

Black Plain 1911

Chapter 1911 Willing To Die

"What?"

"Tribe leader, what are you talking about?"

"This is madness!"

"Suicide!"

The four elders shouted similar things almost simultaneously while Minos' group looked at the beautiful woman at the absolute peak of level 89, who was looking at Emperor Stuart with a sincere smile on her face.

"Tribe leader, please don't do this. What about the tribe? How would it be without you?" Blake felt his heart beat faster, afraid that this woman would leave and lose her life along with Minos' group.

He sincerely wished the best for the group's crew and the young man's goals. But he didn't think a trip to the North Sea was intelligent, and he didn't want any of his friends and companions to go on this journey with Minos.

It would be fine if any of them wanted to join Minos' group and return to the tribe before the crew left for the North Sea. But risking their lives was too much, even for grateful beings like them.

After all, they had a race to protect and couldn't be so selfish!

But the woman said something the four of them couldn't disagree with. "The tribe will have to get used to living without me in a few years. I won't live another 50 years, so I might as well go now.

Gulp!

"Tribe leader..." When she heard those words, one of the four felt her eyes fill with tears.

She had known Bella for more than 20,000 years and had practically lived side by side with the tribe leader for all that time. How could she remain calm when her friend told her it was time to go?

Even experienced old people could be moved!

"Bella..."

"Don't be like that. I'm still here! Besides, I'll be able to have one last adventure and repay the favors that young Minos Stuart did for our race. It will be good for everyone." She said calmly.

For someone who had lived as long as she had and who had waited so long for her death, she was no longer afraid of dying. Her only concern was the tribe, and so she would try to live as long as possible.

But after watching nearly all of her loves, friends and family perish on her journey, she was ready to leave, especially now that her heir had reached her level.

In her opinion, the tribe would live just as well in her absence as in her presence. So leaving now wouldn't hurt anyone!

Minos heard this and liked it. He wasn't a member of this tribe, and the level 89 fox was right.

As strong as she was, if she didn't do anything, the tribe would surely lose her in a few decades. So it wouldn't make much difference if she left now, especially since she wouldn't risk any trouble at her age.

High-level cultivators nearing their limit didn't become weak until their last days. Only when they had less than a week to live would they show that they were no longer able to fight, and they would quickly fall ill. But until then, they could fight as if they were far from death. I think you should take a look at

Yet, that didn't mean there were no risks. When you were young, even fatal damage could be reversed if you had the resources and high-level personnel to help you. But at the end of one's life, even life-saving resources like the Spring of Life would have no effect if one was severely injured.

Therefore, high-level cultivators had to be very careful not to fight because no matter how much they could fight normally, any injury would affect them far worse than people who were far from the end of their lives.

Therefore, this woman rarely moved and would only fight when all the other elders of her tribe were either absent or unable to protect the tribe without her help.

If nothing extreme happened in the next few decades, she might even spend her last years doing nothing, meaning that her absence would probably not be felt.

Minos said, not caring about the sadness of these four elders. "Very well. I accept you into my group. While you're with us, we'll try to make sure that you don't have to fight until we enter the North Sea. After that, I can't guarantee anything else."

She appreciated Minos' words. "Thank you for that. I'll do my best when the time comes. I hope I can help you in some way in the future."

Seeing the determination in the woman's eyes, the three Sea Folk members said nothing, aware that this fox was willing to die to help the group.

If they were faced with a desperate situation in the North Sea, Bella would certainly be someone they could count on to protect another crew member.

No one there wanted to have to use others to protect themselves, but knowing that someone from their group was willing to do anything for the good of the team was very gratifying.

"Minos..." Blake looked at the brown-haired guy, clenching his fists while already in his humanoid form.

"Blake, don't act like it's certain that I will die. Don't underestimate me that much." Bella said in a harsher tone. "Maybe I'll come back from the North Sea. Then don't be so quick to declare me dead. I can still beat you up."

With that, the group laughed at the older woman's good humor, while Minos felt that he would hardly get anyone other than Bella in this tribe.

Even if Bella didn't make a big difference in the stability of the tribe, the others there would make a big difference because they all had enough vitality to live for a few more centuries.

Centuries was plenty of time to raise new promising young people to replace them!

But as their conversation became less negative, as these beings put aside the fact that their leader was nearing her end, Bella said to Minos.

"I don't know if you'll get any more foxes for your group because not everyone is like me. But I have the location of an old fox who lives outside the tribe and might be useful to your crew.

Although he is no longer a member of our tribe, he is a powerful Nine-Tailed Fox. He could be as influential as I am, if not more so." She said, which made the elders look at her differently, seeing that she was willing to associate even with a renegade.

But they understood that she wasn't acting as the leader of the tribe for the moment but as a member of Minos' crew, even if she was wrong to say 'your crew.'

"Are you sure about that, tribe leader?" One of them asked worriedly.

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Chapter 1912 Guinea Pig?

Hearing the question from one of her elders, Bella understood that it would be difficult for her tribe members to understand that a renegade from their tribe could be helpful to a friend of theirs. But this man's very rebelliousness could make him of interest to Minos' group.

Titus Gamble had always been a fox capable of doing questionable things, taking risks beyond his limits, and known for not valuing his own life. How could someone as fearless as him not be compatible with Minos' group?

"Titus may not be someone the tribe can trust or rely on. But he is powerful and capable of helping young Minos' group."

"But you would have to be alongside him on this journey..." Blake commented as Minos' group watched the dialogue between the elders.

She laughed as she realized that her elders were also worried about her having to put up with such a fox in the last years of her life. "Don't worry about it. I would never let Titus return to the tribe, but I don't see him as unbearable or despicable.

Even though I kicked him out of the tribe, we were once friends, and this could be the opportunity to make things right at the end of our lives."

"Who are you talking about?" Gloria asked curiously.

"Titus Gamble, an ancient elder of our race from the generation of the tribal leader," Blake replied. "He was banished from the tribe generations ago when one of his dangerous exploits sacrificed an entire group of elders, and only he returned alive.

That incident would eventually lead to a lot of trouble for us. When he was banished from the tribe, he even tried to take over the position of the tribe leader so that he could continue to act 'for the good of the Nine-Tailed Foxes,' as he put it."

