

Beast Master 1311

Chapter 1311 Relief Logistics

While Karl was busy with the north side of the city, the rest of the Darklight Host had mobilized to help the survivors in what everyone was calling 'the safe zone' closest to the Guild House.

That was where all the Mythic Warriors had arrived from, and with the

Gargoyles on guard, nothing dangerous could get close to the survivors who had gathered in and around the yard for the healing totem pulses.

The kitchens were working overtime, and they had recruited all the kitchens of the Alliance to help them as well.

Drogh might have lost a huge portion of their population, but there were tens of thousands of people crowded into the streets near the Frostfire Gates, and more were arriving by the minute.

All of them needed medical attention, most of them would need food. And over the next few days, the situation would only get more dire, unless there was an organized effort to set up some sort of relief stations.

The same was true down by the docks, where warehouses had been opened to run a barbecue and soup kitchen run by whoever was in good enough shape to help.

With the help of the reinforcements from Zilaz, that was a rapidly increasing number.

They had worked hard to get enough kills to pay off the healing totems that Karl had been handing out, and from what Tessa could tell, the Guild wouldn't actually end up owing too much money.

Many of the warriors hadn't gotten nearly enough kills to pay off the totem, so they had gathered corpses from their Guild Alliance members, and that had greatly reduced the number of cash payments that they were expected to make.

It didn't decrease her confusion when the first few Mythic Warriors arrived at the Guild House and Tian couldn't properly relay the issue to her, though.

The Fox forgot that he could send Guild Messages, so he had been trying to pantomime the explanation until Thor came over and took pity on him.

The influence of the red dragon had let her know that something was happening as soon as the attacks started, but she was in the Dungeon with Nachtia and a group from the Alliance.

So, they couldn't come over until they were finished, and by then things were already in chaos.

The Red Dragon was pleased with the response, but the actual battle was well beyond her level, so she was left to tend to refugees while Nachtia did her best to channel death energies for advancement while helping with the healing.

And there was an abundance of death energy.

The frogs might only have had simple skills, but their vital energy was strong, and that translated to strong doses of death energy when they were slain, which hung over the city like an invisible miasma.

Granted, she wasn't the only one who wanted a share, but it was a most excellent opportunity.

"Thor, what is Karl up to? I thought that he would be back by now!" Tessa asked.

"He's on the other side of the river helping dig people out from the rubble. They're all being sent this way because there is nothing left over there. But he's going to be distracted for a while with our new brother." Thor explained.

"New brother? Don't tell me that Karl tamed one of the frogs. That will definitely cause trauma to the residents of Drodh."

Thor smiled and shook his head. "No, he found a baby turtle. It's a good brother, I think."

"Oh? What sort of powers does it have?" Tessa asked.

Thor shrugged. "It has something called [Implacable], where it can't be confused or put to sleep. But I don't know what other skills it has."

That didn't sound too terribly impressive to Tessa, but she would take Thor's word on the fact that it was actually a strong magical beast. Karl wouldn't have picked it if it wasn't, and his skills would make it formidable as long as it had the ability to grow to match his rank.

Matron Blackclaw came out just then, looking haggard and exhausted.

"I've accounted for all my kids. Two are with Sapphire, but all are alive. We've got another thousand litres of rice and beans cooked now, eight bulk pots full. If you can help us bring them out, I would appreciate it." She began.

Tessa nodded. "We've got plenty of helping hands. How are things inside the caves?"

"Good for the moment, but we've closed the doors to the workshop, so most of the city hasn't realized that the caves exist yet. Once they do, I suspect that we're going to have countless requests for temporary lodging." She explained. The number of houses and businesses lost during the battle would make it impossible to get everyone settled easily.

There were matters of succession, inheritances, property with no clear owner, and tenants displaced from rented housing. Fortunately, large portions of the Sprawl were Drodh City housing projects, and everyone knew who was in charge of rebuilding them.

Assuming that Lord Drodh was alive and well.

He hadn't been seen on this side of the city since the start of the battle, but he was strong enough that he should have been alright unless he got ambushed by a stronger Immortal Rank being.

The Governor was alright. They knew that much because he was with Sapphire right now, and the dragon had been keeping everyone updated on her situation.

"Hey, you six! Come give us a hand with the next batch of food. The Orphanage Matron has prepared dinner." Tessa called, bringing a group of Wrath Demons running in her direction.

"Just head into the workshop there, and Matron Blackclaw will show you where the cauldrons are. She's got more than enough for everyone nearby, and we will make more as soon as these pots are empty." Tessa directed.

That was good enough for the Demons.

If there was food now, and a promise of food later, then there was no need to fight over it or try to hoard it.

Not that they were likely to be successful at taking and hiding anything from the Darklight Host. The Guild was simply terrifying in their abilities, and those Mythic Gargoyles watched your every move like you were a potential threat.

Chapter 1312 Lost And Found Lizards.

[I can help with this.] Leo suddenly announced, startling everyone, as Karl carefully cleared the rubble of a destroyed apartment building.

The newborn turtle didn't leave his space, he simply waved his flipper and all the broken bricks lifted off the pile and moved to the side. Underneath was another cellar stairwell, the standard hiding spot of the Redwood Sprawl's residents.

This one was also filled with terrified demons, but they also recognized Karl as soon as they saw him.

"Oh, you're the healing tree's friend. Thank you for the rescue. I take it that we can come out now?" One of the demons asked.

"You can. The attackers are all gone, except the ones hiding in the ruins. Just make your way toward our Guild House, and you'll find more help," Karl recited, using his standard response for those looking for assistance.

"Thank you, Guild Leader. We will check a few more homes, in case our friends are still nearby."

Karl nodded. He was using thermal vision and soul sight to spot hidden people, so he wasn't likely to miss many, even if he couldn't smell or hear them. But the more, the merrier when it came to looking for survivors.

Karl was clearing buildings when he noticed a small group of Mythic Rank auras in front of him. They were too small to be frogs, so they were most likely from one of the other portals.

The problem was, he didn't know whether they were hostile or not.

So, he knocked on the wall of the collapsed building that they were hiding in, and tried conversation first.

"Are you alright in there? We have aid stations set up for the wounded." He tried.

If they were going to pretend that they were locals, who had been injured or trapped in the invasion, this was their best chance.

But it was a few seconds before anyone answered.

{Uhm, we don't speak much Demon. Do you speak Serpent?} One of them asked in the Serpent tongue.

Definitely not locals, if they didn't have the system translating for them at Mythic Rank.

Remi came out, and poked her head through the remains of the door.

