

D. Extraction 601

Chapter 601 Transaction

"I can't believe what I'm hearing..." Laura exclaimed, her eyes widening in disbelief at his demand.

"I cannot simply comply with such requests without authorization from the kingdom. These items are of great significance to us, and surrendering them would severely compromise our operations."

Vale nodded as if he could sympathize with her words. Then, he replied coldly.

"I do not care... If you don't give them up, then no one leaves. You will all be corpses in your return to the kingdom.

As soon as Vale made this threat, he promptly cast another Holy Smite!

Boom!

This Spell seemed beautiful and filled with energy, but it's definitely a dangerous Spell!

The attack didn't kill anyone, but it caused severe internal injury to everyone present. If not removed immediately, the amount of Holy Energy in their bodies could result in further harm!

"Enough! Enough! We will give you what you asked for!" Laura cried out in surrender. She was willing to do anything to save the Commander's life.

"Very well... And don't forget to tell your soldiers below to pull back before I wipe them out..." Vale said, holding back his bloodlust.

"I will..." Laura weakly said as she started removing her left glove. She also considered using the artifact to counter, but in the end, she was afraid that another lightning strike would fall on her head.

She could probably survive one or two strikes with her Spells, but definitely not more than that.

The transaction was done quickly, and the battle ended just like that.

Furthermore, Vale extracted a total of 195 corpses aside from the mystical artifacts and the Airship... A quarter of these corpses came from the knights and shamans who died in the Airships, and the rest were the victims of the female Vampire, Lisa.

It appears that Lisa's control over the bloodline wasn't perfect yet. She still succumbed to her instincts and killed more than she had to.

Anyway, this was her first time using it in combat, and it was still considered a great experience for her. Furthermore, Vale certainly liked that aggressiveness, especially once the invasion started.

If possible, she wanted Lisa to create an army of Thralls under her command and become a formidable force in the future.

As for Faith and Pearl's contribution to the battle, they have surprisingly held back with their power after realizing how weak their enemies are.

Instead of killing them, they decided to just incapacitate them if possible. Of course, there were some unlucky ones who still perished after underestimating the two and they could only blame themselves for that.

"I believe in karma... I don't want to kill people, especially those below me, unless necessary." Faith said.

"That's true... Especially for me with Divinity. I heard that you can produce more Divinity if you act in accordance with righteousness. Of course, I'm not sure if that's true. This might just be a superstition as well, so I don't really advise it. It's all up to you." Pearl explained, which made Vale fall into silence.

Meanwhile, Laura and the remaining troops had departed the forest.

She couldn't help but wish they had never pursued the Masked Devil, as they wouldn't have encountered the mysterious blindfolded youth, who had taken a lot from them.

"Tsk..." She couldn't help but grit her teeth as she recalled what happened.

If their Commander hadn't been blinded by treasure and fame, she was certain they wouldn't have suffered such a defeat.

They also wouldn't lose the two Sovereign Rank Artifacts in their possession.

"How will I explain this to the King?" Laura sighed, feeling her energy leaving her body. She was too exhausted.

Despite her fatigue and desire to rest, she had to stay awake until they left this eastern wilderness.

Their Commander remained unconscious, even after an hour had passed.

She believed that he had suffered severe internal injuries, so she had no other choice but to command the Airship instead.

"Did that blindfolded man curse him? Why did the others wake up after fifteen minutes?" Laura mused, recalling the blindfolded youth's practice of multiple Arcane Paths.

'Dark Arts, Elemental Arts, Holy Arts...'

As she was deep in her thoughts, she was abruptly interrupted by one of the officers on the bridge.

"There's a huge airship coming straight at us!" the officer reported.

"What? Is it an ally? Did we request reinforcements?" Laura asked, taken aback.

"No, we're still analyzing—Ahh! Not good! It's an Airship Model of the Morgan Family! It's the Destroyer of Marquis Morgan!" the officer reported in shock.

Marquis Morgan was the last leader of the Rebel Army they had failed to eliminate. He was the primary target of their mission, and while they had believed they had already eliminated him after destroying all his known bases, they hadn't expected to see him here, especially with an Airship.

Laura knew they had the numerical advantage, but the unexpected appearance of the Marquis and his formidable Airship made her slightly nervous.

After taking a deep breath, Laura calmed her nerves and spoke with authority.

"Do not be scared! We still have five airships on our side! The shamans have already healed, and the Magic Knights have boarded the ship! Ready the cannons!"

She commanded, trying to bolster the morale of her troops.

However, she knew that their cannons could only fire once!

They had already fired their limited shells at the castle a while ago, and they weren't able to resupply in the nearby city! An aerial battle may not end well for them.