In some ways, Titus had a similar leadership style to Maximillian Flamen. The difference was that while one wanted to dominate the world, the other wanted to find ways to increase the genetic potential of his race through adventure and dangerous experimentation.

But both wanted supremacy for their people and were willing to do whatever it took to achieve it.

Titus had tried his best for thousands of years, and the tribe tolerated his actions' negative consequences. But the situation had reached a breaking point a few thousand years ago.

Bella had decided to punish him by expelling him from the tribe after a group of 9th-stage elders had not only perished because of Titus but also because he had provoked attacks from rival races of the tribe against them.

At that time, if it hadn't been for the intervention of the Phoenix Tribe, the Nine-tailed Fox Tribe might have disappeared from the continent!

But even after causing such complex problems for his tribe, Titus still dared to try to seize power in this city by acting against Bella.

"Someone troublesome, huh?" Abby commented, not quite sure if it was good to have such a being in their group.

But Minos thought otherwise. "He's clearly a danger to the Nine-Tailed Fox tribe. But that doesn't mean he wouldn't be useful for our group."

As he said this, Minos' eyes closed as he imagined that someone like this elder could be advantageous to him in the future.

'Someone with such ambitions... Someone capable of doing what he did... Someone like that might agree to be my guinea pig.' He thought to himself, considering his theories about this world and how they could make fantastic things possible if they were correct.

But to carry out his theories and plans, Minos needed people capable of taking great risks.

Titus seemed to have what it took to become one of Minos' guinea pigs!

"Where is he?" Minos asked, showing the people that he wasn't the least bit concerned about the creature's past.

The members of Minos' group there, apart from his wives, were not so surprised. They were on their way to the North Sea. The chances of these level 89 Nine-Tailed Foxes dying were very high. Therefore, having more than one of these creatures could benefit the group, even if one of them wasn't as stable as they would have liked.

Bella looked at Minos and dropped a small crystal into his hands. "He can't be far away. As much as I forced him out of the tribe, he never strayed far from our territory. Over the past centuries, we've heard reports of guards along the borders of our territory who've seen him or even noticed his tracks.

Follow this map. It will take you to an area where there are more reports of tracks or sightings of Titus. He's still alive, so you should be able to find him there."

Looking at the map, Minos thanked the fox and quickly put it away to search for Titus later.

Then he said. "I'll see about that tomorrow. For now, I'd like to rest with my women for a while. Do you have somewhere we can stay?"

"Of course. Please come with me." Bella said as she led the way to Minos' group while the elders of her tribe accompanied them.

Amid their movement, one of the Sea Folk members asked one of the tribe's high-ranking elders. "By the way, do you have contact with any other tribes with Demigods besides the phoenix group?"

"We have contact with the Gorgon Tribe, but we don't dare get too close to them. So we can't be considered allies, even though we have no problems with each other."

Gorgons were terrifying female creatures from the Spiritual World, with incredible lineage power and a reproductive capacity comparable only to the plant species of this world.

There were no males in this race. The females could reproduce among themselves!

But with their ability to turn those who looked into their eyes into stone, it would be tough for their race to exist otherwise.

"Gorgons? Do they really exist?" The level 91 mercenary asked as his eyes widened considerably.

"Hmm, they do exist. But I wouldn't advise your party to approach them in search of companions. A single gorgon could turn your entire crew to stone." This level 89 old man said, warning this group.

"Indeed, gorgons are very dangerous. It's best to leave these creatures where they are." One of the Sea Folk members said.

"One of them would only be interesting to have on our side if we could cut off its head and use its powers..." One of them muttered, smiling, because that would be the only way to guarantee the safety of the group with such a creature on their side.

Chapter 1913 In Search of the Renegade?

After the previous conversation, no one in Minos' group showed any interest in dealing with the gorgons.

Even Minos understood that they were too dangerous to have in his crew and preferred not to encounter them by chance.

Gorgons could control their special ability to a certain degree, but it required a lot of self-control on the part of one of them, and you could never be sure if you could trust one of them.

With the slightest carelessness on the part of a group like Minos', one of these creatures could incapacitate an entire crew.

Since there were many other races of beasts on this continent that might be of interest to them, there was no reason for the group to take a chance with such a dangerous race.

Then, soon after this conversation, the group left for this city of the Nine-Tailed Foxes, and Minos and his wives were given a useful possession in a part of this city that was designed for beings with human body limits.

Even on the animal continent, there were cities shaped like human cities, just as there were on the bottom of the sea and elsewhere in the Spiritual World.

The human race was not the ruler of this world, nor was it the strongest or most talented to "force" other races to follow these parameters.

The fact that there were buildings suitable for humans worldwide was a matter of practicality for all races that could change their bodies and had some relevance.

For example, how could a snake tribe welcome a dragon to do business in their tribe? The places where these two kinds of beings lived were completely different. Their body sizes were different.

A dragon, even a young one, could be the size of dozens of human houses. On the other hand, a snake or a fox were usually much smaller, even if they were older and more powerful.

Thus, the only way to welcome a member of another race into one's city or territory was through buildings that were accessible to different types of races.

The most common form in this world was the humanoid, which was very versatile.

So, every territory had places that were useful to humans, and soon, Minos and his wives settled into a villa where they were left alone to rest.

From the point of view of Minos' crew and the city foxes, they had been traveling apart for a long time. So, it was time for them to rest while they could share each other's presence.

But only Minos needed to relax since all his wives had spent the last few months quietly in his family's Spatial Kingdom.

However, the kind of relaxation he wanted to share with his wives was rather special and exhausting...

And so he and his four wives would soon spend a fiery night in the territory of the Nine-Tailed Foxes!

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The next day, Minos and his wives woke up early, all of them much more fulfilled after hours of fun and then sleeping together, something they hadn't done for months.

After waking up this morning and eating a hearty breakfast with Bella, who had personally served them, the Stuart family would soon leave town with only a portion of their party to go in search of Titus.

Most of the group would remain there, continuing their exploration or resting from the boat ride they had taken to get here. Minos had not yet returned to this city and was only going to explore the surrounding area in search of more reinforcements.

So when he left with his wives, only the members of the Ancestral Folk, the mercenaries, and the two descendants of the Longus family went with them on this morning's journey.