{I speak serpent. Did you come here through one of the portals? We're not going to attack you for ending up here.} She offered.

A small lizardfolk woman came forward in what looked like a defensive

position, trying to block her group from Karl, while talking to Remi.

{We did. We're not runaways, I swear. The portal just opened and we fell through.} She pleaded.

{This city doesn't keep lizardfolk as slaves. As long as you're here, you're free people. No matter what your Rank. Well, the very weakest aren't allowed in the city without paying, but there are no Immortals in this place.} Remi offered.

{No Immortals? Like none on the whole world? Are we in the Mortal Realms? Or is this a farm planet?}

{This is the Mortal Realm. And there are Immortals, plus a Supreme Ranked guardian on the planet. I just meant that there are none in the city right now, and they don't bother us.}

The lizardfolk woman moved further into the light, and Karl noticed that there was a collar around her neck with a number on it.

[Slave Collar] Marks unit 184532105 as property of Oobleck, Void Tier Immortal. Please return to owner if found.

Karl tried not to laugh at the 'lost pet' type warning tag on the item, which was an Immortal Rank binding collar. The wearer wouldn't be able to disobey orders from the controller of the item, and the item could be used to shock or even kill them at will.

Truly nefarious in practice.

"How about I remove those for you? I will keep the collars as compensation for my work." Karl suggested.

{I don't think that's possible. If you try to force them off, we will die.} The lizardfolk woman panicked.

Karl looked it over again. "No, it's fine. My technique will remove them without harming the wearer."

Remi moved right next to the woman's neck and inspected the collar, then nodded in agreement.

{I just need to cut the needles, or block them with a plate, and then Karl can remove it.}

There were poison injectors on the inside of the collar, which would plunge into the skin and deliver an unknown toxin if the collar was opened. It was a physical device, not magical, so it should activate even if Karl [Nullified] the spell locking it to their necks.

One of the others stood, an older woman, with her leathery skin wrinkled by years of hardship.

{If it works on me, you all can do it too. If it doesn't, then I die free. What more could we ask for?} The old woman insisted.

Remi dug through her stuff and found a thin sheet of Immortal Rank metal that she could stick between collar and skin, and then gave Karl the thumbs up.

[Nullify] made the gems on the collar go dim, and Remi carefully clicked the latch open to remove the offensive item.

The needles clanged into the metal plate with a solid impact that sprayed toxin, but [Cleanse] took care of that, and the collar was tossed into Remi's space for

safekeeping.

Which gave her a great idea.

Next time, she wouldn't open it, just take it. Once it was deactivated, it was freely removed, and it was only the physical opening that made the needles poke the skin. If she took the item without activating it, she could study the toxin they used and work on a proper antidote.

That would likely sell very well.

Karl nullified the next one as soon as Remi had the plate in place, and the collar vanished without the impact of needles on metal.

{Keep coming forward, we will remove them all, and then you can join the refugees on the other side of the city for dinner. How do you feel about rice and beans?} She asked.

{Dragon Cleric food? That's good stuff. Slave pens with a Dragon Cleric always

eat well. Way better than the rest of us. But Master Oobleck usually kills them when it finds out they're Clerics.}

Chapter 1313 Not Going Alone

Once Karl had the whole group freed, he found that they were unwilling to go anywhere alone. The thought of being alone among strangers terrified them, and they couldn't speak to the locals.

But they were also Mythic Ranked, which made them stand out without the ability to defend themselves.

Something about the Immortal Realm must force their bodies to advance because they were obviously not trained. But Karl wasn't sure how to ask. Remi, on the other hand, had no issues asking personal questions.

{I am an Alchemist, and I would really like to know how you got so strong without any magic or physical training. Can I examine you?} She asked.

The old woman laughed, and took a small vial from the pocket of her tattered dress.

{This is the reason that we're all strong, but helpless. It's a potion to attune our bodies to the Immortal Realm, so mana poisoning doesn't kill us. We're not actually strong, we just feel like it because we have adapted to being in a mana rich world.}

Remi silently cheered as she examined the potion.

(Oh, I think that I can recreate this. This is a good thing. Here, let me buy it from you.

Karl, pay the lady.}

Karl smirked and patted Remi on the head as the Naga got engrossed in analyzing the potion. He knew just how to pay the lizardfolk woman.

{Champion Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Healing Totem] will be transferred to the indomitable Elder SSSSSsasha.

The Elder looked confused, then her eyes went vacant as she entered the Class Change menu.

"Ah, just as I had hoped. Let me explain for the others. This world has a System, designed by the World Dragon, that allows his followers and most of the other people of the world to more easily learn magic and defensive skills.

What I did was to teach the Elder a healing spell, suitable to Shamans.

She seemed like the sort that would be suitable for Shamanistic Magic, and it appears that the System agreed. So, when she comes back, she will have some basic magic, and she will be able to defend herself, as well as understand the people of this world more easily." Karl explained.

Remi repeated his words in Serpent because the others clearly didn't know half the words he used. But once they did understand, the level of excitement had them vibrating and hugging each other.

{So, you can make arena gladiators with a skill? That is remarkable. The Gladiators have it so much easier than the rest of us. Could you please do it for the rest of us? I don't mind if it's just sandpit warriors. Your world is incredible, and we will fight to defend it when Oobleck comes back.}

Karl smiled. "He wouldn't happen to be a large Octopus, would he?"

The Lizards all nodded. {He was fighting earlier, against a big gold dragon.} From the Chaos Plane, Cara grumbled in discontent. [The food that escaped.] She really wanted to find out what that thing would taste like battered and fried. It was pretty good raw.

Hawk concurred.

"We will see about getting you all combat skills later. First, you need to follow me back to my Guild House, so that nobody mistakes you for part of the

invasion force." Karl explained.

{Anything that you need to prove our innocence, we will do it. Search us, torture us, send in the mind flayers for interrogation. We can prove we're not here to harm anyone.} The lizardfolk woman insisted.

From behind Karl, a deep voice laughed.

"Oh, you found some too, did you? I found some Obsession demons in the same situation, but they've got slave collars on. Are they part of the bounty?" A warrior asked.

Karl shrugged. "Bring them in alive and I'll count it. They're not technically part of the invading force, and they're not food like the frogs, but we will count them as rescues for credit."

"Good enough for me. I thought it was weird that they were showing as Mythic auras, but didn't possess any of the physical strength that should come with the Rank. I was going to bring them back to your Guild House, where all the politicians and Dragon Clerics are, but now that I know I can get a reward for them, I'll give them to you and go look for more."