Soon, the officer was able to display the image of the rebel's Airship.

Laura then gazed at the projection of the imposing Destroyer Airship, its sleek black hull gleaming ominously in the moonlight.

The vessel exuded an aura of power and menace, with its sharp, angular design and foreboding crimson insignia emblazoned across its side.

Moreover, it dwarfed their Airship, being three times larger in size, making it a dreadfully mismatched encounter for them!

'What a bad luck... If it's like this... We'll have to rely on our numbers...'

"Surround the enemy!"

Soon, the confrontation between the solitary Destroyer Airship and the five Royal Combat Airships commenced.

Chapter 602 More Upgrades

"I believe they've encountered an enemy..." Lisa suddenly remarked, her gaze fixed in the direction from which the kingdom's airship had departed.

Vale and the others, puzzled by her statement, turned to her with curiosity.

"The Kingdom's Airships have fallen victim to a disaster... They must have crossed paths with some bandits—No, maybe it's the Rebel Army..." Lisa continued as she guessed the identity of the assailants.

"Wow, I'm not surprised that they encountered the rebel army. I'm more surprised that you were able to know that. Can you now reach a distance of more than 10 kilometers in your Magic Zone?" Chad inquired, clearly astonished.

He could barely reach the 100-meter mark in his Magic Zone, and that was already during his Ghost King Body's stimulation. Without that state, he could only reach about 40 meters, and that was already very impressive for his age.

"Absolutely not. I left three Familiars aboard their airship. Each can send me a message once, but it will cost them their lives. Two of them managed to relay a message, but the third perished without being able to send a message at all..." Lisa explained.

Vale nodded gently upon hearing this.

Regardless, he didn't attach much importance to their predicament. They were still considered his enemies, and it would be advantageous if the blame for their potential annihilation fell upon the rebels.

'It's clearly their fault for creating Artificial Humans...' Vale mused as he continued on his way to his room.

It was previously Magnus's room, but over the past week, there had been many arrangements within the castle.

Some rooms where Magnus conducts inhumane experiments were immediately cleared out. They were destroyed, and Vale didn't care about that research either.

It was the same for Faith and the others who weren't interested in cruel alchemy that involved the body parts of humans and other beasts.

As soon as Vale returned to his room, he immediately opened his Attribute Panel to see the progress he had made.

He had extracted 195 corpses just now and made a thorough extraction of the Commander of the Kingdom's Airship.

He certainly had a great harvest today!

[Ascended Name: Kyle the Uncrowned Paragon]

[Race: Half-Celestial]

[Attributes:

Strength: 150

Agility: 150

Intelligence: 150

Vitality: 150]

[Force: 2,500]

[Combat Power: 2,880,000]

[Human Arts List]

[Celestial Arts List]

[Spirit Arts List]

[Otherworldly Essence List]

[Available Energy: 34,050]

[Divinity Points: 643]

[Corrupted Divinity Points: 46]

"It increased that much?" Vale couldn't help but smile as soon as he saw the incredible increase in his Energy Points.

At this point, he decided not to hold back any longer! He decided to get some Perfect Realm Spells!

[Consume 768 energy points to improve Traceless Shift?]

"Yes!"

[Consume 1,536 energy points to improve Traceless Shift?]

"Yes!"

[Traceless Shift has now reached the maximum level.] Just like that, Vale felt the changes in his spell lights. Then, he checked the Traceless Shift's Spell Model and confirmed that it had completely changed!

He only spent 2,304 Energy Points to obtain his second Perfect Realm Spell!

Of course, he didn't stop at that and decided to increase the level of his new Fusion Spell.

It was the Fiend's Wrath, and it was the fusion of the Feral Fury, Bear's Strength, and Evil Hand.

They were spells from Beast Arts and Spirit Arts. However, it appears that those two Beast Arts contributed more to the fusion, so the fusion's result remained in his Beast Arts List.

[Consume 512 energy points to improve Fiend's Wrath?]

"Yes!"

[Consume 1,024 energy points to improve Fiend's Wrath?]

[Consume 2,048 energy points to improve Fiend's Wrath?]

After the last upgrade, he finally got this last message.

[Fiend's Wrath has now reached the maximum level.] This time, he spent a total of 3,584 energy points to reach the level 10!

Vale then made a quick check on his Energy Points.

[Available Energy: 28,162]

Seeing that he still had plenty of points, he paused momentarily to consider his plans. 'I guess leaving 10,000 points isn't bad. After all, I'm still not done with my Spell Fusions and need some extra points to level them up if they're good.'

With this in mind, Vale decided to max out the Cursed Flame, Extrasensory Perception, Meridian Access, and Holy Smite.

