Bloodline 421

Chapter 421 Go for a stroll once again

Diora snapped back and swung her whip, but it missed its target.

"Come out! Don't play hide and seek with me! I'll kill you all!"

She intensified her divine aura, using all her strength. Alec and Carcel clenched their teeth and were about to move toward Diora to stop her, but they froze when Kyle suddenly appeared behind her, lifting his leg in a very familiar manner. Alec smirked and cursed under his breath.

"That bastard... really knows how to get on others nerves."

Carcel shook his head and stretched his neck.

"At least she will be out of the picture until we're done with Hay."

Diora sensed it clearly this time when Kyle attempted to kick her. She quickly turned around, but her eyes darkened when she saw a familiar flickering portal just inches away from her body. She cried out and tore the portal with her nails. However, in that moment of distraction, she failed to notice another powerful kick that landed on her waist and sent her flying downward.

Kyle watched her, then vanished behind her. He winced as he appeared close to her, feeling the immense pressure radiating from her body.

"I have to admit, I still can't handle the divine pressure..."

Diora clawed at his body, but he disappeared before her nails could pierce him. Kyle straightened his clothes and looked at the woman, who had managed to regain her balance in mid-air.

"She's insane."

Even though he said that, a smile crept onto his lips as he vanished once more. He reappeared around Diora again and again, from all directions, driving her to the brink of madness.

The others who were fighting with Hay or more specifically delivering finishing blows to the man who seemed close to death, moved back when the icy blue flames, which had been silently swirling around Hay, suddenly engulfed the man in a chilling embrace.

A pained, heart-wrenching cry that sent chills down the spine of everyone who heard it rang out in the air as the flames forcefully entered Hay's mouth to freeze his skull and all his internal organs.

Diora paused in her actions. The woman lowered her whip and stared at Hay who turned into a glistening ice statue right before her eyes.

She let out a crazed laugh.

"Haha, no way! No way!"

She wanted to go and save him, but halted because the ice statue shattered into countless bright particles, the same beautiful particles that had stopped her skill before.

Diora's eyes flickered with madness. There was no way her partner could die, not because of some insignificant ants!

The woman opened her mouth, probably to shout again that she would kill every person in her sight, but before she could, another kick landed on her waist, sending her into a portal that materialized behind her. Diora's eyes locked with Kyle's, and darkness enveloped her vision once again.

Kyle lowered his leg and let out a sigh.

"The enemies are near... and I've already used up all my divine energy. Not to mention, even my mana is running low."

He glanced back at the many individuals behind him who had been staring daggers at him for a while now.

"What?"

Nine floated towards him and gave him a serious look before glancing at the distance where the array masters were present. More specifically, he looked at Han, the man who taught Kyle about arrays.

"Bro, I think I should also learn some array symbols, especially to create the portal you just used to send that woman away."

Jian and Sinon joined him with solemn expressions.

"We should learn as well. It's too powerful to ignore."

Regius rubbed his chin.

"Now that you three are going to learn, I'll join as well. I don't think it's hard after seeing how easily Kyle can draw so many symbols within a second."

Alec and Carcel wanted to join too. They would be lying if they said they weren't tempted. However, Yon poured cold water on their expectations even before they could voice them.

"Kids, it's not easy to learn array symbols, especially the ones Kyle is using to create teleportation portals mid-air..."

The old dwarf counted his fingers and hummed with a thoughtful expression.

"Well, if you really want to learn, it won't take you all a long time. Approximately twenty years...? Only if you all spend all your time learning them and have a good memory and comprehension ability."

Nine stared at the dwarf with blank eyes and retreated into the distance as if he never even asked to learn about arrays. Jian and Sinon quickly followed him and went towards the crowd to recover their divine energy and mana.

Kyle chuckled and shook his head at them before staring into the distance.

"I think we should all get ready and move. The enemies are here."

Yon and Alec arrived beside him and nodded. The dwarf glanced at Kyle, a little surprised that the kid could already spread his senses so far away.

"I can sense them as well. It's a big army. They'll be here soon because they're traveling at full speed."

Kyle nodded.

"Not just them, that woman is back as well. Let's move forward and ask..."

He stopped speaking when Yon patted his shoulder with a smile.

"I know, leave it to me. I'll get all the people behind us ready for the fight. Just worry about yourself. I can sense you used all your divine energy."

Kyle watched as Yon and Alec quickly left his side to tell the others. Istalian, Yue, and the other two kings instantly ordered their people to get ready because they were going to move forward. The air tensed because the people had seen how Hay and Diora were so strong, but Istalian raised his voice to make their resolve stronger.

"Don't forget, we are fighting for ourselves, for our families, for our people! If we retreat today, no one will survive! So, grab your weapons and start moving because the enemies won't stop, and they will get stronger with time! That's why we are not going to hesitate and wipe them out before they can become strong enough to finish us all!"

The crowd's eyes blazed with anger, and they raised their weapons in the air. In the next second, the land trembled as countless people from different races started moving toward the enemies to make them regret the time they stepped on this planet.

Kyle gazed at them, he knew many of them would die, but he just hoped they could finish this war with as few casualties as possible. He raised his head and clicked his tongue when Diora once again appeared in the sky.

"I don't have enough divine energy to fight with you. So, it's better for you to go for a stroll once again."

He blinked and in the next second vanished into thin air.

Chapter 422 The war I

Amidst the ruined buildings, Misha paused in mid-air and narrowed her eyes, gazing into the distance. She wasn't alone—thousands of individuals from different races were running behind her floating figure. Some had animal feathers, some were humans, and others had lizard-like scales covering their bodies.

But no matter how they looked, all of them had a petal engraved on their foreheads. Or if not on their foreheads, it would be on other parts of their bodies.

Misha's grey eyes sparkled as she sensed countless presences rushing directly toward their location.

"Don't tell me... haha! So, they're coming towards us instead of hiding behind that dome they created."

She rubbed her chin, a little surprised by the situation. Nevertheless, she wondered where Diora and Hay were. The duo had left her behind to do all the work and disappeared.

"It's strange... with Diora's personality, she would have already attacked the dome. And why didn't she inform me that the people we're attacking are heading toward us to fight head-on?"

Misha grabbed the hem of her robe and elegantly turned around, her gaze falling upon the three divine-rank individuals, two elves, and one from the lizard race floating behind her.

"You three, take charge of the army. I am going to summon the monsters. After all, we can't afford any risks, especially after what happened to Ateo."

A flicker of coldness flashed in Misha's eyes as she mentioned Ateo.

"I swear, I want to tear apart the bastard who killed that prick..."

She began to float upward and her eyes started glowing ominously with a red hue. In the next second, a sweet melody wafted through the air.

However, only the lurking monsters around the ruined structures could hear it. Even the distant monsters in the forest raised their heads, drawn to the enchanting voice. In the end, all the monsters who heard the voice started running towards it as if they were under its control.

The three divine-rank individuals looked at Misha's figure and immediately ordered the countless people beneath them to move forward.