That made Karl laugh. "I will keep notes of how many make it to me. Remi, please escort the ladies to us, and we will keep searching for survivors." Remi was happy to keep the curious new people company, and everyone in town knew who she was.

Mostly because she had 'discretely' been paying people to do product testing for her once she had a working sample.

You never knew if it was going to work properly on every species, so the less fortunate of Drodh all knew that when Remi came by, there was a chance she would give you gold to test a new product.

And if you were lucky, you might get gold plus a useful benefit that lasted more

than a day or two.

Like her hair regrowth serum, version two.

That version was targeted, so you could only regrow the hair that you wanted to get back, and not every hair that your body could possibly grow.

A minor improvement.

Karl moved toward the most recently rebuilt square, the apartment blocks that he had helped to rebuild, and tried not to fear the worst. They were among the most densely populated areas of the Redwood Sprawl, so there could be the highest rates of casualties there as well if the buildings had collapsed.

His hopes were not high, but when Karl climbed over a pile of rubble that had been a large commercial building, he found the square in shambles, with pieces of frog corpses everywhere, but the buildings completely intact.

Going by the blood spray, Rae had come through here before the damage had

really spread.

The apartment buildings still stood, and as Karl moved into the ruined market with his procession of rescues, cautious heads began to poke out of windows and doors, hoping for good news.

Chapter 1314 Save The Sprawl

"Everyone, follow me if you need assistance. Everyone is gathering in the Stone Chapel district." He shouted, bringing hundreds more people out of hiding.

"The Darklight Host came to save the Sprawl? Praise the Gods." One of the old Demons was shouting, which brought everyone out into the streets, startling the group that was with Karl.

{Are your people famous?} One of the lizardfolk asked.

Remi nodded happily. {We do a lot of charity and outreach work, and we commissioned the building of this apartment complex. Most of the people in town know our Guild, and the average power level in this city is much lower than your own.

Although with the System in place, almost everyone has some level of combat skills.}

The Demons that the other Myth had brought all looked confused.

"The overseer of this Mortal World allows you to learn combat skills? What if you try to overthrow them?" One of the obsession Demons asked.

Karl laughed. "Do you think that anything we have could overthrow a Supreme Ranked Chaos Dragon? But she doesn't actually rule the planet. She just does her best to keep anyone else from bothering her.

I don't know how they managed to break through today, but someone will pay dearly for that offence."

The Demon looked shocked. "Lord Oobleck has a Supreme Ranked master. What if he shows up here?"

"He already did. Supreme Lady Matilda took the fight to the Chaos Plane, and from what I have gathered, she is in the process of turning him into Calamari."

The Demon looked confused. "What is a Calamari?"

"Chopped, breaded and deep-fried octopus."

The Demons looked horrified, and the locals from the Sprawl began to laugh.

"I see that they've truly met the Darklight Host. Don't worry, foreigner. You'll get used to them if you spend some time in town.

Nothing scares the Darklight Host.

If you can convince them to take you in, they might even be able to fix whatever is wrong with your System Interface." One of the locals, a

Commander Rank Incubus who worked at one of the casinos, informed them. "System?" The Demon asked.

"Oh, we've got so much to teach you about. How do you feel about living in a world without Immortals oppressing you? We can teach you to fight back and use numbers to overcome their power advantage.

Your former Master, Oobleck, ran away to keep from becoming part of the menu today. If he dares to come back, we will do it again." Karl suggested.

The lizardfolk Shamaness frowned. "What sort of creature could even dare to eat a Cephalopod?"

Karl shrugged. "Well, I would. Then there is the Chaos Dragon, The Badger, most of the other dragons and dragonkin. Probably the Wrath Demons too. Even if it's super spicy or tough to chew, they're always up for a challenge."

The lizardfolk giggled. That was true. The Wrath Demons that the Immortals kept for the arena were always causing trouble. Some of them even needed to be kept chained when not in the fighting ring so that they didn't attack the overseers.

A moment later, the Dark Elven Kings appeared with a whole line of Obsession Demons and wolves. All of them were wearing the same slave collars, but these were now attached to an Elven steel chain, and marched along by the two Epic Golems.

"Are you taking prisoners now?" Karl asked as they approached.

"Well, they're not edible, so we didn't kill them. But they're from the invasion location. Can we keep them?" The Elf asked hopefully.

Karl knew that the Dark Elves had even worse intentions for prisoners than Rae usually did, so he just shook his head.

"Hand them over and I will explain the situation. Finish the cleanup, and then you can meet with Lady Rae for the final tally."

The Dark Elven Kings handed over the chains, while the new prisoners stared at Karl in horror. He didn't feel like an Immortal, but his aura was terrifying. "If I remove the chains and collars, can I trust everyone to behave?" Karl asked. One of the wolves came to bump up against his leg, and Karl laughed. They weren't a Divine Beast species, just the Immortal Realm's equivalent of Timber Wolves. But the Immortals had still collared them to keep them from advancing or learning skills.

However, in the presence of a Beast Master, they were just animals.

He needed to introduce them to Lotus.

Karl [Nullified] all the collars on the Wolves, and Remi quickly moved them all to her space, while the collared Demons watched in awe.

"That's all it takes? How do you even do that? They're made by the Immortals?" One of the Demons asked.

Karl shrugged. "It's one of my many skills. Now, can I trust you all to behave?"

The Demons nodded eagerly, and Tian laughed in his space. [They're so excited to be free. I can't wait to see what we can train them to do. They look agile, maybe we can have Sister Rae train them into new Rogues?]

That might just traumatize them even further. But it would be suitable for most of them, once Karl found out what their Obsessions were.

They all seemed to come from the same pale violet skinned lineage with curled ram horns. So, they might share similar Obsessions. However, if they were being bred by Immortal Octopus monsters, there might be something strange about their lineage as well.

Most domesticated species were chosen for desirable traits, and none of these showed the rebellious nature of someone who had been captured as an adult

should have.

So, they were likely born in the Immortal Realm, and not brought there after a

raid like today's attack on Drodh.

One after another, they dropped to their knees in the rubble.

"If you will free us, we swear to follow you faithfully, Lord Karl." They spoke in

unison.

[Dammit, I should have come back to make them do that.] Cara complained.

But she couldn't leave yet. The Supreme Ranked invader had been chopped into seafood snack packs by Matilda, and the Supreme Lady was napping while she recovered from her wounds and absorbed the life energy of her fallen foe.

If Cara was right, there was a good chance that the Supreme Lady was about to advance and become a Legend.

Chapter 1315 Whack A Mole

Matilda was indeed in the process of advancement, but with that advancement came a suppression of her powers. Her body was remaking itself as it pushed toward the borders of Divinity, and that wasn't a casual process that could be done while she went about her daily activities.