The territory of the Nine-tailed Fox Tribe was not large enough for people with the cultivation of those individuals in the group, so in a few hours, they would arrive at the place that the map Bella had given Minos led to.

Arriving in this area, Minos' people would soon notice the presence of beasts that were somewhat different from those one might see in this tribe's territory, a foretaste of what one would find on this continent.

The tribal territories covered about 90% of this continent. Most beasts, whether low-level or high-level, respected the boundaries of the territories, as the chances of problems arising from territory invasions were not small.

Precisely because of this, in the 10% of the continent's land that had no owners, anyone passing through these places would find a density of beings beyond the ordinary, with individuals of different races coming and going.

Seeing this, the women of Minos looked with interest at some of the creatures around them, creatures that only existed on this continent.

At the top of one tree was a large black eagle, while on the stump of another tree was a creature standing upside down, looking at its surroundings.

Here and there, creatures crawled, jumped, or ran, often using the sound of the wind hitting the surrounding trees or leaves to camouflage the sound of their movements.

But while several creatures could be seen or sensed in the area, only a few had a relevant level of power for Minos' group to look at and worry about.

Despite being so strong, this continent obviously had weak creatures. What made it special was not the absence of weak creatures but the strong presence of powerful beings.

But like everywhere else, most living beings there were at a low level, mostly young or still in their youth.

Minos ignored these many beings who were of no interest to him and looked directly at where he felt the aura of a level 89 Sage, perhaps the mark of the being he was looking for.

"Let's go. Maybe we can find the elder Titus sooner than we thought." He said to his people, confident that the fox was still alive since Bella's tribe still had the item that signaled Titus' vital status.

With that, he walked ahead of the group, ignoring the lower-level beings around him while attracting the glances and attention of some of the 9th-stage creatures nearby.

Among those who looked at him as he went deeper into this land was a snake wrapped around a tree trunk, who immediately noticed a special aura coming from those in Minos' group.

'Friends of those dirty foxes?' This being thought to himself as he looked at the group of 9th and 10th-stage beings.

'But that human... Why do I get this feeling from him? This being was worried, sensing that the enemies of his tribe might have managed to ally themselves with dangerous humans.

'I must warn our allies. If these foxes have a new trick up their sleeves, we must react somehow!' He thought before crawling to the ground and quickly moving away from Minos' group towards a cave near a nearby waterfall.

Chapter 1914 Unexpected Encounter?

While some of the beasts were moving around the area without owners, Minos and his group approached a hollow where there was a small cave for the size of the beasts in the area.

Arriving there, while the rest of the group looked around for potential problems, Minos looked at the path of stones in front of the entrance to the small cave and noticed the same type of fur here and there.

"White fur... That's probably from a Nine-Tailed Fox of Bella's age." Gloria said as she looked at it and smelled the distinct scent of the fur.

The Sages' sense of smell was very refined. A person at this level of cultivation or higher wouldn't need to get close to something or someone to notice distinct smells.

Since every being had its own natural scent, it was relatively easy to identify the origin of a scent left on something or someone.

Even though there was no other indication that this was the fur of a Nine-Tailed Fox, everyone in Minos' group was sure that this was most likely the elder they were looking for.

Minos continued on, sensing that there was a level 89 being in this small cave. Still, as he got closer, he could sense that this being had a spiritual fluctuation that was rather strange for Nine-Tailed Foxes.

Just as each race had its own unique scent that made it easy to identify the race of anyone who left certain traces, each race also had characteristics that made the auras of its members relatively similar.

Of course, just as humans would have a different smell, each being of the same race would have a different aura. But like the smell, the aura of beings of the same race also had some similarities that could only be found in that race.

For example, Nine-Tailed Foxes were beings known for their mental powers. Meanwhile, snakes were usually associated with their poisonous powers. Therefore, it was easy to tell the difference between the aura types of these two beings because of the vast difference in their affinities.

When he noticed that the creature in the cave that might have belonged to Titus had an aura that didn't match the powers of the Nine-Tailed Foxes at all, Minos immediately decided that it wasn't his target.

'Be on your guard.' He said in the minds of the people in his group, warning them that this was not his target.

Since they were approaching this being, they had to be twice as careful as if they were only going to Titus.

As they followed Minos' recommendation and approached the place with him, the others in their group noticed a bad feeling coming from the being in the place.

As Minos entered the place ahead of everyone else, he saw what looked like a woman standing inside the small cave, which had several strange objects around it that looked like a laboratory.

She had her back to him, but still, the moment he saw her, Minos didn't hesitate and jumped back, feeling a chill run through his entire body.

"Get back!" He shouted before recommending. "Do not look at her face!"

"That's..."

The members of the Sea Folk were very quick to understand things and quickly realized that there was a Gorgon there.

"Damn it!"

"What is a member of that race doing here? Isn't this Phoenix territory?" One of them asked his companions as the creature with its back to the cave's exit turned its face to look at the newcomers.

It had snakes instead of hair, a perfect face that would make any man lose his way, but pulsating orange eyes that looked more like magma dots than the eyes of a living being.

Her torso was very similar to a human's, and she had full breasts with nothing to cover her pink nipples.

But that was the end of her beauty, for below her waist, instead of legs, there was a thick, long snake tail, at least 2.5 meters long.

Then she opened her mouth and smiled as she watched the strange group retreat, revealing her razor-sharp teeth but also the forked tongue in her mouth.

"Oh mine, how disrespectful of you..." She commented as she left the cave interior and quickly came face to face with the group of sea and land beasts and humans. "Do I deserve this kind of treatment without having done anything to you?" She asked them, but her tone was humorous, which told them all that there was a smile on her lips.

But none of Minos' group dared to look at her, knowing that if they did, they could be turned to stone.

Even the strongest of them could have parts of their beings petrified.

One could protect oneself from beings of this race with spiritual energy. However, in addition to the innate power of the members of this race being able to affect even those more powerful than them, it could also damage parts of the body and soul of its targets.

If it couldn't petrify an enemy's entire body, this power could do so in smaller parts. It could damage one's spiritual structures to the point where it could go from hindering their future progresses to spiritually crippling its targets!

Aware of this kind of risk, even the level 91 Demigods in the group did not look at the woman's face but only observed her hands and feet to determine how she would act against them.

"Who are you? What are you doing in the Phoenix territory?" The Sea Folk leader asked as she circulated her energy, ready to act if necessary.