The air was filled with cheerful laughter as the huge army eagerly rushed ahead, itching for a fight. The land beneath them trembled as they jumped or ran through the many ruined structures, heading straight toward the last hope of the planet without any hesitation.

After all, they knew they had the upper hand, being stronger and more powerful, and with so many divine-rank, pseudo divine-rank, and countless other strong individuals by their side. This battle wouldn't even last long enough for them to savor it. It would probably be over before they could even fully indulge in their desire to kill to their heart's content.

Their eyes lit up when they saw countless people rushing towards them. Just like them, the people at the front shouted loudly and raised their weapons in the air to show they were ready for the war.

Dust filled the air and the ground trembled beneath their feet as the two opposing forces arrived opposite each other.

Istalian's eyes narrowed because the enemies didn't stop; instead, they attacked instantly without any care. Istalian and the older individuals around him ordered their people to attack. No matter what they can't back down now.

The clash of weapons echoed in the air, accompanied by the cries and shouts of the people who fought with their lives on the line. However, the individuals with black petals engraved on their foreheads were amused and treated the war as a little game that would soon come to an end.

In that moment, countless monsters appeared in the distance. Misha looked down at the battlefield with her glowing eyes and commanded the monsters to attack and take out the enemies.

The atmosphere grew tense as countless roars reverberated in the air. More and more monsters joined the battle, only increasing the pressure on the people fighting against the ones with black petals engraved on their foreheads.

Alec paused in mid-air, his eyes sweeping over the countless people below. Before long, the air became heavy with the sounds of clashing weapons and the unmistakable scent of blood.

Then he fixed his gaze on the three divine-rank individuals who floated in the distance. The trio seemed almost bored, as if they were just waiting for the battle to end, fully confident that it would be an easy victory. Moreover, they weren't alone. Many pseudo-divine rank individuals were

floating behind the trio, as if waiting for their order to join the war and finish off the struggling souls.

The moment the three divine-rank individuals met Alec's gaze, they became alert. Not because of Alec, but because of the many people floating mid-air behind the blue-haired man. After all, they weren't aware that the enemy had so many pseudo-divine rank individuals.

Jian let out a shout.

"There are our preys! Guys, attack!"

The three divine-rank individuals were surprised when Alec, Nine, Carcel, Yon, Sinon, Regius, and all those who fought in close combat rushed forward toward them without hesitation.

Yue, Jian, and Mia commanded the mages with the tower's guardians from a distance and rained down one attack after another on the enemies. Jian jolted when a portal materialized beside him. Kyle stepped out from the portal with furrowed brows.

Jian formed countless sharp earth shards and threw them at the enemies, then gazed at Kyle.

"What happened? Also, what about Diora?"

Kyle massaged his temples.

"Gone... at least for a while. I'll take care of the divine-rank individual with lizard-like features. Bia is almost here too. She said she'll take out the woman who is controlling the monsters."

Then, he patted Jian's shoulder and gazed at Yue.

"I'm leaving for now. Contact me if something happens. Also, don't go jumping into something that can threaten your life."

After Kyle disappeared, Jian's eyes blazed and he jumped forward to battle a pseudo-divine rank individual. Not just him, Yue, Lara, and Mia also started fighting with the pseudo-divine rank individuals.

Istalian and the ones with (SS)-Rank strength or higher got themselves busy with the ones who had similar strengths.

Misha watched the battlefield and scoffed at the people who were struggling, trying their best to fight. She was a little taken aback when she saw so many pseudo divine rank individuals. But that's all because she knew she and the other divine rank individuals would be able to easily handle them.

Suddenly, the woman snapped her eyes in another direction where she sensed a large number of monsters rushing toward their location. Her grey pupils shook because she was not the one who summoned them!

So, why the heck so many monsters are rushing toward the battlefield?

"What is happening!? I know that the monsters on this planet are getting crazy because of the polluted air, but why are so many heading toward this place? Is there someone else on this planet who had the ability to command the monsters?"

Chapter 423 The war II

Misha's grey eyes narrowed into slits as fiery flames entered her vision. In that moment, a commanding cry echoed through the air, followed by a beautiful pair of wings that appeared in the sky.

The wings were glistening with a mix of golden, red, and blue feathers as they soared towards the battlefield. Bia's eyes narrowed as she surveyed the people below. Just as she said, the phoenix wasn't alone. Countless flying monsters followed her in a mesmerizing formation.

All of them covered the sky like a blanket and cast shadows on the ground, causing many on the ground to raise their heads and stare at the majestic phoenix leading the monsters with bated breaths.

Nine, who was fighting alongside Carcel and Regius against one of the divine rank elves, suddenly stopped in his actions.

He looked up at the phoenix and couldn't help but let out a loud curse, almost startling Carcel, who had just been pushed back towards him in mid-air.

Carcel followed his gaze, and his eyes widened in astonishment.

"Fuck..."

Nine laughed when he heard Carcel cursing so openly. It was a rare sight to see Carcel lose his composure like that.

"Damn, I'm jealous. She brought a whole freaking army with her!"

Bia snickered at the monsters who were fighting alongside the enemies. Her eyes sparkled, and she ordered the flying monsters behind her to attack the people with black petals engraved on their foreheads.

Not just the flying monsters, but the countless monsters following behind the phoenix through the land also jumped into the battlefield. Many were surprised, but the ones who knew Bia shouted toward the phoenix with newfound enthusiasm.

The people with black petals engraved on their foreheads faltered in their stance for the first time when they saw the massive army of monsters joining the opposing side. They subconsciously looked at the divine rank individuals on their side and were once again stunned because all the divine rank individuals were surrounded!

Misha's dark eyes followed the beautiful phoenix, and a vein throbbed on her forehead. She knew it was rare to see a phoenix, let alone one that had attained psuedu-divine rank strength. But this was troublesome because the same phoenix was helping the people she wanted to kill.

Moreover, to make matters worse, she could vividly sense that the phoenix's authority to command the monsters was much stronger than hers.

'Don't tell me it's a bonded beast...? Diora just how the fucking hell can you spout such nonsense that this planet doesn't have anyone above (SSS+)-Rank?!'

The woman zoomed in towards the phoenix to immediately finish it off because if she didn't, she knew it would be bad for her side.

"No matter what, I am stronger! So, you need to die for me, pretty phoenix."

Misha released her divine pressure, and countless burning meteors materialized behind her that shot out towards the phoenix with lightning-fast speed. The people and the monsters who felt her pressure dropped to their knees.

But the woman wearing the white robe didn't care if her pressure was affecting the enemies or allies. She just wanted to end the battle as soon as possible. Because for some reason, a nagging feeling started stabbing at the back of her head the moment she saw the phoenix.

Misha's face crumbled when the phoenix, who should be the main target of her pressure, snickered at her face with a pair of eyes that clearly mocked her, as if she didn't amount to anything.

Bia's wings glistened with a pale golden hue, and the symbols engraved at the edges of her wings started glowing. In the next moment, a transparent barrier enclosed her body and pushed away the pressure that was directed towards her.