Unfortunately for everyone else, that meant that she couldn't suppress the attacks from the Immortal Realm while she advanced.

The best that she could do was to warn Cara where they were going to be, and have the badger warp space in the Chaos Plane to allow her to [Nullify] the attempts without moving.

That would keep most of them shut, but if a strong enough Immortal or a Supreme Ranked being attacked while Matilda was advancing, they would be let loose on the world without any defences.

Cara rather enjoyed this job. It was a bit like playing whack a mole, as the disturbances targeting the planet would pop up in the chaos realm like a bump on reality, and she could just smack them with [Nullify].

Matilda felt the same way when she first started doing it, but now it was more of a background process in her mind, an automatic response born of millennia of practice. When her advancement started, it was one of the last things that she lost the ability to do, but at the moment, it was one of the most important. Many creatures would sense her advancement, even though she was in the Chaos Plane, and those who had felt her disrupting their invasion or probing spells before would know that her world was ripe for a hit-and-run invasion. Most would not be brave enough to try, as they would naturally fear her retribution once she had finished the advancement to Legendary status. But there were always a few.

Ones who either didn't know better, who thought that they could sneak through without being detected, or who simply held a grudge against the ancient dragon.

If they knew that she was actually advancing to Legendary status while perfectly healthy and not while incapacitated from her fight, they might not be as brave.

But few of them could sense that much through the distortions caused by the Chaos Plane. For those who didn't understand the nature of Chaos, the space was a complete enigma, where nothing made sense, and all of the rules were wrong.

[Karl, you need to finish what you're doing, and then I need you to go to a place and slap someone.] Cara instructed.

[Well, that sounds fun. Who are we slapping? I'm good at slapping.] Leo cheered.

Indeed, with the flippers of a giant turtle, he was exceptionally skilled at slapping. And though he was a newborn, his strength was immense.

Karl sighed and turned to the new arrivals. "It seems that I am needed elsewhere, to deal with more of these impertinent invaders. However, as you have all sworn to follow me, I will offer you all the opportunity of a lifetime. If you wish to learn to fight, or heal, I will grant you that ability, and you can accompany me to repel the next group of invaders from the Immortal Realms." The Wolves howled enthusiastically. They had no idea what he was talking about, but he was excited, so they were excited.

The Demons and Lizards chuckled at the wolves. At least the beasts could fight on their own.

The Lizardfolk were the first to respond. "We will fight at your side. If you can teach us what you taught our Elder, we will follow you anywhere."

{Champion Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Healing Totem]...

The Lizardfolk all froze as they were pulled into the System Interface to do their initial class selections, and Karl got to work removing the last of the Slave. Collars from the remainder of the accidentally transported visitors.

"Does anyone have a preference? If you want to live in peace, I will have someone escort you to the Guild House, and you can help the kitchens prepare meals for the homeless." He offered.

The Obsession Demons shook their heads. A lifetime of helplessness was the last thing that they wanted. They had already experienced that nightmare, and never wanted to return.

"There are Hunters in our world, they use the dogs to track down runaways. Can you make us someone like them? Trained to fight and track down enemies? We will gladly help you eliminate the allies of the Cephalopods from your world." One of the women suggested.

Karl nodded. "I can do that. If you want to be a Hunter, pick one of the wolves, and if it likes you, then it can be your partner."

There were more demons than beasts, but the wolves were quickly chosen, without any fights.

"Alright, I will start the process, and then you will see an illusion that will tell you all about your new skills." Karl instructed.

{Chosen Partner} Activated.

Karl let the beasts choose their partners, and watched shock bloom on the Demons' faces when the bond formed. Then, before the Class Selection could start, he activated [Evolution] and forced all of the Wolves to evolve into an advanced bestial state.

It might make it nearly impossible for the beasts to evolve naturally later, but they were already Mythic. What harm could it do, really?

As the Wolves evolved, the Class Selections activated and the Demons were pulled into the System Interface.

"Now, while they're busy, let's see about the rest of you. Do you want to be mages, warriors or agile rogue types?" He asked.

"Is that how it works? We get a choice?" One of the men asked, confused.

"Sort of. If you have the affinity, you can. If not, you get to be a Warrior. Nearly everyone can be a warrior if they try."

That made Remi laugh. Yes, nearly everyone can be a warrior. The basic qualifications were "breathing or otherwise not dead".

Because even some things that weren't breathing could be warriors.

"Agility is the specialty of our species. But we want vengeance for our captured kin. Do you have something for that?"

Karl gave them a vicious smile. "Actually, I do."

{Champion Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Shadow Step]

{Champion Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Perfect Camouflage]

The last of the new arrivals faded into the Class Selection screens, while the locals stared at Karl in awe.

"That skill is just unfair. Every time I hear about how awesome it is, I get

envious. But now that I've seen it myself, it's even more incredible than they

said it was." One of the locals sighed.

Karl laughed and patted the Orcish Warrior on the shoulder.

{Champion Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Smite]

The Orc laughed and pulled Karl into a hug, then went to sit before going to the

Class Selection screen and coming back a second later as a Crusader.

The new arrivals needed much more time, as they had no idea what the System was, or how it worked. So, they inspected everything in the class options before returning their attention to the ruined city.

Shamans, Beast Rangers and Assassins. Those were the three classes for the

rescued slaves, which left Karl just one more task.

{Branch Leader Karl invites you to the Darklight Host Guild) Accept?

Chapter 1316 Crash Course In Survival

[Karl, you really need to get going. There are a lot of monsters coming through this portal.] Cara reminded him.

[Give me thirty seconds. I'm recruiting more people.]

[Make it snappy, there is Calamari, and I want it.]

Karl rolled his eyes at the stubborn badger, but kept waiting for the last of his recruits to be ready.

"This battle is certain to be rough on all of you. You have new skills, and no training. But I will give you weapons, and we are going to fight against invading Cephalopods. I believe that it's the same group that invaded this city, but I can't confirm that yet.

The goal is to eliminate them and close the portals they are using to invade this world.

Ready or not, it is time. We can't delay any longer." He declared.

From the Guild's storage he grabbed a whole pile of Totem Ranked spears, swords, maces and daggers.

"Grab a weapon that appeals to you. If you think you can use two at once, go ahead. That's common for assassins. You have ten seconds to grab a weapon, and then we're leaving" Karl informed them. It was better not to give them time to second guess their choices.

Then he opened a portal to the location that Cara had given him.

The drain was immense, indicating that it was not on the same continent. But nothing could have prepared Karl for the scene in front of him.