"Phoenix territory?" She asked, laughing. "Woman of the Sea Folk, you don't understand how the division of power works on the Continent of Beasts. This is a territory without owners. Even the enemies of the Phoenix can walk through this place without causing a clash of tribes or even a hunt."

Theoretically, this area belonged to the Phoenix Tribe's sphere of influence. However, the tribe's territory only counted the areas directly controlled by their people or allies.

Since this area was part of the 10% of this continent that was not controlled by anyone, even though it was within the Phoenix's sphere of influence, it was not really part of that tribe.

Even if a member of this tribe appeared there right now, the mere fact that this Gorgon was there would not be enough to start a confrontation between the two parties.

Minos knew this, and just talking about phoenixes wouldn't scare this Gorgon. Not wanting to start a confrontation with her but also curious about her presence in this place, he asked her. "Is this Titus' cave? Were you here because of him?"

Chapter 1915 Tense Situation

Hearing Minos' question, the Gorgon looked at him, narrowing her eyes as she paid more attention to this human.

"You... You really have a powerful aura! Are you really a human?" She ignored his question, feeling a slight oppression coming from Minos' body, even though he was weaker than her and a member of the human race.

Gorgons were not one of the ten strongest races in the Spiritual World. However, their characteristics and the fact that their members could reach the 10th stage placed them among the 15 strongest races.

Even though the human race was one of the 10 strongest, it didn't mean that every human had a talent or a level of strength superior to any being from one of the "lesser" races.

The few humans with Golden-grade talents and Saint-grade Physiques made humans relevant in this world. But most spiritual humans didn't have those traits and were naturally inferior to beings like the creature before Minos' group.

Moreover, not all people with Golden-grade talents and Saint-grade Physiques were the same. Some had more refined and heavenly characteristics!

The same was true for the members of the various races in this world.

Not every Sky Whale would be impressive enough to challenge every Dragon on the Continent of Beasts who was at the same level as them.

So when she realized that Minos had something that made her feel like she was facing a higher level being, even considering the level disadvantage he had compared to her, this Gorgon couldn't help but look at him more seriously.

It only took a second for her to realize that this human was similar to the most talented Dragons on this continent!

With that in mind, she immediately became defensive and raised her guard against this group.

"Who are you? Where are you from?" She asked Minos, thinking about how strange the formation of this group was. "And why is your group so diverse?"

Minos clenched his fists and said in a thick tone. "I asked you first, Gorgon. Why were you here? Does this place belong to Titus? Answer me, and I'll tell you who we are."

Against certain beings, one had to act defensively to protect one's own continuity. This was the case with the Sky Whales, for these beings rarely attacked those who showed humility toward them.

But other beings could be complicated to deal with if you showed inferiority. The best way to deal with them was to puff out your chest and show that even if your side loses, the other side will lose something too, because you won't take it without damaging the other side.

Gorgons were very different from Sky Whales. If they saw someone acting cowardly towards them, they would become even more interested in 'playing' with such beings. On the other hand, if they felt they had to respect or fear the other party, they would consider not getting involved with such beings unless they really had to.

Gorgons were very intelligent and wouldn't risk their lives for unnecessary things like a problem with an unknown group that didn't want to face them.

Then she stepped back, although she kept her terrible aura and the snakes on her head in a lunge position. "I was after that old fox. We had an agreement, but he didn't keep his side of the deal."

"So it was really him..."

"Do you know where we can find him?" Minos asked as the people in his group realized that this place really belonged to Titus. I think you should take a look at

"Your turn to answer, human." She said, waiting to find out who these people were.

Minos knew he had to be strong in the face of such a treacherous creature, but he couldn't just demand things and give nothing in return. So he answered her. "My wives and I are from the Black Plain Empire. We're on a journey to form a strong group to go to the North Sea."

"North Sea?" The Gorgon's expression changed when she heard this, understanding why there were so many beings of different races in this group. 'Are they idiots seeking their own death?' This thought crossed her mind while she couldn't help but let her guard down a bit.

This explained the presence of sea creatures in this group on the Continent of Beasts, but it also explained why this group was so diverse, even among the beast races. They were definitely recruiting because this Gorgon could also smell the scent of other races coming from these creatures.

"Yes, the North Sea," Minos confirmed.

"Is that why you want Titus? Do you want to recruit him?" She realized what they wanted.

"Yes, he seems to be nearing the end of his life and has an exploratory nature. He's a good match for us." Minos said.

"Is not being able to keep your promises and contacts also useful for your group? That bastard promised me to solve a problem weeks ago, and I haven't heard any good news from him... I went looking for him but found nothing! The bastard has run away."

"So you don't know where he is?"

"If I did, he would have turned to stone by now." She said angrily, but she wasn't really planning on it.

Titus was willing to experiment on beings of all species. As much as there were crucial differences between him and beings of other races, any discoveries he made with beings of other races could be samples of the path he should follow.

He dared to contact anyone who was willing to give him 'material' to work with and had recently made a deal with this Gorgon for the body of a member of that race. In exchange, he would have to fulfill a promise to this Gorgon, something he had not yet done and which would harm this creature.

'The bastard didn't get rid of the body of that bitch, and now I'm wanted for murder.' She thought silently, looking forward to her reunion with Titus. 'If he can't help me out of this mess, I swear I'll turn him to stone!'

Meanwhile, Minos and his people had no idea how the Gorgon and Titus were connected. Still, now they had a glimpse of him by confirming that this place belonged to him.

With that in mind, they had a path to follow to find this individual.

But before they left the area, the Gorgon asked them. "What are you going to do? Aren't you going to recruit me?"

Hearing their silence, she laughed, aware that it would be impossible for any group with levels so close to hers to accept her. "It doesn't matter. But you should be careful. I'm not the only one looking for Titus. And I hope you don't find him before I do. If you do, expect trouble."

With those words, she disappeared from there, moving quickly to where she thought she might find her target, leaving Minos' group staring at where she had disappeared.

Chapter 1916 Tribal Enemies

A few days later...

After the strange encounter with a gorgon, Minos' group continued investigating Titus' whereabouts in the area without owners near the Nine-Tailed Fox territory.

Nothing much had happened in the past few days, and they had not encountered any other gorgons or other powerful beings common to this continent.