-'I gotta admit, these symbols are not just for show haha. Now, I'm gonna have a lot of fun, and unfortunately, this woman's gonna be my first target.'

The phoenix glided down the air smoothly to avoid the burning meteors, and her eyes sparkled as she fixed them on Misha.

-'Let's see how long you can last against the majestic me!'

The air around Misha started trembling as she conjured a snowstorm with sharp wind currents, but she staggered in mid-air when the phoenix didn't even flinch from the coldness. Blissfully unaware that after spending so much time with Kyle, Bia had developed a natural resistance to all types of icy skills.

Misha increased her pressure with a frustated cry, and the people beneath her were almost crushed, but she didn't stop. Bia groaned because she couldn't get near the woman, and due to their fight, many people were dying.

The phoenix's eyes roamed around, searching for a way to get close to the woman. Bia's eyes brightened when a familiar figure materialized behind the crazy woman, who had been throwing so many attacks towards her that it was getting a little difficult to dodge.

Kyle gazed at the phoenix, and before Misha could react, he grabbed her neck tightly. The cold sensation shocked the woman to the core, and with a movement so fast that not even Bia could follow with her eyes, Misha's body turned into a mirage. In the next second, the air behind her cracked into countless fragments.

Misha froze when her nails, which had turned into crystals, touched nothing but empty air.

"Huh?"

She looked around with bewildered eyes and then snapped her gaze towards the phoenix, thinking it was probably the phoenix's trick. But then, countless flickering portals materialized all around her, almost eager to suck her in.

Misha cried out, shocked that the phoenix used array symbols! Moreover, with how fast the portals materialized around her, she was a hundred percent sure that the phoenix's knowledge about it had far surpassed the ordinary level.

"But... but how is it possible!?"

Not even in her wildest dreams did she imagine she would see a beast that could comprehend something she herself had little knowledge about because it was too difficult. The woman laughed and tore the portals before fixing her dark gaze on Bia.

"Now I want to open your skull and cut your body to see just how the hell you reached this level of strength!"

Bia's eyes sparkled with mirth as she watched the woman getting ready to send another attack towards her, unaware that the real culprit once again materialized above her. The woman cried out as a powerful kick landed on her head, sending her tumbling downward with lightning-fast speed. Kyle lowered his leg and gazed at Bia before a portal materialized in front of the phoenix.

"Go, I'm sending her behind you. Fight somewhere else. She's causing too many deaths."

-"Haha, don't worry and leave her to me! She's my prey!"

Chapter 424 The war III

After sending Bia away with Misha, Kyle gazed at the battlefield. He rubbed his forehead, which throbbed from using so much divine energy in such a short time. Plus, he used up all his mana by creating multiple portals and using instant teleportation repeatedly.

"It seems I will have to fight in close combat for a while until I recover some mana. If only I could draw an array that could give me a constant supply of divine energy or mana."

He let out a sigh because he knew it wouldn't be possible. First, drawing the array would require a lot of time and people. Second, he didn't have any strong resources to power the array. After all, he used up all his resources to supply enough energy to the array he built to defeat the divine rank being at the right time.

Kyle looked at Alec, Yon, and the others. They weren't exactly winning, but they were keeping the pseudo-divine rank individuals and the two divine rank elves occupied. He let out a curse when he saw two familiar figures appearing in the sky. Diora and the divine rank individual with lizard-like features.

"I just sent you two away, and you're back again. It would be hard, but I think it's better to at least take down one of them."

He zoomed in towards Alec, who was fighting with one of the divine rank elves alongside Yon, Sinon, and the other tower's guardians. Kyle grabbed Alec's shoulder and gave a nod to Sinon.

"I'm taking him. I believe you and the others can handle the man while we're gone."

The winged demi-human's eyes widened as he blocked another attack that almost sent him flying. How could the two of them leave him behind, even though they can clearly see his battered condition!

"Wait-!"

Sinon wanted to speak, but he shut his mouth because Kyle had already dragged Alec with him even before Alec could reply. Yon swung his hammer and let out a chuckle as he gazed at Sinon.

"So, it looks like it's just us taking on this guy now. Let's give it our all and take him down, young man."

Sinon's face fell, but he nodded with a solemn expression.

'It's fine, I can take a little beating. It's just that my already hurting body will hurt a little more. So, it's fine... right?'

In the distance, Alec gazed at Kyle, who had dragged him away from the fight.

"What happened?"

Kyle pointed his finger at the sky, where an ominous aura surged out. Diora's eyes were dark, filled with craziness, and the divine rank individual with lizard-like scales all over his body had half of his clothes torn. Plus, the lizard man's head was throbbing with many angry veins, like he just wanted to destroy everything in his path.

The corner of Alec's lips twitched as he gazed at the two divine rank individuals.

"Kyle, I really don't want to suffer at your hands ever..."

Kyle raised his brow with a mischievous glint.

"Oh, what if we clashed in the future? How about this... if for some reason we had no other choice but to go against each other, you admit defeat, and if you do, I'll do the same. After all, it wouldn't be good for the well-being of this universe if the two of us started fighting each other, haha."

He shook Alec's shoulder with a laugh.

"Don't worry, though. I don't think we'll ever fight, except for some friendly spars. And I promise not to use instant teleportation in those spars. Otherwise, it would be an unfair fight."

Alec let out a sigh, but his eyes were smiling. The duo talked just like any other time, after all, no one knew what the future held. Alec gazed at the two people who had already started attacking.

"So, now what?"

Kyle cracked his knuckles.

"I don't have divine energy or mana. Just a little that I gathered in the past minute. So, I'm going to send the lizard man to Susan."

"That old man is probably resting somewhere, but he should also help now that we need it so much. Until I am done, keep Diora occupied. When I return, we'll take her down together."

Alec nodded, it was hard but not impossible. He grabbed his sword and hurried towards Diora to stop her. Alec winced a little when Diora's eyes, which had turned pitch black, stared at him intensely before the woman leaped towards him with a loud, angry shout.

Kyle grabbed his communication crystal and contacted his father. His brothers were fighting alongside the people of the human Kingdom, so he knew that right now, his father was the only one who could help him.

The old man's voice came through the crystal almost instantly, as if he had been waiting for someone to contact him. Kyle chuckled, and before Ohan could ask him anything, he quickly inquired about Susan. After all, the guardian had been ignoring him despite his attempts to reach out for so long.

Kyle's eyes lit up because his father shared the news about Susan right away.

"He's with me and Eon because he wanted Eon to drink the divine essence. But Eon refused because he thought it would be painful. So, Sir Susan is forcing... I mean doing his best to convince Eon to take it."

Kyle smirked. He couldn't believe Susan remembered his request.

"Dad, do me a favor and ask Susan to go check the forest outside the border as soon as possible. Ask him to see if the monsters are behaving. With everyone busy fighting, it's important to have someone strong watching the border to prevent any unnecessary trouble."

Ohan's voice sounded a bit confused as he agreed to Kyle's request. He wasn't quite sure what his son was up to, even in the midst of a war.