Vale spent 3,024 Energy Points for the Cursed Flame Level 4 to reach Level 10. Then, the ESP Level 9 Spell took 2,560 Energy Points to reach the level 10. The amount was quite low compared to the Meridian Access Level 9, in which he spent 4,096 Energy Points to level it up from Level 9 to 10. After all, the base price of Meridian Access was 8 points compared to the ESP Spell, with only 5 points. Lastly, he spent 4,032 Energy Points to upgrade the Holy Smite Level 4 to Level 10!

From this batch, he spent a total of 13,712 Energy Points!

Then, Vale checked his remaining points.

[Available Energy: 14,450]

"This should be good enough..." Vale muttered as he could no longer decide which spell he should upgrade to its limit.

After completing all the upgrades to his Spell Models, Vale began to feel uneasy. The sudden alterations to his Spell Models seemed to have an effect that caused dizziness... It was difficult to articulate, but it felt as though the Spell Models were slightly inflamed within his body.

"I suppose pushing them to their maximum level was a bit excessive. I should have paced the upgrades out over several days..." Vale lamented wearily as he reclined on his bed. All he wanted to do now was to relax.

Fortunately, by the following day, he felt completely revitalized! The previous discomfort had dissipated, and it appeared that his upgraded Spell Models had settled perfectly.

Now, he was looking forward to enjoying a breakfast prepared by Magnus, but at that moment, Lisa arrived with an alarming report.

"The rebel army's airship is outside... We've been waiting for you to wake up."

Chapter 603 Undetected

Vale was momentarily taken aback upon hearing Lisa's report.

"The rebel army's Airship? What are they doing here?" He inquired while quickly rising from his bed. He didn't expect such a report early in the morning. He even wanted to have a sumptuous meal before going out of the castle to find places where he could arrange some Formation Arts that he had learned from Commander Gram.

Indeed, his extractions to this Commander earned him not just Energy Points and 2 Spell Models but also Memory Fragments containing advanced Formation Arts!

As for the 2 Spell Models, they were Savage Curse and Lion's Roar. Both of them are still Level 0, and because they don't seem useful to him, they remain at that level.

"Ah... You can freshen up first. Magnus will be waiting for you outside..." Lisa responded as she exited the room.

"What about breakfast? I'm hungry..." Vale interjected before Lisa could shut the door.

"Ahh... We're done with our meal. Magnus made some sandwiches. Don't expect too much, since we haven't visited a town to resupply for the past week. You can have them before going outside. Those rebels weren't important anyway..." Lisa replied, eliciting a chuckle from Vale.

He proceeded to do just that, taking about 30 minutes before stepping outside.

At that moment, he noticed that only Magnus was waiting for him, just like what Lisa mentioned. It seemed as though Faith and the others couldn't be bothered to meet with these individuals at all!

"Magnus, please fill me in on the situation." Vale requested upon seeing the impeccably dressed gentleman, who at that moment appeared more like a professional butler of the castle than its owner.

The old man may still look imposing with his large physique, but right now, he was merely a slave working for Vale.

"Master Vale, their airships arrived about two hours ago, requesting to meet with the owner of the castle. Since they didn't come with hostile intentions and asked politely, Miss Faith decided not to attack them and informed them that we would wait for you." Magnus explained.

Vale couldn't help but smile wryly upon hearing this. He hadn't anticipated that Faith would simply delegate the authority to him.

"Very well... Let's summon their leader."

Marquis Larry Morgan sat calmly in the commander's seat while awaiting permission from the castle to descend.

His long, tousled brown hair and unshaven beard and mustache gave him a weathered appearance, but he paid it no mind, knowing that his meeting with the castle's owner was of utmost importance.

He had heard about how this enigmatic castle had repelled the Royal Knights of the Kingdom and withstood the bombardment from their airships.

It was an incredible feat, and he was eager to meet the owner of the castle.

'It's a pity that three airships still escaped from us even after this castle's forces weakened them.' Marquis Morgan mused as he leaned on his chair. He couldn't help but recall how he still failed to annihilate the kingdom's airships even though they could barely use their cannons and Arcanists to defend against them.

In the end, he could only blame it on the fact that their solitary Airship couldn't cover multiple enemy Airships simultaneously.

Glancing at the time, he realized it was already past 10 in the morning.

With a sigh, Marquis Morgan stood up as he planned to get another coffee to keep himself awake.

"They're still making us wait, huh... I'm certain this is a test. Since they are also enemies of the kingdom, they must understand that I could be their ally. However, they definitely wish to demonstrate their superiority in the negotiation..." Larry Morgan muttered, unperturbed by their attitude.