His portal had opened to a Drake Riders shrine, and the sky was filled with the two legged reptiles, while another enormous army of frogs flooded the ground, killing everything that moved in the city.

"It's the frogs again. Take them out. Work together or in teams. Shamans, you are the only healers, don't slack on your duties to your comrades. Everyone else, protect the healers and don't get out of their sight.

I will be going up." Karl ordered as he led the way through the portal.

The sight of the frogs steeled the determination of the Demons and Lizardfolk. Those evil things had terrorized them their whole lives. But now they had the power to fight back for the first time.

The freshly evolved Wolves had a particular hate for the slimy amphibians, and elemental attacks crackled from them as they hurtled their bodies into combat. The Beast Rangers buffed their companions, and then most of them panicked and used their regeneration abilities to heal even the most minor of injuries on the Wolves. The Shamans had their healing totems out, but nobody had any combat experience or training. All they could do was rely on the System and hope that they didn't die.

At least they had some basic knowledge granted by their skills, and the assassins had a combat style type innate skill.

But what Karl quickly realized was that they had no skill points. They had the few initial skills that the class granted, and no more. They would have to work and survive if they were going to get enough skill points to have a full array of abilities.

Overhead, the Drakes were fighting against a group of Mythic Rank octopus monsters, but they only had two Totems and a bunch of Overlords.

Karl summoned his Golems to protect the others, then activated [Avatar] and flew up to join the battle.

{Keep your distance, I will hold them in place.} He ordered.

The Octopus monsters turned an annoyed red colour as Karl doused them in Ghostfire, but the attitude changed immediately when they realized that it was burning their souls and not just their bodies.

Karl charged right into close combat with the burning monsters, and felt his scales shred as tentacles wrapped around him. Then, he flicked his foreleg up, bringing a soft head in range of his jaws.

Draconic teeth sunk deep into the octopus, and Ghostfire scorched flesh as the creature realized its mistake.

You couldn't attack the front of a dragon like that. It didn't need to use its limbs to inflict massive damage.

Then, Karl coated himself in [Disintegrate] and began to pulse [Void Blast], tearing the tentacles apart as the attacker howled in anguish.

The other two came to its rescue, but their attacks couldn't get through [Eternal Lightning] quickly enough, and Karl was tearing the hapless creature apart.

[They're good when roasted.] Karl laughed before tossing the corpse of the first octopus into Hawk's space.

The bird was still in Drodh, but with the portal open, he had no problem retrieving his bounty.

[Are we going there? Should I get the Dana Mage?] Rae asked.

[Do you think she would hurt me for asking her to look after Drodh and the payments for frog bounties?] Karl asked.

[One hundred percent, yes.]

[Then Thor is responsible for payments. Rae and Hawk can come here to hunt more frogs. Remi, help with the survivors. Maybe go find Lotus, the locals know

the healing tree.

Rac, bring Dana with you, and have her stay near my recruits. They have zero combat experience.]

"World Dragon, thank you for the rescue." A familiar voice gasped as the two Mythic attackers backed away, and the Drake Riders advanced around Karl. {Kenichi? Are you suicidal? Well, at least I know where the attack is now. I brought a load of Mythic assistants to help save your city. But there are

multiple attacks in the Dragon Isles, and most of my people are busy.} Karl replied as he hurled Ghostfire fireballs at his opponents.

"It might be Suicidal, but the Drake Riders only have us two Totems. There are no more Myths available on this continent, and the old black dragon is busy in his own nation, dealing with an attack there."

[Thor, ask Cara where all the successful attacks are, and let the other Myths

know that we will pay bounties for frogs at all of them. Just have someone open

the portals. I think Remi can do it.]

Karl honestly couldn't remember who was compatible with the Portal spell, other than that it wasn't Rae.

Chapter 1317 Harvesting Frogs

Karl didn't have time to follow up on the situation, as the two heavily wounded Cephalopods opened another portal, and called for reinforcements.

What they got was their seven armed and irate Immortal Ranked boss.

{Welcome back. I am going to eat you this time. Deep-fried for sure.} Karl greeted Oobleck.

{You stole my slaves.} The Immortal raged.

{You weren't even using them, so I'm not paying damages. Aren't they cute? I taught them to fight, and now they're harvesting frogs for me.}

The creature turned an enraged purple, and Karl laughed as Kenichi and the other drake riders carefully backed away.

The Monster Man was insane, taunting an Immortal.

But When Karl lashed out with Immortal Ranked [Dark Fire] the three octopus creatures howled in pain, and immediately tried to flee from the charging dragon.

Karl didn't go straight for the Immortal, he banked at the last second and drove all four sets of claws into the most wounded, then fired [Void Blast] at it from the inside.

Black lines spread down all the creature's tentacles as its nervous system disintegrated, and it fell limp in Karl's embrace.

{That's one more down. Better think fast, or I'll be finished before you fight back.}

Karl tossed the body into his mouth, then transferred it into Cara's space so that it looked like he swallowed the creature whole.

A barrage of water element blasts shattered Karl's scales, sending flakes of gold and splatters of black blood everywhere. The wounds began to heal instantly, but the barrage continued as Karl raced through the sky toward the Immortal.

The remaining Mythic Octopus saw that as its opportunity, but it hadn't realized that Karl was not the only threat.

From above, Hawk dive bombed the target, using [Rend] as an impact shield, before tearing into it with flaming claws in his full Dark Flame Phoenix glory.

{Damn you, Dragon. How did you get the Phoenix Clan on your side?} Oobleck raged.

{We're old friends. Known him all his life. Are you going to run away again? Maybe go tell your mommy that the mean dragon is picking on you?}

Karl saw the octopus look toward an open portal, and quickly [Nullified] it, closing the most direct route back home for the Immortal.

{Oh, we can't make it that easy for you. I'm on to your tricks, cowardly octopus.}

Karl lashed out with an Immortal Rank [Void Blast] as a bubble of water formed around him, then continued his barrage of Dark Fire.

[Rampage] was cutting down on the benefits of Oobleck's damage reduction, and Karl saw the moment that the Octopus realized what was going on.

{Oh, you're a smart one, aren't you? Yes. The more that my friends kill, the more damage you take. Brilliant, isn't it? But you can't touch them until you finish with me.}

From not far away, where Kenichi was helping Hawk tear apart the Mythic octopus, the Drake Rider's Guild Messages were going insane.

[Why is the dragon taunting the Immortal?]

[That's beyond psychological warfare.]

[If he starts to lose, we need to be ready to open portals and flee.]