Kyle closed the communication crystal and looked at the divine-ranked man covered in lizard-like scales.

"Now it's time to get rid of this lizard. At least he won't come back."

He checked his mana and sensed that he had enough for a few uses of instant teleportation. In the next second, Kyle disappeared towards the lizard man who had attacked some people, only to be stopped by Lara and Yue.

Chapter 425 The war IV

The sky grew darker with each passing second, the atmosphere was quiet, and the air felt calm. However, words couldn't capture the frustration that Susan was experiencing. His forehead throbbed with anger as he landed on the border and looked at the dome covering the entire Coexis.

"I said there's no need! With this barrier around the whole continent, how could the monsters attack the citizens? So why the hell does that little prick want me to check the forest?"

"Darn it, I swear I'm going to get back at him. He's the only one who dares to make me work so much!"

Susan clicked his tongue and started floating before pausing in front of the dome. A bright light spread out from his fingers and the light created a small opening in the dome for him to pass through.

He flew out from the opening and after a minute of floating, he stopped above the forest. Because aside from a few low-rank monsters wandering around, he didn't see anything else.

"I've checked the border, it's safe. No problem at all."

He kept exploring the forest for another minute before turning back to the dome enclosing the Continent. But suddenly, he sensed a movement in the mana behind him and titled his head back.

"Huh?"

In the next second, under his gaze, a flickering portal materialized in the air. The portal spit out a muscular man with lizard like features who managed to balance himself mid-air and let out a furious roar.

"Human, I'm going to tear you apart!"

The scales on the man's body glowed ominously as he rushed toward the flickering portal. Susan jolted when a hand came out from the portal to punch the lizard man backward. The old man's heart

trembled at the sight and he swiftly turned around to fly toward the dome that covered Coexis, but he halted when a familiar voice sounded behind him.

"Ha... old man, take care of him. I can't anymore."

Susan's eyes widened as he watched Kyle step out from the portal. The young man had his clothes filled with blood and sweat, and he was breathing heavily as if he had just run a marathon. He looked completely different from the pristine appearance the old guardian saw him in last time.

Kyle gazed at Susan and wiped his forehead with his sleeve. Opposite him, the divine rank lizard man easily balanced himself in mid-air and stared at him with bloodshot eyes, ready to kill him right then and there.

Kyle winced as his whole body throbbed from the pressure he had been putting on himself for so long. This time, he felt it vividly that the mana in his body wasn't even enough to make him float for more than a minute.

Yet, he pushed his limits again and used instant teleportation to appear in front of the lizard man. Then, he used all his strength to punch the man, and the latter flew towards Susan, who had a bewildered expression on his face.

The old man was still processing what was happening when he sensed the divine aura spreading out from the lizard man. Susan snapped his shocked eyes toward Kyle.

"What the hell! He's a divine being!? Why did you bring him here?"

Kyle chuckled at Susan, who easily dodged an attack thrown at him by the lizard man. In the end, no matter what, the gap between a divine rank and a pseudo divine rank individual was too huge. After all, he could see it clearly that unlike him, Susan could easily handle the lizard man.

"Yon and the other guardians are busy. Also, you didn't join the war. So, I'm leaving this man in your care."

Susan silently cursed the time he met Kyle with a pair of eyes that screamed he's leaving for a faraway place after he's done with the lizard man! No, he's going to leave this planet! The old man's eyes fixed on the lizard man as he rubbed his hands to release all his pent-up frustration.

However, he stopped when he noticed Kyle staggering in mid-air. Susan narrowed his eyes and watched as Kyle clenched his fists hard enough to draw blood. The old man wanted to check Kyle's body, but the latter vanished from his sight.

"The kid's pushing himself too much. There's not even an ounce of mana left in his body. If he continues like this, he's going to collapse."

Susan sighed and gazed at the lizard man who attacked him once again.

"It seems now I have to join the battle. Yon is going to make me listen to his endless nagging, but well, it's okay I guess. Fighting once in a while is fine because not just Kyle, but all the kids fighting for the Continent have a lot of potential. It would be a pity if any of them lost their life in the battle."

He fixed his gaze on the lizard man, and in the next second, his body turned into a mirage. The lizard man's eyes dilated as a hand grasped his neck and sent him flying backward. His body crashed into countless trees before slamming into a large boulder, shattering it upon impact.

Susan appeared above in the sky and looked down at the man who cried out and jumped into the air, causing the surroundings to tremble.

The duo started fighting, and with two divine rank individuals using all their strength, the sky rumbled with dark clouds, and fissures formed in the air.

Still, even though the fight looked evenly matched, the lizard man was already exhausted because of Kyle.

Sure, the grey-haired human wasn't able to harm him badly, but the latter made him use a lot of divine energy. That's why the lizard man soon realized he was losing to the old man. So, he decided to secretly flee when he had the chance. After all, his life was way more important than his anger or the battle he had to fight to conquer the planet.

On the other hand, Kyle staggered as he appeared above the battlefield. He let out a gasp as he lost his balance in mid-air, and barely managed to safely land amidst the thousands of people fighting each other.

Countless metallic sounds rang in his ears and the unmistakable scent of blood entered his nose as he unsheathed his sword. The same sword he found in the ancient realm. Its gleaming blade shone brightly as he jumped forward and went into a killing spree in the middle of the many people fighting around him.

Kyle's eyes traveled towards Alec, and he let out a tired sigh. The blue-haired man was giving it his all in the fight against Diora, and he didn't seem to be in the best shape. Still, Alec was holding his own against her pretty well.

"Just hold her a few more minutes... until I have some mana."

After just a minute, Kyle's clothes were completely drenched in blood. Moreover, because of his divine skill, he could smell it so vividly that it turned revolting. That's why he grabbed a shirt from his mind space and tore a piece from it to cover his lower face.

The night clouds gathered above the sky, and the moon shone brightly. Despite that, the battlefield remained well-lit thanks to the countless skills, spells, and attacks being thrown by everyone. In the midst of it all, Kyle paused when he noticed a familiar shimmer on his forehead.

"Huh..?"

Kyle stabbed his sword into the chest of an (S)-Rank demi-human who had a glowing one petal black flower engraved on his neck, then kicked the body away before grabbing the tips of his hair.

"Oh, they're turning silver..."

Above a vast land far away from the place where the war was going on.

Under the darkened sky, a thunderous and exasperating cry pierced the air, causing it to tremble in response.

"You pesky phoenix! Just let me get you once! Just once is all I need to pluck every last feather from your body!"

Bia cackled menacingly and the space around her shone brightly with vibrant crimson flames. The phoenix looked down at the woman opposite her, who was screaming in frustration.

Misha's pristine white clothes were soaked in dirt and blood, and her forehead throbbed with angry veins. She couldn't believe that as a true divine being, she couldn't handle a mere phoenix who had just barely touched the divine realm!

The woman let out a laugh, and her figure became blurry. She moved so fast that it almost left behind an afterimage as she lunged at Bia. But her eyes darkened with anger when crimson flames surged out to cover the phoenix's entire body in multiple layers of protective shields.