In fact, he approved of this treatment, as he would have done the same if their roles were reversed.

Luckily, his patience bore fruit!

After another 30 minutes, a messenger in the form of a pigeon arrived on their deck! The message granted them permission to descend to a nearby mountain and invited him and no more than five trusted associates to enter the castle.

"It's here!" Larry's eyes lit up as he read the message.

Soon, he ordered the descent as instructed and called upon his finest men to accompany him into the castle. He chose to bring only two individuals with him—the Black and White Knights, who had served him for over two decades. Even though they were in their forties, their combined strength could easily overpower a Master Arcanist!

Of course, he could still bring a few more experts, but he decided to leave them here to protect the Airship while he was gone.

"Marquis, are you sure that it's enough for the three of us?" The Black Knight spoke, concerned by the Marquis' plan.

"It's alright... I'm bringing this Talisman so we can escape if necessary. Even the Kingdom's number 1 Royal Warlock will not be able to stop us with this item." Marquis Morgan proudly said while showing the Talisman that seemed to be made out of gold.

The White Knight simply nodded at this as he followed the Marquis from behind.

Upon arriving in front of the castle, they were greeted by the imposing Formation Arts that protected the place.

"Incredible... No wonder it was able to withstand the bombardment. Now that we're near, I feel an endless amount of energy protecting this castle." Marquis Morgan remarked.

"I can sense that they're using an Ancient Formation, Marquis. The owner of this castle must have delved into Lost or even Forbidden Arcane Arts." the Black Knight commented.

"I suppose that's the only way to achieve this. It doesn't matter. As long as the Forbidden Arts are not as cruel as the creation of Artificial Humans, then allying with them shouldn't be a bad idea." Marquis Morgan stated as he gazed at the castle gate.

There, he spotted an elderly gentleman dressed entirely in black, who appeared to be a butler. Beside him stood a young man who seemed to be in his teens. If he were to make a guess, the young man was undoubtedly the young master of the castle's owner.

After all, the young man was not detected in his Magic Zone, yet he could see him!

Marquis Morgan felt a chill upon realizing this...

Chapter 604 Condition

"Can you sense that young man through your Magic Zones?" Marquis Morgan inquired, finding it hard to believe what he was experiencing.

"No..." The Black and White Knights answered simultaneously, their unease was evident.

This was an unprecedented occurrence. While there were instances where they couldn't sense someone's presence, especially if they had powerful stealth abilities, swift movement, or artifacts, once seen, the individuals would naturally become detectable through their special state or their Magic Zone.

Even ghosts had some presence in their Magic Zone, but the figure before them had none at all.

'He's not human...' The three of them immediately had the same thought.

They speculated that this man was likely a high-ranking vampire, a noble elf, or even a spiritual entity from another realm!

Marquis Morgan took a deep breath to compose himself. Then, he stepped forward and addressed the people in front of him in a manner befitting a noble, "Greetings, Sir. I am Marquis Larry Morgan. It is a pleasure to finally make your acquaintance. I must say, your castle and its defenses have left me utterly impressed."

"I'm Vale. Are you really impressed with our defense?" Vale inquired upon hearing Marquis Morgan's introduction.

He opted to disclose only his first name, deeming it to be of little importance. He mentioned his name solely because Marquis Larry Morgan had introduced himself.

"Yes... I received a few reports about how your castle defended against those dogs of the Royal Family. I've come here not to cause a fight. Our enemy is the Royalty of the Ruri Kingdom, who have become greedy, disregarding their citizens' lives in their pursuit of immortality. If this

continues, the kingdom and its innocent people will be doomed. Are you willing to help us?" Marquis stated bluntly.

Even the Black and White Knights were a bit surprised as they thought he would at least wait to be invited inside the castle before bringing this matter up.

They looked at the Marquis for a brief moment but they swiftly recovered and faced the people in front of them.

On the other hand, Vale somehow liked the man's frankness since he was also not too sure about the noble's pleasantries.

So in response, Vale mirrored this directness, "What does that have to do with us?"

Marquis Morgan appeared unsurprised by the young man's casual reply.

"Are you not angry after being attacked by their army? If they successfully returned, it's only a matter of time before they come back again. There's no way they would let this matter pass!"

Morgan paused after saying this as he looked at Vale's reaction...

"You might be able to defend against them, but in the end, this castle would remain in this place and will soon become a target of a large-scale subjugation. The kingdom might even use the Arcanist Guild to put a bounty or reward for the Arcanist Squads who could conquer this castle."

Vale gently nodded after hearing this explanation.

