the cannon fire from Chung and Helputt that had been waiting for the right timing.

“Aaaaah!!”

Due to the unusual combination of Ran, Helputt and Chung’s attacks, True Karis ended up getting caught by the Black Destiny. Terrifying demonic energy scratched and tore her apart.

But even through the pain of her body getting torn apart, True Karis gritted her teeth and waved her scythe.

“Don’t joke with me..... Know your place!! I’m the one who made you into a demon, Ran! How dare you betray me! I won’t forgive you! You cannot surpass me!”

“I was never thankful for it.”

Ran spoke coldly then blocked True Karis’ scythe. True Karis crazily waved her scythe. Only her desire to kill Ran remained now that her body was burnt and broken.

“Kugh.....”

No matter how strong Ran was, it was too much for him to block True Karis’ attacks especially when she wasn’t caring for her own safety anymore. True Karis made a lunatic smile from hearing Ran grunt in pain.

“I can’t die alone, not alone! You have to die too, Ran!”

“Haaaaah!!”

Ara rushed in to help her brother. True Karis sensed this distraction and waved her scythe with an enormous force.

“Ran’s sister! I’ll kill you too!”

While hearing True Karis’ malicious scream, numerous thoughts flashed by Ara’s mind as she ran in.

True Karis was powerful. Even Ran couldn’t handle her alone. Not only that, she was burning out all her strength due to being at the verge of death right now. There was no way Ara could win by facing her directly.

But she couldn't dismiss her brother's crisis. She'll clash directly and win. Directly.....but how? How could she possibly beat such a powerful attack.....?

“Ah.....”

Ara exclaimed suddenly in revelation then threw herself towards True Karis' scythe while holding her spear up in a slant. True Karis was about to scoff from the act of willingly coming to die but then opened her eyes widely in surprise.

“Counter Switch!”

Ara shifted her spear's center of weight miraculously to make the scythe flow by to her side. It was a skill that made use of the principle that even the fiercest of attacks couldn't beat something soft.

“Ugh?!”

When her attack missed and Ara closed in, True Karis gritted her teeth as she waved her arm. Her claws could easily tear apart normal human beings, but Ara wasn't afraid in the slightest.

“Haaaaaaah!”

Ara waved her spear widely while flipping and dodging. Her movements were like a flower petal waving about in the wind, but one cannot snatch the falling flower petal with their hand!

Ara's spear flew about like an uncatchable flower petal then slashed across True Karis's chest.

“.....Kugh!”

Karis gasped in shock then looked down to see that she was cut in the same place that Ran had cut before. She was blinking in disbelief then stared blankly at the people that got in her way.

Aisha, Eve, Chung, Helputt, Ara and Ran were watching her demise.

“.....You're all hecklers till the end.”

True Karis fell after leaving a resentful remark.



Her movements were like a flower petal waving about in the wind,
but one cannot snatch the falling flower petal with their hand!

Elesis was dying.

Her wounds opened every time she moved and blood got spilt. But her head was becoming clearer in contrast.

“Condition perfect.... But I can’t head out.”

Elesis smiled bitterly then held her sword in short reach to get rid of the shock wave that was trying to tear her apart. The Devil scowled then fired more shockwaves. Elesis couldn’t move because she was busy nullifying those attacks.

The Devil asked boringly while attacking.

“Why are you only defending?”

The Devil will regain his control over space and time if Elesis only stalled for time..... her injuries were getting worse just by moving so she was basically killing herself by confronting him. But even though Elesis was continuing to fight by burning away her life, she didn’t show any signs of impatience.

Elesis spoke out of the blue after getting rid of three Void Impacts at once.

“Come to think of it D, you’ve never killed me before.”

“You have bad memories.”

It hasn’t been too long since the Devil executed Elesis for treason. But Elesis gave a vague smile in response.

“The way you talk now is strangely similar to Add.”

“.....”

The Devil swung his arm in a fit of bad mood and caused a shapeless shockwave around him. Elesis read the invisible attack by instinct and jumped back lightly to dodge.

“.....What are you thinking?”

“That was a trap.”

It had been a perfect situation for Elesis to approach the Devil using the aerial jump attack from before..... but she merely jumped and dodged.

The Devil stopped attacking because he couldn’t understand.

“What are you planning, Elesis? Chances of you winning decreases the more you stall for time.”

The shockwave the Devil caused just now was an obvious trap, but it should have been a very enticing bait for Elesis. Elesis smiled beamingly then shook her head.

It was a gentle smile she rarely showed after turning her back on Elrios and became D's knight.

"My prince always pretends to be coldhearted but isn't."

".....I'm the king of time. No, I'm the king of space and time now."

The Devil couldn't comprehend this situation even while exchanging conversations. Wouldn't one fight desperately if their life was going to end?

But Elesis was just passively defending.

Maybe she was hoping something from Elsword? But Elsword was facing the Angel's swift movements with brute strength.

It was a tight battle, no abnormalities there.

"There's no one who can judge me. No..... maybe you're an exception."

The Devil cancelled his own words then frowned. Unlike Raven, Helputt and others that submitted due to despair and overwhelming power difference, Elesis had joined him because she understood his feelings.