Misha cursed under her breath and tried to break the barriers with her fists.

However, apart from a few cracks, the barriers stayed intact, and to make things worse, the crimson flames left burn marks on her skin.

"Damn it! Damn it! Why the hell are this phoenix's flames so powerful? I'm a divine rank individual, for fuck's sake, and I can't even disperse the flames!"

She wanted to scream once again because her divine aura wasn't working on the phoenix. Whenever she spread out her divine pressure, the strange golden symbols on the phoenix's wings would shine and deflect her pressure away from the phoenix's body.

Bia snickered when she finally saw the woman's figure materialize beside her.

-"Now it's my turn! Hehe!"

She flapped her wings, which shone with a mesmerizing blend of golden, crimson, and blue feathers.

Misha's eyes contracted when the many barriers surrounding the phoenix expanded in all directions with a deafening echo. The woman gritted her teeth and raised her hand to create several earth shields to protect herself.

But she had to retreat because the flames were too hot and melted the shields she had created. In a flash, Misha grabbed a double edged blade without a hilt from her mind space and fixed her dark gaze on the phoenix.

"Let's see how long you can hold on!"

In that moment, a sweet melody reverberated through the air, and the woman's eyes shone brightly with a crimson hue.

Bia narrowed her eyes when she heard countless roars echoing around her. The phoenix scanned the many monsters that started gathering around the woman.

Misha tilted her head and flipped the gleaming blade in her hand, like she was getting used to the sensation. Bia watched as the woman rushed at her with the sharp blade, and the many monsters followed suit, as if dancing to her commands.

Misha's stance faltered for a second when she didn't see a hint of fear in the phoenix's eyes, which annoyingly turned crescents. Regardless, she didn't pause in her actions even when the phoenix formed the familiar barriers around her body. The woman raised her blade, and with glowing eyes, a crimson light flashed from her fingers as she stabbed the blade into the burning barriers. The many barriers that enclosed the phoenix cracked and started scattering into countless pieces.

Misha let out a victorious smirk.

"Haha, finally, I got you..."

But when she raised her eyes to laugh at the phoenix, she staggered a little. The woman saw a mischievous glint inside the bright pair of crescent-shaped eyes staring down at her. The brightness amidst the darkness made the phoenix's eyes almost look overbearing with a hint of blue in between.

The phoenix's massive presence loomed over her, and in that exact moment, she felt a shiver run down her spine as she realized that her control over the monsters she had just summoned was nullified by another force. It was a powerful commanding force, completely different from her own.

No matter what, Misha could only control the monsters through their senses when she used the dark powers bestowed to her. But the force the phoenix used made them obey because the phoenix held a position that was rightfully above them.

"Haha... no way-!"

Her words got cut off when the phoenix opened her mouth and let out a cry. It was so loud that the woman's ears started ringing. The next thing she saw was a sea of pure golden flames that spread out from the phoenix's body, almost covering the entire space around them.

Misha's eyes trembled as she watched the flames. So, all this time the phoenix never used her divine energy? In that moment, the woman finally accepted the fact that she was fighting with a true phoenix—one that had touched the realm of the divine and had the power to go even beyond it if given the chance.

But she didn't dare admit that she, a divine being, would lose to a mere phoenix! Misha wanted to prove that she was stronger, no matter what tricks the phoenix used. In the end, the phoenix could never defeat a true divine being with her lowly tricks! That's why she secretly took out an artifact and stopped to face the golden flames head-on. Her plan was to take out the phoenix in one go the moment the phoenix exhausted her divine energy. But that was her biggest mistake.

Bia laughed in her head and looked at the woman with a haughty expression.

-"It looks like you wanna get a taste of my beautiful flames, huh? Okay, enjoy~"

She spoke in a sweet voice that sounded too harmless for its own good. In the next second, the golden flames turned even brighter and enclosed the whole sky in a golden blanket. Misha's shocked eyes reflected the flames that enveloped her from all sides.

"Nooo! How can you have so much divine energy!"

The woman cried out and used all her divine energy to form one shield after another around her body. But the shields would melt under the heat within seconds, which turned hotter with each passing second.

"Wait, wait! I admit defeat! Retract the flames!"

Bia's breathing turned irregular because she used all her divine energy and remaining mana in that move. Her vision blurred for a second, but she shook her head and watched everything as painful, desperate screams echoed from inside the flames that shone brightly under the moonlight.

The many monsters watching everything from beneath whimpered with scared expressions and quickly ran off in different directions, so as not to disturb the phoenix.

Regardless, the golden flames burned brightly, and after a long time, when they scattered, nothing was left behind.

Bia let out a grin. Unlike the others, she could sense her stats very vividly, and she knew that Kyle wasn't the only one who had a high divine energy stat the moment he broke through to the pseudodivine rank. Bia's divine stat also showed 2rd stage (low). Probably because of her bond with Kyle and because she's a phoenix, not any ordinary beast.

-"I did say it! I am majestic, and a woman who just appeared out of nowhere can never be superior to me in terms of controlling monsters! Tsk tsk, look what happened when you dared to challenge this majestic me!"

The phoenix's vision blurred with tiredness. She had used all her energy. Her body screamed with pain, even though she fought Misha head-on without showing any weakness. She was truly tired, so much so that she wanted nothing but to sleep for a long time. Bia let out a yawn.

-"I'm done with my job. So, I can sleep for now, right? Just for a while..."

Chapter 427 I don't like this form even a bit

Under the moonlight, the air swirled gently and caressed the phoenix's feathers. Suddenly, a beautiful, brilliant crimson light enveloped the phoenix's entire body.

"Woah, it's cold..."

Bia clicked her tongue, and strands of long golden hair scattered in the wind before gently cascading down her back. As the light faded, a pair of mesmerizing crimson eyes with blue slits peered at the small, pale hands that emerged from the glow.

She touched her wrists, where the golden symbols Kyle engraved on the edges of her wings glowed brightly.

"Hmm, not bad, but I still prefer my original form."

Bia gazed down at her legs and wriggled her toes.

"Geez... I don't like this form even a bit. Without the feathers, my skin feels cold. How do humans manage to survive with such fragile bodies?"

With a blink, a crimson feathery tunic materialized around her body. Her eyelids drooped with fatigue, yet she couldn't resist the curiosity to see her human features. That's why she soared through the sky and found a lake nestled between some rocks.

Bia's bare feet touched the ground, and she gazed into the crystal-clear water. However, in the next moment, a piercing cry echoed through the air. Bia dropped to her knees, staring at her own reflection in disbelief.

"This is me??"

She touched her face, which looked too round, and her body that appeared no older than a six or seven-year-old child. A red flame mark shone brightly in the middle of her forehead.

"No way! I just tried to transform into a human for the first time, so why do I look so young? Did I mess up the process or something!?"

The phoenix counted her age on her little fingers in a panic, but her eyes widened with shock when she realized that she wasn't even ten years old originally!

"Ugh, it's all because of Kyle. He's been advancing so fast that I didn't even notice how quickly I progressed."