If the kingdom didn't want to use its own army, it was indeed possible to hire the rogue Arcanists to attack their castle.

It would buy them time to assemble a large army before they'd try to attack again!

The castle they have may be capable of defending against such attacks, but it would definitely be annoying if there were Arcanists that would come knocking on their doors every day!

Of course, Vale decided not to trust his words immediately.

"Hmmm... Let's talk more about this inside. Discussing it here outside seems too uncomfortable."

Vale extended an invitation to the three to enter the castle. At the very least, there was a reception hall where they could receive guests and enjoy tea and snacks.

"Do you think you can resolve the problem then, Marquis Morgan?" Vale inquired after they were seated and had some snacks.

It seems that Marquis Morgan was waiting for this question, and as soon as he heard it, he smiled and voiced his answer.

"Yes... I'll be replacing the king!" Marquis Morgan declared with determination, his eyes filled with fiery ambition.

"Oh~"

Vale found himself not opposed to the idea.

'Replacing the king, huh... I might get more benefits if this happens.' Vale thought as he continued asking the Marquis about his plan.

Fortunately, Marquis Morgan wasn't acting alone with just a single airship in his name. He still commanded a sizable army and had several nobles secretly supporting him. He even disclosed that the neutral faction of the kingdom was already backing him, biding their time until he displayed undeniable strength to challenge the king as the signal for them to revolt.

"Mhmm... I'm not well-versed in politics, but it seems more convenient if you're the ruler of this land. Tell us how you want us to help..." Vale offered.

After an hour of discussion, Vale agreed to align with the Marquis with certain conditions...

"I think that it's not a difficult matter. The only variable is the fact that we don't know what kind of Forbidden Arts they will use once they're cornered. With that said, I want to ensure that you guys are strong enough to have our backs... Let's have a duel!" Vale proposed.

"A duel?" Marquis repeated, he didn't expect such a sudden request.

But after thinking about it, this request does seem necessary.

"Alright... Anyway, I brought my Knights here in case these types of situations occur."

Of course, he was undeniably confident, especially with the White and Black Knights by his side. These two were his most formidable knights and were considered to be the strongest Knights once they worked together.

"Sir Vale, I must remind you that these two have Anti-Magic Stones that they could freely use. It only covers about 1 meter, but that's more than enough for Grand Knights like them..." Marquis revealed.

It was such a valuable secret, but he didn't mind revealing it at all!

"Oh? They have Anti-Magic Stones... That's impressive! I became even more interested! I'll fight one of you..." Vale responded with excitement.

At this point, Marquis Morgan no longer hesitated as he turned to the Black Knights and whispered, "Do not kill the young master. Breaking his weapon or injuring him a bit should be enough."

"Yes!" the Black Knights affirmed.

Chapter 605 Duels

Vale grinned mischievously, having overheard the Marquis's whispered words.

'We'll see your reaction later...'

He chose not to comment since he was confident that they would soon realize the caliber of their opponent.

Vale had no intention of harming them since they needed to be in their peak condition once they rebelled, but he was determined to showcase his prowess in this battle.

They needed to understand their place in the hierarchy of strength. After all, if the hierarchy was properly established, then the respect and benefits he'd receive would surely satisfy him.

"Oh! I heard that there will be a duel! You're not thinking of fighting before us, right?" Lisa's voice interrupted as Vale was about to invite the Marquis and his subordinates to the training grounds of the castle.

During his conversation with the Marquis, Vale was aware that Faith and the others were eavesdropping.

This was also why he agreed to assist the Marquis. Since they all sought to eliminate the individuals behind the artificial human experiment, Vale readily agreed.

Anyway, he didn't think that Lisa would come out now.

'Did she become this rash because of her bloodline?'

"Yes... Do you want to join us?" Vale offered after a moment of thought.

"Mhmm... You can fight the black guy, and I will fight the white guy... Is that alright?" Lisa proposed.

Before Vale could respond, Pearl interjected, "I want to try my newly recorded spells, Vale. I will fight the black one instead."

"Then, I won't be fighting anyone?" Vale sighed after hearing this since he really wanted to see how his Cursed Flame would fare against the Knights.

Anyway, he could probably ask Faith to summon a creature for him to practice on so he agreed to their requests.

"Alright... Lisa will have a duel against the White Knight and Pearl against the Black Knight. Marquis Morgan, is this acceptable?" Vale asked.

"Normally, not anyone could challenge these Knights because of their rank. However, if you believe that your companions deserve to experience a duel against the best Knights of the Kingdom, then I have no objection." Marquis said with a smile.

Soon, everyone in the castle made their way to the training grounds, a vast expanse enclosed by towering stone walls and adorned with intricately designed banners depicting the castle's emblem.