Kenichi smiled at the horrified messages. [Relax, trash talk is part of his combat strategy. If it's focused on him, he doesn't need to burn energy stopping it from bombarding us. If it only held him off and focused on us, it would destroy the city in minutes.]

It really wasn't all that deep. Karl had just inherited Cara's love of trolling her enemies. The look of absolute rage on Oobleck's skin was worth the extra effort it took to hurl insults.

Unfortunately, as Karl was going all in on offence, using Immortal Rank attack skills, his barriers shattered with every hit, and there was nearly as much dragon blood as octopus blood raining down on the Dragon Riders' homeland.

{You can't keep this up forever, dragon.}

{Oh? I really can. I am eternal, I will never tire. I will never sleep. Today is your doom.}

Rae mentally cheered for Karl. He was finally learning the proper application of a dramatic speech. And, he didn't stop fighting to monologue.

A for effort.

[I have defeated the Dark Elven Kings three battles in a row. Do you have faster killers?] Rae taunted Karl, wondering if he was holding back on her.

Karl smirked, and swapped the Dark Elven Kings for a pair of Oathbreaker demons. The Epic Grade Obsession Demons dealt area damage with every strike, and they were insanely fast, with Shadow Step as part of their basic skills.

Perfectly suited to a battle of this nature.

The frogs began to explode from the secondary damage all around the Demons, which made the recruits scream in horror until they realized that these new Demons were also on their team.

Dana sighed as she realized what Karl had done, but continued to give orders and combat hints to keep the group alive and fighting.

She didn't know where Karl had managed to find dozens of completely clueless Myths, or if he had some sort of mind control ability that made them forget

how to fight. But they definitely needed a babysitter.

The battle between Karl and Oobleck had turned into an epic slugfest, with the two mighty combatants completely giving up on tactics and simply hurling attacks at each other as fast as they could channel mana.

It was a brilliant learning experience for Karl, as the Immortal had far superior mana control to him, despite his own progression on the Fundamental Rule of

Mana Manipulation.

So far, he had mostly learned the different ways that it could be used to create effects, but today Karl was learning how to more efficiently use mana in combat, and how to form skills faster, with less wasted energy.

Oobleck knew that there was something very wrong with this fight.

Even with the Mana Pylon active, the World Dragon should not have this much

mana. It was as if he was drawing on an inexhaustible well, and his body was

barely fluctuating with the energy usage.

But what he couldn't know was that it was the effect of the [Amulet of Destruction] that was upgrading the skill to Immortal Rank, so Karl was only actually activating Mythic attacks, which cost much less mana.

{Skill Master Activation} [Void Blast] → [Chaos Blast]

[Chaos Blast] Immortal Rank, Epic Grade skill. The Fundamental Rule of Chaos

destabilizes a region in space.

Karl smirked at the frustrated Cephalopod as Cara went insane in his mind, celebrating the activation of a new and improved skill that she could use.

Chapter 1318 Chaos Blast

Chaos Blast had no visible form, it simply burst into existence, and Oobleck's tentacle seemed to bulge and flex before blood sprayed from the surface,

which appeared to have been shredded.

{Damn you!} He raged, as Karl continued to pelt him with attacks that he simply couldn't block.

[Chaos Blast] effectively ignored the protective spells on his skin, and passed through to tear him apart from the inside and out simultaneously.

Rae was a big fan. was almost as good as [Blood Destruction].

Then, Karl broke out his trump card.

[Mana Suppression] formed all over the aerial battlefield, and Oobleck found that his abilities now cost dozens of times more energy than usual to initiate.

Karl felt the spell shatter, broken by the Immortal's pure energy, but Oobleck was panting with exertion.

He wouldn't fall for that trick twice, and he had only allowed it to form because he didn't understand how it could be harmful without targeting him. But the advantage was firmly with Karl's team, and Hawk was pushing for complete dominance.

The bird had cast [Elemental's Wrath] on all the Wolves and the Spectral Knights, and the extra fire damage was devastating against the frogs.

The numbers didn't even support the invaders anymore, as Rae was raising the fallen Frogs which had died to [Blood Destruction] as [Blood Golems] and they were forming a small army of beasts under the spider's control.

The Drake Riders' home city was being cleared at a walking pace, and the Shamans had learned how to close the portals.

It might be a class skill, or someone might have gotten a reward, but the number of portals was dropping fast.

Karl pressed the advantage, pelting Oobleck with Immortal Ranked [Chaos Blasts]. Black blood rained down on the city, and Karl was certain that victory was at hand.

Then, his opponent simply vanished, along with the remaining portals. All that was left was an army of enraged frogs and destruction.

{Sonofabitch. He managed to escape twice.} Karl cursed.

Kenichi flew over to him, inspecting the damaged scales on Karl's Avatar form. "Karl, are you alright?"

{Just annoyed that it got away. That's the second time today.}

The Drake Rider laughed. "You don't get to be an old Immortal without having a trick or two up your sleeves. If he didn't have a way to escape from nearly any situation, he wouldn't have risked coming here in the first place."

Karl winked at the drake rider. (See, this is why you get to be in charge of things. You've got the wisdom. Go check on what is left of your city, my people will keep working until the frogs are gone.)

Honestly, Karl needed time to recover. He hurt everywhere, and some of the wounds on his body were slow to close, even with the advantages of the Chaos Dragon Constitution, and all of his healing skills.

Even when Tian cast multiple heals on him, it hardly helped.

[It has to be something that reduces healing effects. Try landing and casting Nullify and Cleanse]. Tian suggested.

Karl cast both, and his healing slowly increased, but still not anywhere near its full capacity. It had to be the effect of a Fundamental Rule that Karl simply didn't know how to overpower.

Over the next few minutes, the healing slowly increased, and Karl transformed back into his more comfortable Cat Demon beast form.

The battle was essentially over, and Rae was in a good mood, as the pair of Oathbreakers had actually managed to kill more frogs than she did. That didn't happen often, and it didn't count her supporters, but it was still a great challenge.

[Are you almost done there? I have a whole list of things for you to do.] Cara complained.

[We're just dealing with some final frogs. There are only two Totems in this whole country.] Karl reminded her.

[Well, hurry it up. You've got four minutes before one opens at the Academy.]

[You all heard the lady. Let's finish this up and go play with my baby Rogue.] Rae insisted.

Then she laughed. Between her and Oathbreaker, there weren't many frogs left to kill. With Karl running off the boss and forcing it to close the portals so he didn't follow it, the battle here was much easier than the one in Drodh.

"Will you be remaining here to assist in the cleanup, Lord Karl? We could use the help." Kenichi asked as Karl waited for his injuries to heal so he could continue to fight.