"Still, I can't believe how talented I am. I was able to reach the pseudo-divine rank at such a young age. As expected, I am too majestic and powerful. Truly the leader of all the monsters."

She nodded her little head and gazed at her reflection once again. The previous negative remarks immediately faded from her mind due to her unimaginable high potential.

"Dang, look at me, I think I'm pretty cute with this round face as well. Maybe I should ask Kyle to adopt me as his daughter once he successfully marries Yue... Well, it's not a bad idea. But wait, that means I won't be able to enjoy the privilege of being a bonded companion, right!?"

"Nope, no way! I can't let that happen! Otherwise, he wouldn't supply me with enough treasures!"

She crossed her arms over her chest and paced around the lake, once again not really liking her human form. The moment she broke through to the pseudo-divine rank, a flood of new knowledge filled her mind, knowledge that didn't belong to her deceased parent.

She knew very well that it's something she acquired through her own advancement. Moreover, after reaching the pseudo-divine rank, she immediately realized that she could transform into a human or any other form just by thinking. However, she couldn't try it due to the chaotic atmosphere.

Bia let out a yawn and put her hand over her mouth. As she moved, her golden hair swirled onto her shoulder, and some of it got into her mouth and eyes. She let out an irritated huff.

"What the heck is this? Why is it getting in my mouth? I don't like the taste. I'll ask Mia to cut it off for me!"

She stomped her feet on the ground and changed back into her little bird form, the same form she could use to easily sit on Kyle's head. Bia let out a sigh.

-'In the end, no matter what, this form is the most comfortable, even though it's the most useless.'

She flapped her little wings and settled above a boulder after finding a quiet spot nearby.

-'Alright, I'll rest for a while and then join the war again. Good night for now.'

•••••

Inside the battlefield, Kyle's eyes crinkled with mirth, and the previous predicament of wanting to get rid of his bloodied clothes as soon as possible slipped from his mind when something coursed through his body. In that moment, the divine energy all around him traveled towards him and entered his body in an almost desperate manner.

Though he still felt tired and his muscles were strained, he couldn't help but let out a satisfied smirk when a refreshing and cool sensation spread throughout his entire body. Moreover, a part of his divine energy filled up almost instantly after the divine energy in the atmosphere entered his body.

Kyle immediately glanced at the image that had replaced his stats from the corner of his eyes.

"Haha, just what I needed!"

Name: Kyle Race: Human/Semi Celestial **Bloodline:** Celestial Soul rank: Transcendent Rank: Pseudo Divine stats: Strength: SSS+ Mana: Divine-rank Divine energy: Final stage (Elite) Agility: Pseudo Divine Current physique rank: Pseudo Divine Talent: Celestial Luck: S+ Unique ability; Nature's favorite. Unlocked due to (S+)-Rank luck. Skills:

••••

Kyle gazed at his hair that had completely turned silver again. He had just advanced and entered the last stage of the divine energy in the pseudo-divine rank, yet he didn't break through.

"I do feel like I can break through to the divine rank, but why does it feel like I need a little push? Susan did say I'll break through to the divine rank if I reached the elite stage in my divine energy..."

He let out a sigh and gazed at Alec and Diora. The woman had made Alec's appearance almost unrecognizable.

"I only asked him to handle her for a few minutes. I believe he's cursing me right now. Haha, but..."

Kyle cracked his knuckles and stabbed his sword into another individual's neck who attacked him from behind.

"Now, I don't think I need to wait until I have enough mana or divine energy."

He blinked and vanished from his spot, only to appear behind Diora who tried to grab Alec's neck. But the blue-haired man avoided her hand by a hair's breadth.

Alec's eyes lit up when he saw Kyle. In an instant, his gaze landed on the latter's hair that should have been grey, but right now they were shining brightly in silver color.

"Finally, you're here! I almost thought I would die!"

Diora paused after she heard Alec's words and turned around with lightning-fast speed to tear the person behind him, but Kyle had already vanished. In the next second, a familiar kick landed on the woman's back, sending her flying into a portal that metarilized in the air.

"You bastard!!"

Kyle ignored her scream as he clenched and unclenched his hand a few times. He really didn't like sweating. That's why he was grateful for his cold body. However, due to the pressure he put on himself and the amount of skills and strenuous activities he did in such a short time, his body started sweating, and with the blood, it was getting a little annoying for him to stay in that condition.

He let out a sigh, and another portal materialized in front of him and Alec, whose breathing was even more irregular than his.

"Let's go, it's time to finish off the remaining divine rank individuals."

Alec heard Kyle's words and let out a chuckle at how confident the latter sounded before the duo jumped into the portal.

Chapter 428 I wonder too

The air shook with a booming laugh as Diora floated in mid-air and stared at the two people who stepped out from a portal that materialized before her. Her eyes were completely black, filled with madness. She knew she had gone too far and had lost a lot of her divine energy by aimlessly running around, only to be thrown into a distant place over and over again.

But no matter what, she couldn't accept that these little ants in front of her had killed Hay and were not dying under her power.

"You two need to die... die..."

Diora muttered under her breath and locked her eyes on Alec and Kyle. After mumbling for a few seconds, her eyes cleared up a little as she let out a breath and finally started to process what the heck she had been doing for the whole day.

She, the one who should have been playing with the people on this planet, was the one who got played. How ironic.

The pair of pitch black eyes started to regain its color, and soon her pupils returned to normal with a hint of earthy color in between.

Diora's eyes scanned Kyle and Alec as they both held swords in their hands. The duo seemed out of place on this small planet, with their otherworldly appearance. And their strength... why were they so powerful and possessed such unique skills if they were just ordinary people living on a hidden, forgotten planet?

The one with bright silver hair wore an emotionless expression on his handsome face, while the other with deep blue hair had a cold expression on his handsome face as they focused their gaze on her. They were probably ready to attack her, right? As her eyes landed on Alec, a mocking laugh unexpectedly escaped her lips.

Kyle, who was about to vanish, suddenly stopped in his tracks, his eyes narrowing at the woman floating opposite him.

"I wonder if she had finally lost her mind?"

He voiced his thoughts so Alec could hear, but Diora actually started speaking after hearing his words.

"Haha, I wonder too... Did I lose my mind or not? But you know what? The fact that I'm fighting someone who, in the end, is one of us, it's what's making me laugh at myself."

Diora tilted her head and her lips curled upward as she watched Alec's face crumbling under her gaze.

"I also wonder how your friends who know you will feel after they find out you sold your-!"

Her words were abruptly cut off because she wasn't able to react on time when Alec left his spot with lightning-fast speed. He grabbed her mouth to silence her, then promptly threw her backward, causing her body to stumble in mid-air.

Diora gazed at the pair of angry eyes staring back at her, as if challenging her to speak one more word, and he would make her regret ever being born. She attempted to fix her disheveled clothes with a snicker, but they were already torn in multiple spots, so she decided to leave them as they were.

An evil smile played on her face. She was mocking the audacity of the human who dared to challenge her with that look even though he knew he had no chance of winning against her.