According to Magnus, these banners were gifted to him by a nobleman more than two decades ago, and since they have various mystical effects in their surroundings, like refreshing air, cool breeze, dust absorption, and others, he decided to keep them here.

The grounds were also meticulously maintained, with ornate stone pathways crisscrossing the area.

Sparring dummies and training equipment were neatly arranged along the periphery, and a grandstand provided an elevated viewing area for spectators.

It seemed a bit too big for them.

'This is weird...'

Marquis Morgan started to notice that there weren't a lot of people in the castle. He couldn't help but feel curious about how they were able to defend this castle.

To be honest, he expected this castle to have hundreds of knights training here and guards all over the place.

However, he didn't even notice a single knight patrolling the surroundings or guarding a post!

'Did Vale order them to hide?' He couldn't help but think of this.

In the meantime, Vale also noticed the Marquis' confusion, but he decided not to tell him that there was no one else in the castle besides them!

Well, excluding the two Mystical Entities that Magnus imprisoned in the castle's basement.

After some quick discussion, they established a set of rules for the duel. The victor would be determined when the opponent lost consciousness, could no longer move, was unable to cast Arcane Arts, or surrendered.

Then, Faith was chosen to act as the referee.

'Whoa~'

Marquis Morgan found himself greatly impressed by Vale at this moment. Lisa, Pearl, and Faith were all remarkably beautiful women, and he couldn't shake the suspicion that they might be otherworldly beings, particularly Faith, with her ethereal pallor.

'They're also incredibly strong women... Especially that girl with blue hair. It feels as if I'm looking at an Immortal.' Morgan couldn't help but sigh as he realized how lucky Vale was...

Clank. Clank. Clank.

As the white knight stepped forward and positioned himself in the center of the training grounds, he towered over Lisa, making the impending battle seem unfairly matched.

However, as he drew closer, he was enveloped by a daunting aura emanating from Lisa.

"Mhmm... What's with this malevolent aura?"

He whispered to himself, taken aback by the unexpected display of power.

Nevertheless, he didn't show his reaction as he maintained his stance and held his sword, ready to withdraw at a moment's notice.

Faith surveyed each participant.

After ensuring their readiness, she promptly announced the start of the duel!

At the same time, Magnus also activated the stage's formation art to ensure that no spectators would get hurt by stray spells.

Cling~

The White Knight unsheathed his double-edged sword, its blade pulsating with a vibrant purple light. He swiftly used the Morgan Family's sword technique to overcome Lisa's Arcane Defense since he anticipated her casting a defensive spell and creating a gap between them.

Although he didn't know which Arcane Path she was practicing, he was able to guess that with Lisa's slim figure, she was a pure Spellcaster who would rely on incantations or artifacts to attack her opponent.

He wasn't looking down on her, but based on his experience, he knew that his guess was most likely correct.

'I'll end this quickly... This is the best way to help the Marquis.' He thought to himself, preparing to enact his strategy.

However, to his surprise, Lisa took an unexpected approach.

Instead of casting a defensive spell and evading to create distance, she advanced toward him unarmed, with only a red glove adorning her right hand.

Then, she made a move as if she intended to catch his sword.

"This crazy—" The White Knight was surprised by the move and felt that his opponent had gone insane!

Chapter 606 Duel?

Vale had previously acquired two Sovereign Artifacts from Royal Knights Commander Gram and Vice Commander Laura.

Thanks to his Appraisal Spell, he could discern the nature of the items and glean some information. Although the appraisal result wasn't flawless, it provided sufficient insight into their capabilities and potential risks if mishandled.

The red glove worn by Lisa was the same Sovereign Artifact that Laura had possessed, known as the Red Bruiser, which boasted three distinct abilities. One of its abilities, the Space Breaker, surprised even Vale, as its power allowed it to annihilate anything it came into contact with during its brief activation.

Lisa only had a short 5 seconds to do it, but it was certainly a terrifying ability.

However, this ability could only be employed thrice a day, and was limited to physical objects, rendering it ineffective against spells, spiritual beings, or summoned entities.

Boom!

At this point, Lisa caught the sword of the White Knight!

She already activated the Space Breaker and nearly shattered the sword!

"Nice move... No wonder the Marquis looked so confident." Vale muttered.

He clearly saw how the White Knight displayed his remarkable reflexes.

The White Knight swiftly recognized the risk his sword faced from being destroyed. Without any hesitation, the Knight promptly aborted his Sword Technique despite the potential for injury.

Thanks to that, he was able to avoid the worst-case scenario for his sword.

However, as he pulled back, he heard something...