Karl shook his head. "We need to keep going. There are more attacks ongoing, and about to start. If we don't keep up with them, we will never manage to save

the continent."

[They're clear.] Rae announced.

[Go to the Academy. If you hurry, you can hide your baby Rogue before the

portal opens outside her window.] Cara instructed.

Karl opened a new portal directly to his old room in the Academy, and Rae immediately Shadow Stepped through.

Nobody was allowed to terrorize Sybil but her.

To say that Sybil was shocked to get sudden visitors was an understatement, but she had been training for just this moment.

As soon as Rac appeared, she Shadow Stepped behind her, and went for the backstab attack.

Unfortunately, her target was Rae. The spider simply transformed into her humanoid persona, grabbed the dagger, and then began to mercilessly tickle

the Commander Rank Rogue.

"Mercy, mercy! You win. It's good to see you again, Mistress Rae." Sybil pleaded.

"It's good to see you again as well. But we're here for business. There is an attack about to start on the Academy, and we came here to intercept it." Rae

explained.

"Then we should talk to the Headmaster. He should be in front of the trial tower. The first year students are doing an exam, and he's out front lending moral support, or grading their exams." Sybil explained.

[We need to send someone to help the old black dragon in the Divine Beast Nation, too. He's losing his fight.] Cara added.

Dana frowned. [You could have mentioned that earlier. I will go. Just tell me exactly where he is.]

Cara relayed an image, and Dana opened a portal, then lashed out with her sword as a giant frog tried to jump through.

"Well, I got the right spot for sure. I will see you all soon." She laughed, then

vanished through the portal.

[We can't send the Dana Mage alone. Open another portal.] Tian pleaded.

[Alright, go take care of her and the old Mythic Dragon. And take Opal with you.

I know she doesn't like to come outside, but it's important.]

Opal flickered with light in what Karl recognized as an affirmative confirmation, then she began preparing spells. With the healing fluff and her improved illusions, they would make sure that the Dana Mage was safe.

Chapter 1319 To The Safe Rooms

Karl let the portal close behind them, and then led his army of recruits through to the academy grounds by the trial tower.

"Headmaster. Get the students to a safe room. We are about to see an influx from the Immortal Realm. Most likely Giant Frogs at the Mythic Rank.

Thousands of them." Karl announced the moment he arrived.

For a second, everyone froze, then there was shouting as orders were given, and the emergency alarms began to blare.

That would send the students running to the secure areas, but there was no warning level that sent the strongest instructors inside. It was the job of the Overlords on the staff to defend everyone, but today, there would not be much that they could do.

"How certain are we about the timing?" The Headmaster asked.

"One hundred percent. Give or take thirty seconds."

"Fuck."

In the Chaos Realm, Cara laughed. There was no way that he could have any idea how bad things were about to get just from Karl's explanation. But she couldn't go anywhere, Lady Matilda was nearly finished her advancement, and she had hundreds more attempts to invade the planet to swat.

These people were incredibly determined, and all the attacks were coming from the same artificial planet within the Immortal Plane. So, it should be entirely the adherents of one group who did not yet understand that their leader was dead.

The first portal opened five seconds before Cara's estimated time of arrival, and a familiar head appeared.

"My friend Oobleck, it's good to see you again." Karl welcomed the Octopus.

{You again. It's always you.} The Octopus complained, but he didn't stop the invasion.

Dozens of Mythic Rank octopus monsters floated through the portal behind him, and then a few hundred giant crabs wearing armour plates over their shells.

"Oh, no more frogs? Well, that's a shame. The frogs are tasty. Now, should we do this here on the ground, or should I fly up to meet you in the air?" Karl asked.

Oobleck glared at him, but flew up a few thousand additional metres to move their fight away from the invasion.

[I want a pet crab.] Rae demanded.

[What do you even want a crab for?] Karl asked as he shifted into the Avatar of the World Dragon.

[Crabs are weird. They're spiders with harder shells and pincers.] Rae explained.

[Well, if you can keep one alive and tame it, you can try to keep it. I doubt that it will work, though.] Karl informed her.

Rae shrugged. If it worked, it worked. If not, she would eat it.

It had better work, though. She wanted to put her baby rogue on a combat crab mount and give her a spear.

Oobleck inspected Karl as he flew up to meet for the challenge. There was seriously something wrong with this creature. It was the Avatar of the World Dragon, but it wasn't a dragon at all.

As far as he could tell, Karl was a Demon, who had gained the favour of the Dragon Pantheon.

But he was also Mythic Ranked, with the ability to use Immortal Essence in his attacks. That shouldn't be possible. If you could channel the essence of Immortality, the lowest of Divine Energies, you should automatically advance to the Immortal Rank and undergo tribulation.

Somehow, he had granted himself an Immortal Realm Epic Grade body, and Immortal Rank attacks of the Chaos Element, but Tribulation did not come for him.

It might be time to plead with a power higher than his own master to intervene. Mere Demons should not be allowed to flaunt the Fundamental Rules like that. {This time we finish things.} Oobleck declared as he surged with power. The Beast Gods had answered his prayers to punish the cheating Demon. A massive phantom creature formed behind the octopus, but Karl continued to stack spells, in preparation for the complete obliteration of the octopus. The phantom solidified into a massive cat, radiating divine energy. That was Karl's signal, there was no more time to delay, or he was toast.

A hundred prepared and held [Chaos Blasts] flew to Oobleck, and a bolt of holy energy lashed out from the cat's projection, striking Karl and causing a massive thunderstorm to form overhead, pelting the entire area with Divine Lightning.

For a moment, the projection looked confused.

Karl was scorched, and half his body was covered in black mist over missing scales, but even with tattered wings, he was floating in the air, alive.

But on the other side of the battlefield, only a small central core of Oobleck remained, missing all its limbs and most of its body.

To say that the Immortal had survived was generous, but it could regenerate even this massive level of damage. However, what it could not do was contain or direct the attention of the Divine Being that it had called upon. The Demigod Rank feline stepped out of its own projection and into the mortal realm.

This world smelled awful, weak in mana and infested with dragons. But it had found a most curious target. Sure, it had only been a casual swipe to make the octopus stop bothering it, but this 'not a dragon' had survived.

Mortals simply didn't survive when a Demigod slapped them with holy wrath.

That was not how it worked.

Their inability to survive even a casual swat was a theory that he had tested millions of times, while looking for a suitable prodigy among the newborns of his domain. But only once did he find a true Immortal among them who could

survive his attention.