"I have to admit, now that I am tired, my reflexes are getting slower and slower."

Alec didn't dare to look back at Kyle, who was floating behind him. He just wanted to finish off the woman in front of him, but he knew that even though he caught her off guard earlier, he wouldn't be able to defeat her head-on.

He held onto his sword tightly and waited for Kyle to question him about what Diora was talking about. But little did he know, after hearing Diora's useless screams so many times, Kyle didn't even care about what she was blabbering anymore. Plus, her voice sounded too hoarse for his comfort.

'Why's he so quiet?'

Alec got his answer when the ground beneath him and Diora started glowing with countless symbols that were trembling ominously. The dark space lit up with the brightness spilling from the symbols.

"Huh?"

Diora glanced at the symbols too, and unlike Alec, she felt a chill run down her spine when she noticed how intensely the symbols were trembling.

She didn't know much about arrays or symbols, but one thing she knew for sure was that symbols weren't supposed to be stacked on top of each other! Not to mention so many destructive symbols!

The woman cried out, with only one thought in her head. She needs to run far away from this place. However, in that moment, Kyle's familiar voice finally sounded behind Alec.

"Done, the array activated successfully. Now we just need to make her stay above the array for a minute!"

Alec snapped his head back, but Kyle had already vanished from his spot. In the next second, he appeared beside Diora, who tried to leave the place.

Kyle raised his sword, and a loud sound echoed in the air when his blade clashed with the woman's pointy nails. He gazed at Alec and shouted with furrowed brows.

"Hey, what are you waiting for? Help me!"

Alec nodded and let out a sigh of relief before quickly joining Kyle. Diora's eyes trembled as she felt the symbols beneath her turning more and more violet with each passing second.

The woman screamed and unleashed her divine aura, launching powerful attacks on the two humans. However, Alec gritted his teeth and attacked her from behind.

The sounds of swords clashing against something solid filled the air.

The moon shone brightly through the gaps in the dark clouds, and the brightly lit symbols illuminated the fast and almost blurry movements of the three people fighting in mid-air.

Kyle's eyes were fixed on the woman as his sword moved swiftly, and the tip became blurry. Diora dodged Alec's attack and attempted to grab Kyle's sword, but her eyes widened when the blade changed direction in mid-air. A loud cry escaped her mouth as the blade pierced her shoulder.

Chapter 429 The war V

Diora clenched her bleeding shoulder and stumbled backward as she stared at the silver-haired man opposite her with dilated eyes. In that exact moment, another sword pierced her stomach, and blood oozed out from her mouth. But instead of panicking, she let out a crazy laugh because she could sense that she would be leaving this place in a few seconds.

And she swore to come back just to kill every single living individual on this planet. Especially the two men who had made her go through so much.

The woman tightly grabbed the tip of the sword protruding from her stomach before tilting her head to stare at the blue-haired human behind her.

"You think you... can kill me? No, you can't... haha..."

She smirked at Alec, but her face paled when Kyle waved his hand in front of her face. It wasn't because of his hand, but because of the ordinary-looking black pendant that hung down from the metallic chain in his hand.

"How...?"

She questioned and slowly lowered her gaze to her waist where the pendant should have been. But it wasn't there. Then, she stared at Kyle and desperately reached out to snatch the pendant because it was the only artifact that would teleport her back to her home planet once it was infused with enough divine energy.

But before her hand could reach the pendant, the man vanished from her sight. In the next second, Kyle surprised Alec by grabbing his collar roughly. The blue-haired man let out a shocked gasp when he was suddenly tossed into a portal, and Kyle jumped into the portal after him.

Diora's trembling eyes followed their movement.

She wanted to chase them, but it was too late because the glowing symbols beneath her spread out with lightning-fast speed and enveloped her entire body. The woman screamed, and a loud booming

explosion echoed in the area. It was so loud that all the land occupied by the former east continent trembled due to the noise.

The place where the war was going on also shook, and many individuals cried out in surprise. But just after a few seconds, the noise settled, and once again the battle raged on.

However, this time the people with black petals engraved on their bodies started retreating or running away because a lot of divine rank individuals on their side had already vanished into thin air, and the two divine rank individuals who were present above the battlefield were surrounded from all sides.

Quite a distance away from the place where the explosion took place. Kyle watched as the black pendant in his hand turned into particles after he used his flames on it.

He thought everything went well, but then suddenly Alec let out a frustrated cry.

"You bastard! At least tell me what you're up to! My sword! Noooo..."

Alec grabbed his knees and landed on the ground with a dejected expression.

His one and only precious sword, the one he found inside the tower of opportunity, was just gone like that? He had been taking care of the sword like his child because it was a growth-type weapon, a powerful weapon that had been steadily growing alongside him as he fed it a part of his mana sometimes.

Kyle blinked. Now that Alec mentioned it, he did just toss the blue-haired man inside the portal without any prior notice, so Alec wasn't able to retrieve his sword.

'It's a good thing I took mine in time.'

Alec shot a fierce glare at the man floating in mid-air. After fighting with Diora, his breathing was erratic, and now, noticing Kyle's expression of relief, a vein visibly flared on his forehead.

"What the heck? You're relieved that I lost my weapon!?"

Kyle immediately shook his head and his expression turned solemn. No way, he would never say that he was relieved because he took his sword back on time.

"Stop whining, it's just a sword. Let's go check the place where the explosion happened. Maybe it survived...?"

'Maybe...'

Alec sucked in a deep breath and controlled the urge to go one-on-one with the man floating in midair. He reminded himself that a war was going on, and it wouldn't be good if he started fighting with Kyle right now.

He closed his eyes for a minute and rubbed his temples, really hoping that somehow his weapon would survive. That's why Alec didn't notice when Kyle started sniffing the air around him and locked his bright green eyes on his body.

'Hmm, I did have my suspicions, but Diora's words confirmed it.'

'Regardless, the dark energy radiating from him is very faint. Maybe he just consumed something he shouldn't have? I don't know if I should ask because there's no way he's going to share this with

me or anyone else. And after seeing how stiff he became when Diora confronted him, I know he's gonna run away instead of letting me or anyone else worry about his problem.'

Kyle stared at the bright moon.

'I think I should just let him handle it because there's no way a little setback can stop him. After all, he's the most hardworking one among all of us.'

In that moment, something buzzed inside his mind space. Kyle grabbed the small crystal that Lie, one of the tower guardians, tossed at him before leaving with Jordan to restore the planet's core energy.

Kyle's expression turned serious as he quickly answered the woman whose voice sounded from the crystal. It was the second time Lie had contacted him. The first time was to tell him about the air pollution, so he wondered what she wanted to say now.

Alec also heard the voice and, even though he wanted to stay seated on the ground for a few more minutes, he knew he had a lot to do right now.

Lie paused for a few seconds when she noticed Alec and Kyle's condition. The duo was completely drenched in sweat and blood, not to mention their dirty clothes.

"Ahem, I just wanted to let you know that the planet's core is fine now. It has once again started supplying energy to the structure connected to the barrier that enclosed and hid the planet in the past."