A resounding crack echoed through the training grounds as the precious sword sustained a few minuscule fractures from Lisa's brief hold.

"That equipment is above Royal Rank?" The White Knight muttered in astonishment, realizing that only an Artifact surpassing the sword's classification could inflict such damage.

There was no doubt Lisa's equipment must be at least a low-rank Sovereign Artifact!

The Knight, undeterred by the jeopardy his weapon faced, remained unfazed.

As a Knight working for the Marquis, he had confronted numerous formidable opponents, so he viewed each encounter as an opportunity for growth.

Swiftly discarding his now fractured sword, he drew a dagger from his waist.

"Since you have to touch the weapon to break it, as long as I'm faster, I'll have no trouble defeating you," He declared, leveraging his remarkable speed to close the distance to Lisa.

In response, Lisa chuckled upon hearing his words.

"You're correct... However, I merely tested this equipment. I just received it a few days ago. Now, I'll engage you in earnest..." Lisa remarked, deftly evading the White Knight's aggressive assault with graceful movements.

"You—"

The White Knight was astonished as he found himself outmatched by Lisa's swiftness.

Yet, his astonishment was far from over. As Lisa leaped backward, an ominous aura enshrouded the entire training ground, her eyes turning a striking shade of red. Her complexion paled dramatically, and her hair darkened, signaling a startling transformation.

There was no doubt! It was a transformation into a Vampire!

This time, Lisa had already nullified the effects of the Vampire Fang necklace she wore, which had been instrumental in maintaining her human guise.

Upon her transformation, Marquis Morgan and the Black Knights instinctively reached for their weapons, a reflexive response when confronted by a formidable creature.

"That woman is a Vampire?!" Marquis Morgan exclaimed, taken aback by the unexpected turn of events.

The revelation that someone he had regarded as a feeble Arcanist was, in fact, a Vampire, caught him off guard.

"Hahaha! So it's like that! No wonder my Sixth Sense Spell is telling me that you're dangerous. Come! Face me!" The White Knight challenged, undeterred by the startling revelation.

He even seemed more excited after seeing her transformation.

After Vale saw Lisa's transformation, he knew that this battle was over.

Although the White Knight was strong, his techniques would only work against normal Arcanists. After all, Lisa could already fly and even transform herself into a mist!

As the battle unfolded, the White Knight unleashed a flurry of dagger techniques and swift movement spells, attempting to tie up Lisa so she wouldn't get away...

His expertise in close combat and agility were on full display as he sought to outmaneuver the Vampire.

However, Lisa's vampiric abilities, including the formidable Darkness Veil, and a host of other potent vampire spells, proved to be overwhelming.

In a display of otherworldly power, she used a combination of Darkness Manipulation, Hypnotic Illusions, and a chilling Malevolent Aura to steadily gain the upper hand.

Ultimately, despite the White Knight's valiant efforts, he succumbed to the relentless spells of the Vampire.

Vale saw how the White Knight was so frustrated as he didn't even manage to hit Lisa! Not even once!

Marquis Morgan empathized with the White Knight's plight.

He was fully aware of the unnerving challenge he faced.

Observing Lisa's adept manipulation of darkness, her ability to transform into mist, and her elusive evasion as a swarm of bats, he immediately realized that it was a bad match for his Knight.

She was undoubtedly the most formidable adversary for a Knight who was lacking a suitable weapon to combat a vampire.

Witnessing his Knight succumb to the relentless onslaught of vampire spells, including hypnosis and blood magic, Marquis Morgan even thought of intervening to halt the unequal contest.

Ultimately, Lisa's resounding slap on the White Knight's helmet served as a stark wake-up call, driving home the futility of his continued resistance against her overwhelming power.

"I'll be fighting next..." Declared by the Black Knight as he swiftly took the stage. He was aiming to win his duel to make it a draw.

He then looked at his opponent, Pearl, who didn't even wear decent protective gear, and was only carrying a cane!

"Same rules... If you're ready, you can now start the fight!"

As Faith announced the start of the battle, she sensed the impending confrontation. Faith swiftly positioned herself at a safe distance, anticipating Pearl's next move.

Meanwhile, the Black Knight gripped his sword tightly, enveloping himself in a formidable shroud of dark aura for protection.

However, Pearl calmly issued a directive.

"Drop your weapon."

Chapter 607 Finalized

"Drop your weapon..."

Pearl's ethereal voice resonated, compelling the Black Knight to heed her command.

But it was only the Black Knight. The pervasive influence of Pearl's psychic spell extended beyond him, affecting those with weaker mental defenses throughout the training ground.