Although they became enemies at the end, he couldn't deny that he treated her specially.

"And you? You're being unusual too, smiling like that. Wasn't it your way to cut first than think later once you held up your sword?"

"It wasn't always like that before. Long before."

The knight who was on the verge of death and the Devil stopped fighting and exchanged conversations.

"Is it because I'm about to die? I remember the old times."

Elesis smiled bitterly.

"Very long ago, when Eve still had emotions."

"....."

"Everyone said it wasn't your fault but you didn't listen. And that's why things turned out like this."

She wasn't blaming or scolding the Devil. She didn't have the right to since she never stopped and merely watched Add turn into D.

“Although this might sound bland..... I know how you feel.”

“Stop already if all you’re going to do is talk about the past.”

Even while answering coldly, the Devil’s gaze was chasing the Angel who was fiercely pressuring Elsword. The Devil seemed to be trying to seek something from her face, but shook his head in the end.

“I’m done talking about the past.”

“Then shall we talk about the now?”

Blood that trickled down Elesis’ legs was making a pool of blood on the ground but her voice was same as always. No, it was much brighter than usual.

The Devil frowned from this abnormality but listened to her quietly. He had nothing to lose anyways and also.....

“You can’t be coldhearted in the end, D.”

“Is that a compliment? or.....”

“I’m saying you’re too soft.”

Elesis looked at the Devil sympathetically. She didn’t look like someone who was dying.

“You became incomparably stronger after conquering time..... but at the same time ended up becoming separated from space-time and became unable to properly influence the current time. Not only that, but there was never a time when you were in proper danger amongst those countless repeating times.”

“.....”

“After you became the Prince of Time, you had never been in real danger.”

Just like Elesis said, today was the first time the Dimension Distortion barriers surrounding the Devil had broken. The Devil placed his hand on his forehead then glared at Elesis who was seemingly speaking randomly.

“Are you trying to buy time with idle chatter.....”

“.....”

The Devil’s face froze when Elesis kept smiling bitterly. That’s right, something was strange.

Elesis was..... stalling for time.

She didn't come to attack him and only defended. Then she was bringing up old stories to keep the Devil occupied.

That was her goal.

“See? You're not coldhearted at all. Just because I'm not attacking first even though I'm dying, you're not going out of your way to finish me off. You didn't want to finish me off if you didn't have to, am I right? You were reluctant about it. Since, just like you said, you'll win if you waited just a bit longer. You don't want to kill me for the second time.”

It was just like she said. The Devil determined that Elesis was critically wounded and wasn't a threat. That's why he didn't put serious effort to end her life.

The Devil's gaze headed towards Elesis' blood drenched clothes.

“You, could it be.....?”

Although there was no way to recover properly from injuries received from the Devil and the Angel, that bleeding was still unnatural. It wouldn't be that bad if she at least covered up the wounds with bandages.

The Devil's eyes shook after realizing everything.

Elesis was..... stalling for time by even consuming her own life! Even showing all that blood loss was to shake the Devil's heart.

“What are you aiming for.....?”

“There's only one thing that someone who throws themselves into a fight wants.”

Elesis withdrew her smile then replied coldly.

“It's victory.”

“Freezing Arrow!!”

In that moment, arrow that was glowing with blue light came flying aiming for the Devil's back. The Devil became surprised but quickly dodged.

Dimension Distortion Barrier was gone now, he couldn't allow himself to get hit!

“Haaaah!!”

But Raven's blade flew in aiming for his face as if it was waiting for him to dodge the arrow. The Devil quickly fired a Void Impact to counter but Raven didn't defend and thrust with his blade.

“What?!”

Normal people would defend if they were going to be attacked. But Raven was waving his blade disregarding his own safety.

D became impatient and quickly tried to dodge with Reverse Circle then turned his head around.

“Ejection.....!”

Elesis was gathering large amount of demonic energy in her sword. This was a three-pronged attack, was Elesis stalling for time in order to launch this cooperative attack with Raven and Rena?

It was dangerous, should he dodge?

“.....Don’t make me laugh!!”

Even though he became startled by the unexpected situation, he was the King of Time, no the King of Time and Space!

The Devil read the trajectory of Raven’s blade and temporarily opened a Dimension Distortion Barrier in that location. It shouldn’t hold Raven’s blade for long but it still bought him small time.

“Buste.....”

“How dare you pull this cheap trick!”

The Devil urgently used the shockwave of his voice to throw Elesis away. Voice is a wave that gets transferred through space, the Devil’s control over time was so transcendental that he could perform this kind of abnormality to space.

Elesis got pushed back far and Ejection Buster got cancelled.

Immediately, the Devil didn’t even aim properly and fired Energy Bomb towards Rena. He could hear Rena who had been trying to fire her next arrow quickly dodge to the side. After taking care of two people, the Devil threw a kick towards Raven who was about to launch a blade thrust again.

Raven hadn’t expected D to respond with physical combat, but he still calmly blocked the kick with his Nasod Arm. But the Devil used that to his advantage and jumped into the air by stepping on the Nasod Arm then opened a dimension gate above him.