As for their search, they had found several traces of Titus and were on his trail. However, they didn't know for sure how close they were to the fox, only that they were getting closer to him with each passing day.

The group didn't want to give up the search for the moment. Minos felt that he could use Titus, not only in the exploration of the North Sea but also for some experiments after he reached level 90.

For now, he didn't want to give up on finding this beast and inviting it to join his group. But with time, that might change.

Minos wondered how long he could stay in this place before returning to his search for allies on the continent. It wouldn't be worth spending months searching for a level 89 fox.

But without thinking too much about giving up now, Minos and his group were closer to Titus than they thought.

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At a certain point in the southernmost forest of the Continent of Beasts, not far from the Nine-Tailed Fox Tribe, an old-looking being, currently in humanoid form, was slowly moving around in one of the trees on a plain.

In this area, tens of thousands of square kilometers were irregularly scattered with several trees that could reach hundreds of meters in height, many of them high-ranking plant beings.

But no matter how defensive they were, even sentient plant beings had their limits. When they died, they left behind high-level structures perfect for humanoid beings to hide or even live in.

Just inside the corpse of a magnificent tree that was still standing, there was a place that looked like a laboratory, built halfway up the tree, where one would find it difficult to find even if you scanned the surroundings.

There, a white-haired man with wrinkles around his eyes had a strange smile on his face as he walked over to where a half-humanoid, half-snake-like creature was bent over a table with several chains attached to her.

On her head was an eye patch over her eyes, while the snakes on her head were constantly trying to attack that old man.

Unfortunately, they weren't big enough to reach him.

"Damned old fox! You'll pay for this!" The creature said as he felt intense pain in his abdomen, where a deep cut had opened.

The old man ignored it, used to the threats he always received from his guinea pigs.

He looked at her face and laughed.

How many could tell what a gorgon looked like? Very few!

But he was one of them!

As he looked at her face again, he couldn't help but feel good about himself for 'overcoming' the taboo of looking at a gorgon.

For him, looking at her and not turning to stone was like slapping her in the face! I think you should take a look at

But when he took his eyes off this creature, he looked around, where there were pieces of corpses of beings from various other races, but also some beings still alive, waiting for him to work with them.

"Miss gorgon, can't you see that what I'm doing for you is good?" He said as he used a cane to walk around his lab. "You were supposed to die weeks ago. Dunyxa gave you to me to dispose of your body. But I'm keeping you alive. Not only that but if you survive my experiments, you may make a significant breakthrough!"

As he said this, he had an unprecedented passion in his words, almost to the point of performing in front of this and the other captive beings in his laboratory.

"You should all thank me! I am your salvation! Without me, you'd all be dead! What's a little pain next to the nothingness of death?" He asked aloud as he picked up a tube of some substance.

"Why don't you do it to yourself, you bastard?" The gorgon asked, smelling the poison the bastard had used to attack her body.

"If I did that, who would be doing my experiments?" He laughed before pushing a tube into the creature's mouth that could go down to her stomach, forcing his special poison into her.

"Stop complaining, gorgon. I'll soon finish my experiments on you."

...

Meanwhile, a few miles away from the large tree, Minos and his group stood still.

They weren't resting but scanning their surroundings for clues about where to go next.

As capable as he was, Titus was at the end of his life and had even less time to live than Bella. While this might make him less cautious in some places, the fact that there were level 91 Demigods in Minos' group greatly helped him investigate this level 89 fox.

It was only a matter of time before they found the place where Titus had been hiding from Dunyxa!

But while they were standing in that area, with the mercenaries of the group working to find new clues that would lead to Titus, the level 91 woman of the Sea Folk suddenly sensed something strange and looked to the north.

"Several beasts are approaching our position. Raise your guard. We have less than 20 seconds before they arrive." She said as she looked to the north.

Immediately after her words, Minos' entire group changed their posture and turned towards the north, his women quickly standing in the middle of his people as they circulated their energies.

As the humans there activated their Soul Avatars, a group of 10th-stage snakes appeared from the direction that the bluish-skinned woman had alerted them to.

'Snakes?' Gloria looked at the creatures approaching them in formation.

They clearly weren't just passing through! These creatures were there for them!

Seeing how they made their way to their position with no intention of stopping, Minos realized that this was not an attempt at dialog but an attack.

"It's been a long time since I've tasted snake meat... It looks like some fools are here to help me change that today". Minos commented for everyone in the area to hear as he looked at the two types of snakes arriving there, one from a race limited to level 89, next to another that could reach the 10th stage.

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Chapter 1917 Unexpected Barbecue?

Upon hearing Minos' comment, a level 92 snake leading the enemy group gave him an ugly look as he crawled toward this group of enemies.

"Is this the group you warned us about?" He asked the weakest of this group of 20 snakes, 8 level 89 Sages, 6 level 90 Demigods, 4 level 91, and 2 level 92.

One of the level 89 snakes said. "Yes, senior. I noticed them a few days ago. They are friends with the Nine-Tailed Fox Tribe. And from the fillings in their bodies that day, I can tell their group must be stronger than the one in front of us."

"This is really serious." A level 91 snake said to his people. "Our tribe has been under much pressure from the Phoenix Tribe lately. If any of those damned birds' associates become strong with such beings, we may soon face extinction."

Hard times were approaching in the Spiritual World. All of the powerful races in that world had already sensed that something was about to happen, and they were becoming more defensive in the face of dangers or problems that normally wouldn't bother them too much.

One would worry about rivals forming alliances and growing stronger at any time. But now, it was more serious for all the tribes on the Continent of Beasts because all these tribes were becoming more worried about the future.

When resources became scarce, those with the best contacts and influence would have the best chance of getting them. At that time, those who lagged behind would lose out in the race for survival, and even if they survived, they might be considerably weakened.

Fearing that this neighbor of theirs would become stronger, the weaker snake tribe between these two snake races had asked their allies for help in wiping out Minos' group.

As long as they limited the potential of the Nine-Tailed Foxes, they and their entire alliance could go further in the times of trouble that were about to reach this world!

With that, those beings didn't hesitate to attack Minos' group with all their might as soon as they encountered him, not wanting to talk or even be cautious.

If there were more of them, their mission wouldn't end with this slaughter. So they had to kill them quickly to go after the others and end any possibility of improving the conditions for the Nine-Tailed Fox Tribe!