"I believe the barrier will regain its power before the sun rises. So, make sure no one from the enemy side can escape this planet. If they do, all our efforts will be wasted."

Kyle's eyes lit up. He smiled and looked at Alec, who had a similar expression. Finally, the planet would be safe from the shadow generals, at least for a while. And that time would be enough for the people of the planet to get a little stronger. Kyle closed the crystal after Lie finished speaking. He chuckled at Alec, who groaned because the latter's body was aching like crazy.

"I'm tired too. Let's finish off the enemies once and for all. Then we can rest for as long as we want."

Alec let out a tired sigh but still entered the portal that materialized in front of him. Kyle wanted to follow suit but paused when he noticed a faint glint from the corner of his eye.

He looked back at the distant area where the explosion happened with squinted eyes. And then, something shiny in the darkness caught his attention.

"Haha, his sword survived, but how? Now I'm tempted to steal this sword. It's too unique."

Chapter 430 Do you still want it?

Alec appeared above the battlefield, and he glanced down to see the thousands of people battling below. Then, he turned his gaze towards Carcel, Yon, and the others who were fighting the pseudodivine rank individuals and the two divine rank elves in the distance.

He quickly rushed towards Mia, who was fighting one of the pseudo-divine rank individuals, and started helping her.

Alec took out another sword from his storage ring, the one he obtained from the Continent. It was heavier and bigger than the one he had lost. But it's not like he had any other choice, did he?

Mia's breathing was uneven when she glanced at Alec, who appeared out of nowhere. Her eyes reflected surprise, not just Mia, but everyone who had watched Alec fight with Diora and then vanish with Kyle and the woman was surprised.

However, the surprise soon turned into happiness when they didn't see Diora anywhere on the battlefield. Does that mean Diora has been taken care of? But they weren't sure because Kyle hasn't returned yet.

Also, Yon and the other tower's guardians were curious about the sudden earthquake that happened a while ago. It definitely wasn't natural—more like the sound of an explosion that happened in a faraway place.

In that moment, a familiar portal materialized above the battlefield, and Kyle stepped out from the portal. Many people glanced at the man with the bright silver hair.

Alec kicked the person in front of him and instantly felt the familiar presence that appeared beside him. This time, he wasn't even surprised because it seems he finally got used to Kyle's sudden appearance.

"What took you so long-!"

He halted in mid-sentence when he turned his gaze toward the man, only to notice a familiar sword in Kyle's hand.

Kyle smirked and ran his fingers along the blade of the sword in his hand.

The metal had turned black in different spots, but the shape of the sword remained unchanged even after going through such a massive explosion. Not to mention, the bright golden light that was emanating from the sword.

"So, do you still want it, or should I take it?"

Alec's eyes lit up, and he quickly grabbed the sword from Kyle before hugging it tightly. He wanted to thank Kyle and ask how the sword survived, but the latter disappeared from his sight.

Kyle appeared behind one of the divine-rank elves fighting with Carcel, Regius, and Nine and punched the man. The man cried out and was flung towards Carcel, who seized the opportunity and spun his body mid-air before kicking the man towards Regius.

Nine wiped his forehead and finally took a relaxed breath after spending so much time under the divine pressure. He really thought his body would be crushed soon, but he survived.

"Now it's my turn, you bastard!"

He rubbed his knuckles and clenched his fist, gathering all his strength. But the elven man managed to balance himself mid-air and let out a loud cry. The air around the man started cracking, and countless shockwaves, strong enough to make everyone deaf, spread out in all directions.

Nine grabbed his ears tightly and cursed under his breath. Just when he thought he would be able to get his revenge, this crap happened. His breathing was irregular, and his divine energy low, so he couldn't even form a proper barrier against the shockwaves.

Not just him, everyone around him was also affected by the shockwaves.

Kyle winced and almost lost his balance mid-air, but he gritted his teeth and used instant teleportation to appear behind the man. His eyes flashed with a cold glint as he grabbed the man's head and flung him forward, where a portal appeared out of thin air.

"Ugh, I almost thought I was gonna lose my hearing today..."

He watched as the portal disappeared with furrowed brows before looking at the exhausted people around him.

"Carcel, come with me. Let's finish this one. I prepared one more explosive array in another place. Nine and Regius, you two should help the others."

Carcel nodded, even though he wasn't really sure what explosive array Kyle was talking about. He followed the silver-haired man as the latter entered another portal.

Nine and Regius glanced at each other, and the duo quickly joined Yon, Sinon, and the other tower's guardians. Now, only one divine rank individual was left behind, and with more people joining the fight, the elf felt a chill run down his spine.

The elf's clothes were torn and soaked in blood that was oozing out from the various injuries on his body. He looked around and, after realizing that he was the only divine rank individual left, he turned around and was ready to make a run for it.

He didn't care about the shame and punishments that awaited him after he reported all this to the shadow general. In the end, his life was what mattered most.

But Sinon, who got the most beating from the divine rank individual, let out an angry shout.

"You think you can run away after giving me so many injuries!? Just look at how my handsome face is all swollen up because of you! Get ready for my ultimate move!"

He flapped his wings and with lightning-fast speed appeared above the elf. Nine paused in his actions and gazed at Sinon with a serious expression.

"What's he up to?"

Not just Nine, Yon, and the others also stopped in their tracks and curiously gazed at the winged demi-human.

The divine rank elf snapped his eyes toward Sinon and with a snicker, instantly used one of his skills to finish off the demi-human now that the latter was alone.

However, in that moment, under so many eyes, a massive wave of water appeared behind the Sinon. The wave grew in size and surged out in an all-exposing manner before enveloping the sky in a curtain.

Nine's eyes widened at the sight.

"Oh, crap!"

He instantly fled in a different direction. Regius and the ones who knew about Sinon's strange interest in water-type skills also started flying away in different directions.

Yon and the other tower's guardians were confused at first, but they got their answer when the towering wave of water swooped down. It didn't just drown the divine rank elf, but all those who were in its path.

Sinon let out a boisterous laugh as he watched the wave, satisfied. He used all his remaining divine energy in this skill. That's why his water-type skill was strong enough to drown a divine rank individual. But his smile disappeared when many drenched individuals gazed at him with dark eyes.

"Oh, it seems I failed to control the skill rage properly..."

He quickly ran off and started fighting with the drenched divine rank elf to avoid the people glaring at him. Yon let out a tired sigh and quickly joined Sinon.

"This is a new experience I'm adding to my list. After all, it's not every day I get to have a free shower in the middle of the battlefield."

In the distance, Alec killed the pseudo-divine rank individual he was fighting and took a deep breath. Jian also took down the two pseudo-divine rank individuals he had been fighting after Yue and Lara came to help him out.

The battlefield shook once again when another loud explosion echoed in a far away place. Alec, who had joined Nine and the others in beating the hell out of the last divine rank individual, stopped when he heard the noise and let out a chuckle.

"Just how on earth did he manage to set up another deadly array?"