Behind the cat, a small black and white figure appeared, delivering the killing blow to the crippled Immortal Octopus, and ending Oobleck's millennia long

reign over his territory.

[The Supreme Lady is finished her advancement. She will stop the attacks from

here on out.] Cara explained.

The cat turned, having heard her thoughts.

{A Chaos Badger?} It asked, unsure what to make of this situation.

Since when were Badgers and dragons allies? They weren't even from the same pantheon, and most worlds would not have both of them running amok at the same time.

Whatever.

It didn't really matter, and he was more curious to see what happened if he hit

that creature that wasn't actually a dragon again.

[Holy Smite] lashed out, striking Karl straight in the chest, and sent him

tumbling to the ground in the Academy grounds.

The shock of the impact, and the aftermath of the attack, levelled nearly every remaining building in the Academy, leaving only the Trial Tower standing intact. Screams of terror and agony echoed through the area, and then from the Demigod as vicious teeth bit into its ear.

[You like that? I'll bite your ears off.] Cara sneered.

[Damnable Badger.] The cat grumbled as it swatted at the tenacious creature

with its paw.

Holy claws raked across Cara's side, but she had been swatted into the air, and flew towards the horizon before she could get her one uninjured wing to slow

her momentum.

Rae turned her attention up, and the cat stared back.

This world was strange. Why were followers of the Beast Gods angry at him for

swatting a dragon? A mortal dragon at that.

And now his ear hurt.

He was going home. Screw this place and its crazy mortals.

Chapter 1320 What Can Threaten Karl?

Panicked, Remi rushed to the Academy to check on Karl, and found that he was collapsed in the ruins of the mage training building, still in Avatar form, but

ninety percent of his body was black mist.

That was his regeneration attempting to rebuild the destroyed parts of his body, as the surviving portions of it were currently mostly legs and spine, with a damaged skull missing all its scales.

But the Karl wasn't dead.

Half a continent away, Dana felt pain surge through her body, as if her soul was being seared from the inside, but there was nothing here that could threaten her. She was fighting giant frogs, and they were no match for her blade skills. It had to be Karl in danger.

But what could realistically threaten Karl?

There simply weren't a lot of creatures that could overpower his team to the point that he would be in real danger.

Now, he might be short on two members, but he still had Hawk, Rae and Cara available, if Cara was finished with whatever she was doing in the Chaos Realm. Opal's Illusionary Domain hosted an upgraded army of hammer wielding Dwarves that were incredibly effective in combat, and the butterfly herself had landed on top of Tian, which made it look like the cat sized fox had giant wings. [I would make a cute fae.] Tian agreed as he heard Dana's thoughts.

[The spells heal the body, the fluff heals the heart.] Opal added.

Dana sighed at the two oddballs that she had gotten as backup. Inside Opal's Domain, everything worked in her favour, and with Tian's intervention, even the terrain adapted to hinder the army of frogs. But neither the butterfly nor the fox was capable of taking anything seriously.

[I mean, what danger are we actually in? Worst case scenario, we just go back and hide in our space.] Opal suggested.

[Can you even get there from here?] Dana asked.

They were halfway across the continent, that was well beyond any sort of reasonable access range for their personal space.

[I can open a portal.] Opal replied with a mental shrug.

Tian nodded in agreement. Portals were the best way to get back to the Karl if he wandered away on them. It wasn't even an elemental magic, it was easy to

use.

Dana sighed as she realized that the beasts really didn't have any trouble simply running back home when they were in trouble. They didn't even need a portal large enough to move through, just enough to link the two locations so they could move into their space, the same trick that she could do with Teleportation.

Slowly, the pain in Dana's chest was fading, so she assumed that Karl was alright. The beasts certainly would have had some response if he were not alright, and they were still calmly talking about returning to their spaces if there was actual danger.

[Focus on getting us to the other side of the battlefield. The black dragon is holding the temple by himself.] Dana instructed.

[Got it, boss lady.] Tian agreed.

He was using [Earth Manipulation] to fire stone bullets at the frogs, but when Dana said that they needed to hurry, he changed tactics and began to attack them from below, using spears of stone to impale them or drive the frogs into Opal's illusory army.

They could really use Thor here, for the barrier spell. But the illusionary Dwarves were doing well enough before they were destroyed by the frogs. However, Opal had a truly prodigious mana regeneration rate, and even when entire waves of her illusionary Dwarves fell in combat, [Reality Warp] let her bring them all back for a trivial amount of mana.

Tian thought that the whole thing was hilarious because the frogs were stupid, and they didn't understand that there was a better way to deal with the illusions than to attack them head on.

So, they kept getting speared, kept getting smashed with hammers, and the path to the Beast God Temple where the Mythic Black Dragon was fighting rapidly cleared.

[Dana Mage, take your team and go to the big dragon. We will fight our way to you.] Opal instructed.

[Will you be alright, isolated out here?] Dana asked.

[Yep, all good. We're just collecting frogs. ALL the frogs.]

They were going to have a mountain of them by the time that they were done, and with so much Mythic Grade meat, there was no way that they couldn't push at least one of their carnivorous siblings up a noticeable step in power. Technically, the ones who ate meat were almost all Mythic already, but still early Mythic. That hardly counted.

The only one who might like frog legs, but wasn't a Mythic beast, was Remi. But she should advance soon. She was already powerful, she was just lagging behind a little bit for lack of opportunity.

Stuffing herself full of good food might solve the problem.

Tian certainly felt better when he had a full tummy.

{You seem distracted, young mage.} The Mythic Dragon noted as Dana arrived next to him with her Golems.

"The beasts over there share a mental link with me, and their distracted state keeps making me laugh." Dana explained.

The Dragon gave a rumbling laugh. {Right, the Soul Bonding Ceremony. I had forgotten about that. Possibly out of desire to preserve my sanity after dealing with Matilda.}

The two did not slow their fight to chat, but Dana did have time to notice that there were two Mythic Ranked octopus monsters on the ground, their souls completely stripped by the breath weapon of the black dragon.

All the regeneration in the world didn't matter if there was no life left in the corpse.

The same had happened to the frogs which had gotten too close to the temple, which had been defended by a group of Totem Ranked warriors backed up by every cleric they could muster.

It was a brutal siege tactic, but with enough healers, even a wall of Totem Ranked beasts was enough to hold a position against the army of Mythic frogs.

At least for a little while. Once the barriers on the temple collapsed, they would have been finished without Dana's intervention.

For the Black Dragon, that was an incredibly irritating thought. A temple full of intelligent Magical and Divine Beasts should not be overrun by mindless wild animals, even if they were from the Immortal Realm.