Seeing those snakes charging at some of them, some already spitting venom and other forms of poisonous powers in their direction, Minos' group didn't hesitate to attack them with force as soon as they saw them.

"Kill the bastards!" One of the mercenaries shouted, ignoring the enemies of his level to fight with his allies against the strongest enemies.

A level 91 snake laughed when she saw the level 89 creatures charging at them, not understanding what the problem was with these creatures.

"I'll kill them in one move!" She shouted in a terrifying tone while the Demigods in Minos' group looked at the two level 92 Demigods in that team.

As one side attacked the other, Minos disappeared from where he was and appeared in front of the group of enemy beasts, quickly bringing them within range of his techniques and abilities.

When they least expected it, these creatures sensed Emperor Stuart's dark innate ability and felt this human's level suddenly rise until it reached level 85.

Noticing this, some of those beings took notice of Minos' previous words.

"Damn it! This person isn't even..." One of them was about to shout when Minos suddenly used another of his abilities.

Dragon's Gaze!

All 20 serpents immediately felt a strong spiritual pressure in their consciousness as an invisible attack flew towards Minos' two strongest enemies.

Meanwhile, several of them felt their bodies freeze in place as several blades of energy sliced through space, coming from different directions toward their vital points.

Gulp!

A level 91 snake felt it and realized that all the Spiritual Sages in his group were dying because of a simple move by a level 83 human who was currently at level 85.

'How could that be?'

But even he was affected by Minos' skill. As he saw the attacks of the level 89 mercenaries coming at him faster and faster, he could do nothing to defend himself.

Not dying from Minos' first attack was already a great achievement for him, but even though he survived, he was mentally affected to the extreme.

When the Spatial Sword also attacked him, he ended up in a situation where he could only watch as one of his enemies unleashed deadly attacks on him!

The two level 92 Demigods of the opposing group suffered the brunt of Minos' attack, feeling such fear in their hearts that they imagined themselves shrinking in front of this human.

They were about ten times larger than Minos, even compared to his size in his soul projection form. Even so, at that moment, they felt as if they had suddenly become small snakes in front of a giant dragon.

As Minos looked at them, they felt as if his eyes and body had grown larger, and their lives were now in his hands.

'It can't be!' One of them wanted to scream but frozen by some strange force, he could only watch as Minos and the Stuart family crew wiped out his entire group.

Meanwhile, attacks from the Demigods in Minos' group hit their enemies' vital points, along with more attacks from Emperor Stuart himself.

Using the Devouring Art, Chaotic Gravity, Divine Seal, and Spatial Sword, Minos quickly inflicted serious wounds on the two level 92 Demigods, opening up significant openings for his men!

"Barbecue time!" Minos muttered into the creature's mind, using the Infinite Dream to show what he and his companions would be doing very soon: a big barbecue where they would eat all those creatures' bodies.

But before that creature could even react to such a horrible vision, someone cut his heart in half, and he was eliminated without much difficulty, barely a minute after one group discovered the other!

The people in Minos' group had been helped by him by temporarily receiving the level increases generated by the cultivation bases of the level 89 and 90 enemy beasts that Emperor Stuart easily influenced.

Since they were no longer weak, even without his help, they quickly used their many advantages to wipe out the snake group, killing all the level 91 and 92 creatures in no time.

Minos' women didn't even have to act together with the group this time. They just stood still and maintained their defensive positions.

Their group's action was so fast and effective that Ruth's skill was not needed.

Seeing this, Isabella commented to her husband. "You have become very strong, Minos. But what are we going to do with these bodies? This will probably get us into trouble with even stronger elders from these tribes."

"Let's eat them," Minos said seriously. "That will make these beasts think twice before they decide to attack us just because of our relationship with a local tribe."

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Chapter 1918 Attracting Attention

As brutal as Minos' proposal was, it was common practice in the Spiritual World.

When two sides engaged in a confrontation, especially one between beings of different races, it was very common for the winners to devour the bodies of the losers.

Beasts did this to other beasts of different races and to humans, and humans did it to beasts.

But there were cases of beasts of the same race devouring their rivals, which was more common among beasts. Even cases of humans devouring other humans existed, although very rare.

When Minos suggested this, his group didn't find it so strange, and soon, the mercenaries there were setting up large bonfires, some of them already cutting up the corpses, removing the useless parts, and quickly preparing the edible ones.

You didn't have to be a spiritual cook to know how to prepare a barbecue!

Cooks were chefs who could enhance the nutritional and spiritual quality of the food, increasing not only the flavor but also the spiritual richness of meals.

They weren't entirely necessary to prepare a minimally tasty feast. Anyone with a bit of spice and a minimum of knowledge about meat and its preparation could prepare a satisfying barbecue.

In less than ten minutes, three large fires were blazing with long skewers of snake meat, while the men of Minos' group had already destroyed the remains of the creatures killed by their group.

The smell of the meat gradually permeated the air, bringing the delicious smell of barbecue miles away from where Minos' group was.

The beasts in the area noticed this and naturally looked in that direction, with several creatures of different species salivating at that hard-to-resist smell.

Gulp!

A giant toad at the edge of a pond near the tree-covered area sniffed it and noticed the distinct smell of snake flesh.

'It looks like some snakes have died at the hands of human experts.' He thought to himself.

Barbecuing was a human practice. Beasts usually devoured the bodies of their enemies without any preparation.

By smelling the distinct smell of barbecue, that creature and several others nearby knew it was humans' deeds.

But no one dared to approach them at first. To dare to light a fire and grill the flesh of the snakes of the tribes that were in the vicinity of this area would require a great deal of courage or strength.

Even a member of one of the tribes of these dead beings realized what was happening and broke into a cold sweat with fear but also anger at these humans.

Devouring enemies was a common practice, but it was a sign of extreme disrespect, a way of saying that one side was superior to the other, etc.

By doing this openly, Minos' group was provoking the two snake tribes that had attacked his group.

'Damn you! You'll pay for this, you bastards! I'm going to report this to the tribe!' A weaker snake that was nearby left in a rage and went back to his home to bring this information to his people.

...

On the other hand, inside the tree where Titus was doing his experiments...I think you should take a look at

Sensing a distinct odor in the air, Titus immediately stopped what he was doing with his guinea pig and looked toward Minos' group.