Quadruple Stardust Shower, no one could withstand these wide barrage of gravity orbs.

“Who do you think I am!?”

“.....Black Density!”

Purple demonic energy swept over the dimension gate that was about to open then forced it to close. Even though the Devil was at a loss for words from his Stardust Shower becoming cancelled, he

understood what had happened. Those that were once El Search Party or demon generals could nullify Add and D's shockwave and space related attacks.

They could because the Devil taught them how to.

To play the dice game, demons should be able to defend against Add's attacks up to certain extent. He had to grant them at least that much power to prevent them from getting defeated by Add.

“How dare you.....”

He basically strangled his own neck by teaching them. The Devil stood on his Dynamos in midair then turned his enraged gaze towards Ran.

“Challenging me when you know the difference between our strengths? Are you insane?!”

“.....”

Ran didn't reply and grabbed his blade tightly. Even though he knew how to nullify D's attacks, he wasn't a match for D in terms of sheer amounts.

The Devil fired 10 consecutive Void Breakers trying to shatter Ran's entire body. It was an attack one could see coming but was impossible to block due to not having enough hands.

“Hmph!!”

But Helputt ran in and waved his cannon to destroy some of the Void Breakers aimed at Ran. Ran also waved his blade so all 10 Void Breakers got nullified.

But that just enraged the Devil even more. He was going easy on them and now they were trying crawl up too far.

“If 10 is not enough, then I'll fire 100.....”

“Haaaah!!”

But then, Ara jumped up with a clear shout. The Devil was flying 7 meters in the air, it was a height Ara couldn't reach normally even if she knew windwalk technique. She had jumped up even higher right now by stepping on Chung's cannon.

Ara's spear drew an arc as it smashed down on the Devil's head. The Devil opened up a temporary Dimension Distortion Barrier just like he did with Raven's attack.....

“Falling Dragon!!”

“Kugh?!”

But his body plummeted to the ground! The energy Ara emitted had transferred the shock across the barrier. There was no direct damage to his body, but he couldn't stop himself from falling to the ground.

“Kuuagh!!”

The Devil shouted in pain after gracelessly falling to the ground. The shock from the fact that he got completely toyed around by the continuous attacks, and that his plan of purging them all leisurely from the air was foiled made him unable to stand up from a moment.

“Kugh!!”

But staying down only meant death. The Devil urged himself to stand up but found that the attacks against him had unexpectedly stopped. The Devil pulled his body up while feeling confused then realized the reason.

The Angel who had been fighting Elsword had come back and was standing between him and his enemies.

“.....”

The Devil's face as he looked at her back suddenly turned into an agonized scowl. The Devil walked up to the Angel then grabbed her shoulder. He tried to push her to the back..... but failed.

She was heavy because she was a Nasod, and couldn't be moved with his physical strength.

“Stop doing something stupid and stay back.”

Of course, the Angel didn't even pretend to listen. She didn't listen even though she had the ability to communicate and make decisions.

The Devil was frowning when a bold voice was heard from in front of him.

“.....Surrender, Big Brother.”

Everyone with Elsword standing in the front were aiming their weapons against him. Elsword, Aisha, Rena, Raven, Eve, Chung, Ara, Elesis and even Ran and Helputt.

Everyone was his enemy now.

“Karis is dead..... and the rest betrayed? No one listens even though I'll grant the time they want.”

No one answered and only enflamed their wills to fight. Was it Elesis' plan to stall for time so they could create a moment where everyone could launch a combination attack?

The Devil looked bitterly at Elesis for a moment then slowly folded his hands into fists.

“Surrender? Why would I ever surrender? I’ll completely conquer space and time soon. You’re the ones who are at a disadvantage by wasting time with idle chatter! Just come at me, you idiots!”

6 space-time orbs formed around the Devil’s body as he hollered in anger.

“Maximum Strike!”

It didn’t matter if he was left alone, he’ll destroy them all! But then..... even though he didn’t expect her to, the Angel standing beside him moved as well.

“Thousand Star.”

Light and Darkness gathered at one place and emitted such a powerful pressure that increased the tension in the enemies of the Devil and Angel.

An empty laugh broke that silence.

“Kukukukuk, Kahahahahaha!!!”

The Devil shook with laughter.

A knight he trusted more than anyone else and the subordinates he persuaded all betrayed him.

Even someone who understood his feelings, and everyone else, they didn’t follow him to the end even though he promised he’ll grant them everything they wanted.

He was now fitting to be called a god but there was no one left beside him.

He only had one person left, and that was the Angel who remained by his side even though she lost her emotions because of his stupidity. She was only a residue of what he truly wanted..... but she was such a suiting partner for him who had fallen to despair and ruin.

The Devil who had been laughing loudly for a while stopped laughing at once then declared coldly. This time, with a serious intent to kill.

“Fine! I’ll destroy everything! I’ll destroy everything and build it all over again!!”

“Everyone, let’s go!!”

The Devil declared and Elsword shouted in response. It was finally time for everything to end.

3. End of Time and Space