'This smell...' He recognized the scent of specimens from rival tribes of the Nine-Tailed Fox Tribe and became immediately curious.

You couldn't tell the level of the dead just by smelling the barbecue. Even though these corpses and the enemies who were probably preparing to devour them at that moment were likely to be strong, it didn't mean these creatures would be so strong that they would scare this old fox.

With his curiosity and the chance to perhaps steal one of the corpses of these beings, Titus clenched his fists in his humanoid form and walked slowly toward the exit of his tree.

'I will spy on this group. If they're weak, maybe I can get new guinea pigs from different races.' He thought to himself as he left the place.

...

Meanwhile, enough time had passed for the meat to roast, and everyone in Minos' group was tasting the meat of the snakes they had eliminated a few moments ago.

The flesh of these beasts was delicious. However, it didn't taste so unique. Like many meats in this world, snake meat tasted like chicken.

However, like the meat of Sages and Demigods, it was the most delicious chicken-flavored meat that anyone in that group had ever tasted.

As they ate with gusto, not at all disgusted that they were eating individuals they had just fought, Minos' group chatted among themselves.

"What are we going to do now? This tribe won't let this go unanswered." One of the mercenaries commented.

As frightening as their act was, it was customary for a group that had been insulted in this way to first test the enemy's strength before giving up on revenge because the other side was so terrifying that it would devour them.

Devouring enemies after a battle was a simple act of threat. It meant something like, "If you attack me, I will devour you. Stay away from me or risk destruction."

But one would always test the level of the one making the threat because there was always the risk that a weak group was behind it.

Minos then said. "The tribes that attacked us aren't that strong. The weakest is at the same level as the Nine-Tailed Fox Tribe. The other one is a bit stronger and should have mid-level Demigods. However, the chances of either of them coming after us are slim.

Even though we're in an area without an owner, this area belongs to the Phoenix Tribe's sphere of influence. If a level 94, 95, or 96 elder from a tribe unfriendly to the Phoenix Tribe enters this area, the observers of such a race will take action."

Minos knew the races of the Continent of Beasts well, especially the difficulties of some races and the differences in the spiritual wealth of the territories on the continent.

The Continent of Beasts was not a single entity. What's more, certain races had their own characteristics that made it more difficult for their members to progress in certain environments.

Being in a rich environment wasn't everything!

Take the case of the women of the Flowers Kingdom in the Central Continent. Even though they were in a high-level location near the two strongest states on the continent, that state only had a level 93 Demigod as its leader.

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Chapter 1919 No Way Out

Not every being with the potential to reach the 10th stage could necessarily reach level 99 or attempt to break through to level 100. Many suffer from variables that could trap them in the beginning or middle of such a stage, so they might never reach the peak of their potential.

This was the case with the race of the strongest snakes that had attacked Minos' group that day.

Such a race was supposed to be only slightly stronger than the McBride family from the Flowers Kingdom. Still, Minos had estimated by overestimating the strength of this tribe just so that his group would understand the real risks they could face.

"How did you..."

As one of them was about to ask how he could know that, half of them suddenly sensed something and looked up at the top of one of the trees in the area, where a white-haired man was looking down at them with a frightened expression.

"Huh?"

"That's..."

"A Nine-Tailed Fox!"

The people in Minos' group noticed this individual almost simultaneously, spoiling Titus' observation.

Titus was very proud of his abilities, but not even he expected that the beings he was about to observe would notice him so quickly.

He had not expected those he wanted to spy on would be highly talented beings, including beings as sensitive to certain things as elves.

When he arrived, the three Sea Folk people from Minos' group looked in his direction along with Minos.

After these four, all the group members did the same, immediately identifying Titus while this guy made a terrible expression.

'Damn it!' That was all he could think before he turned and fled, realizing his big mistake.

However, no matter how skilled he was, he couldn't compare to the Sea Fol Demigods in that group.

When one of them moved, the old fox barely saw the Demigod motion and suddenly faced a stranger.

"Shit! Who are you?" He shouted as one of the creature's hands landed on his right shoulder.

Almost instantly, Minos appeared behind the old fox, who was surrounded by a faint smell of blood.

"Titus Gamble, I've come to meet you," Minos said as he shook the old fox's hand, giving him no time to dodge. "Bella told me a bit about you, and I couldn't help but be interested in someone so curious."

The white-haired old fox narrowed his eyes and looked at this young level 83 human, noticing that he wasn't normal.

'What is wrong with this person?' He tried to move his hand, but for some reason, he didn't even have the strength to shake the clenched hand. 'Was this a trap?' Titus wondered, seeing that this group didn't just happen to be in the area.

"Are you here to kill me? Has the tribe finally decided to get rid of me?" He asked, a little afraid but no longer expecting to escape.

Minos' group was too strong for him. Not even if he was the best in the world at deception and using his mind tricks to take advantage of others would he be able to escape from these people!

Aware of this, he was ready to meet his end if that was his fate for the day. I think you should take a look at

Minos laughed and said. "Get rid of you? Would it make sense for the tribe to do that when you're so close to your end?"

Titus, I'm here because I'm preparing to go to the North Sea to explore that dangerous place! Don't waste your last years in this place. Come with my group and use your little time left to see this world more deeply."

Upon hearing Minos' tone and the content of his words, Titus naturally formed a strange expression.

If this group wanted to force him to go to the North Sea, it was the same as the tribe getting rid of him!

He knew that he couldn't treat these beings casually. He couldn't casually refuse them if they were there to 'invite' him!

"North Sea?" He laughed sarcastically. "Why should suicide be better than dying on my land while I search for the truth about cultivation?"

Minos didn't answer him right away. He distorted space and appeared with this individual near where his group and the area's bonfires were.

With Titus in front of him, Minos finally lets him go and gives the fox a meat skewer.

"Titus, do you think you're going to discover in a few years what you couldn't discover in a lifetime?" Minos was surgical, touching the fox's weak spot. "It's all very well to be persistent, but to insist on making the same mistake for a lifetime is too much, don't you think? There comes a point when you have to change and see things differently."

"Tsk! That's my problem. If I'm going to lose my life in a mistake, that's something that only affects me. Why do you bother?" Titus didn't like Minos' words.

He had lived to try to find methods to change his potential, to raise not only his limit but that of his entire race. Unfortunately, even Gods' inheritances didn't work for them!

Inheritances from level 100 cultivators could change the talents of those who received them. But there were conditions for it to work!

One of them was that the inheritance had to be passed on to a being with peak potential, that is, something at least similar to the SILVER TALENT, OR it had to be given to a BEING of the SAME RACE.

This meant that a level 100 dragon couldn't change the talent of a Nine-Tailed Fox through its inheritance, but it could change the talent of a human with a Silver-grade talent or a beast with a lower talent.

The inheritance of a human God could raise the talent of another human with ANY talent. Still, it could only raise the talent of a being of another race with AT LEAST a Silver-grade talent.

This meant that even a God's inheritance wouldn't make a Nine-Tailed Fox change their talent and reach the 10th stage.

Titus knew this was how things worked in this world, but he didn't understand what was behind it.

However, the person he was questioning at that moment had a theory in his head that explained it perfectly!

Minos told the old fox, showing him one of his hands as an invitation. "Titus, come with me, and I'll give you a chance to understand the truth about this world. You are a scholar, aren't you? You want to understand why members of your race cannot reach the 10th stage or beyond, right?

I have an explanation that may be behind the answers you seek. If you come with me, I'll share some of my knowledge with you."

Upon hearing this, Titus couldn't help but change his expression when he saw how this human was willing to provoke him.

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Chapter 1920 Minos' Hypothesis

Titus was irritated by Minos' earlier remark. But he couldn't help but think that this strange human with an even stranger company might actually have something in mind to help him.

It could be a bluff since Bella had directed this group. But there was a slight possibility that Minos' last words were valid.

"Do you want me to join your group? Why?" He asked.

Minos could sense that such a fox had already killed many beings in experiments and was not normal.

Then he laughed, feeling that this fox's fate was rather strange.

"Besides having valuable skills for the journey I intend to take, you would be a perfect guinea pig, Titus. You've spent your whole life experimenting on other beings. It's about time you experienced it yourself, isn't it? Don't worry. I'm not going to force you into anything. I'll tell you what I have in mind and let you decide if you want to do some of the things I have planned."

Minos' words were strange, to say the least. But as crazy as it sounded to say that you would turn the one you were trying to recruit into a guinea pig, things weren't that simple with Titus.

Titus had actually experimented on others all his life and had never done anything to himself. But that wasn't because he had a sense of self-preservation that kept him from taking risks or anything like that.

What he had done to others all his life were things he would be willing to do to himself if he could be sure that he would have ways to further develop his knowledge after experimenting on himself.

But since he'd never had anyone he could trust to control the experiments for him to risk himself like that, he felt he couldn't risk it as he was the only one in his tribe pursuing development.

He couldn't risk himself like that!

But that didn't mean he didn't have what it took to do it if the conditions were right!

So when he heard Minos' words, he didn't find them as strange as the people in Emperor Stuart's own group.

"And what can you offer me? What knowledge do you have that makes you think I would be interested in putting my life in your hands?" Titus asked.

Minos then said. "I have a theory that explains why some beings can reach the 10th stage and even level 100 while others are completely incapable of doing so.

It's not just a difference in talent. It's a problem related to the structure of these beings. They lack a form that allows them to connect with higher forms of power." He said a little about his theories just to get Titus curious.

The problem that prevented races like Titus' from evolving and reaching a new point wasn't that they lacked talent. The form of their powers, essences, bodies, etc., were incompatible with those of other beings of higher complexity.

For example, think of an electrical outlet. A socket could have several possible inputs, and if you had an adapter, you could plug in different kinds of devices, even with different inputs.

However, if you didn't have the adapter, it might become impossible for that socket to connect to an external device that could provide it with the final essence it would need to evolve qualitatively.

In short, Minos' theory held that the problem with limited races like the Nine-Tailed Foxes was that their beings lacked the "adapter," or the final essence that would allow them to access higher-level possibilities.

All his life, Titus had wondered what might be behind this problem. But he had never considered the Minos hypothesis. For him, the problem was related to a form of power that members of his race could not absorb. That's why he had sought out different races, whether they could reach the 10th stage or not, in search of different forms of energy and one that could be compatible with his people.

But he had never considered the possibility that they lacked something that would allow them to 'connect' to this particular form of energy. I think you should take a look at

With that in mind, Titus couldn't help but be interested in Minos' words.

It wasn't enough for him to accept Minos' hypotheses as correct. He didn't even know them to talk about it. But hearing those single words from Emperor Stuart was enough to distract him from the group around him for a moment to think about it.

'A difference in form... If that's true, there's no point in finding another form of energy. None of them will be compatible with us if we don't have a way to connect to them.' He thought to himself as he saw the implication of Minos' words.

If Minos were right, all his research would be useless, and he would have to think of a new way to investigate!

But with only a few decades left before he died, Titus couldn't help but imagine that he wouldn't have time.

'If he's right, I'll die without knowing if it's possible or not!'

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The worst thing for him was not dying but knowing that his whole life had been useless. Even if he were to die, he wouldn't be too moved if he could leave something for future generations to pick up where he left off.

Titus was sure that sooner or later, someone would find some of the information he had already spread across this continent about his many experiments.

Then, if all went well, someone might use his theories to develop a method with a good chance of success in raising the potential of living beings, perhaps changing the history of the Nine-Tailed Fox Tribe.

That was his goal, to raise the status of his race!

But if he were wrong, it would never happen.

Faced with this possibility and with no time to develop a new base for study and experimentation from scratch, he felt he had to take a risk.

"All right. I agree to join your group if you give me access to everything you know. I want to know where you came up with this theory, your proofs, and possible experiments. I also want to be free to leave at any time." He said seriously, scaring the mercenaries who weren't so sure that this fox would join them.

"I don't want to be stuck with your group if your hypotheses have a high chance of being wrong."

Minos was confident in his theory so far and didn't worry about this request.

"It can be done. But everything you come into contact with on my behalf, you'll have to keep secret. If you accept that, we can..."

As Minos spoke, he and some of the more sensitive members of the group felt a familiar sensation that changed the expressions on their faces.

When they looked around, they saw a group of Gorgons surrounding the area where they were talking and eating snake meat.

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