"What a terrifying spell. It's more powerful than my hypnosis..." Lisa, who was still in her Vampire form, softly spoke as she felt her racial ability defend against the Psychic Spell.

"No wonder that referee moved back so quickly..." Marquis Morgan commented as he held the necklace that was protecting him.

It wasn't just that. Pearl did it without any signs of Spell Activation, so they were all momentarily affected!

Marquis Morgan couldn't help but doubt the integrity of the Formation Circle that the butler activated to protect the spectators.

Unfortunately, he had no time to complain as he watched his Knight struggle.

"Another troublesome Arcane Path... But I can win this!"

Amidst the alarming realization of facing a formidable opponent proficient in a dangerous Arcane Path, the Black Knight remained resolute.

He was well aware of the insidious nature of Pearl's Psychic Spell. Dropping his weapon wasn't just a command. Once he let himself follow her command, there was no way of going back!

Luckily, he wasn't ill-equipped.

He relied on his protective black helmet, which not only shielded him from physical assaults but also fortified his defenses against spells that could typically bypass traditional knight's magic.

The brief protection it gave him allowed him to muster enough Arcane Energy to fight against the spell.

However, despite the opportunity he obtained, he still found himself grappling with the compelling urge to release his sword. His willpower was being tested to its limits.

"Ho~ You're defending against it? Not bad!" Pearl commented after seeing how the Black Knight was struggling to control himself.

"You!" The Black Knight heard her words and gritted his teeth.

As he strained to maintain control, Pearl observed his struggle with a sense of detached amusement.

She didn't even bother using another spell or striking him with his cane, treating him as entertainment!

The Black Knight then burst with power as he held his sword firmly. He was about to celebrate by cutting this woman in half, but something unexpected happened.

Pearl ominously declared her intent to intensify her psychic art!

"I'll make it stronger... Be ready..."

Pearl said before activating her Psychic Art once again.

"Drop. Your. Weapon."

Upon uttering these words, Pearl's piercing blue eyes radiated an intense gleam, while her azure hair danced as if stirred by an invisible breeze.

Witnessing this display, Vale couldn't shake the memory of Pearl's commanding presence when she unleashed the formidable Storm Surge Spell to halt the 14th Prince's airship fleet. n/o/vel/b//in dot c//om

The familiar, potent aura she exuded filled him with concern for the fate of the beleaguered Black Knight.

Fortunately, Pearl exercised restraint, refraining from pushing the Black Knight beyond his mental limits.

She simply broke his Arcane Defenses and compelled him to heed her directive... or that was what Vale was hoping she did.

Clang. Clang... Clang...

As the knight's sword clattered to the ground, the Black Knight's vacant stare prompted Vale's uneasiness, fearing the potential damage inflicted upon his mind.

After all, he lacked the means to remedy such an injury.

Utilizing his Dragon's True Sight, Vale scrutinized the Black Knight before discreetly signaling Faith.

Faith acknowledged his message with a nod as she announced the conclusion of the battle.

"Pearl wins this duel since the Black Knight has lost his consciousness," Faith declares.

"What?"

Startled by the unforeseen turn of events, Marquis Morgan and the White Knight sprang into action, unaware of the Black Knight's incapacitation.

"He really passed out. What a terrifying ability... Is she one of the top-ranking members of the Oracle Hivemind?" Marquis Morgan whispers in shock.

"I don't think so... She doesn't have their usual mark on their bodies, and she's not emitting that twisted and wicked aura like those other Mind Controllers do."

"I guess you're right... She also doesn't have a row of slaves following her every footstep." Morgan muttered as he really had a bad impression of Psychic Arts.

He'd rather befriend a Dark Magician than those Mind Controllers of the Oracle Hivemind!

"I think everyone here is terrifyingly strong..."

Reflecting on the harrowing display of Pearl's abilities, Morgan whispered his acknowledgment of their formidable strength, recognizing the invaluable role they could play even if he ascended to kingship.

'I guess even if I became a king, I'd have to rely on them for a little.' Marquis Morgan said, but in the end, he felt that it wasn't a bad idea at all.

After ending the duel, Marquis Morgan and Vale's group finalized their alliance to overthrow the king.

This also ensured their castle's access to vital resources. They would no longer have to travel to faraway towns just to get some decent resources.

The Marquis even offers to provide workers to repair the Airship that Vale had taken from the Royal Knights. Well, they were still broken because of Pearl's Storm Surge Spell at that time. They could probably make it work, but it requires several Shamans to patch up the damage it has incurred.

"You can repair it for us? That would be helpful!" Vale exclaimed. He couldn't help but anticipate positive developments once the Kingdom was stabilized under the Marquis's leadership.

"Of course... This is not a problem."

The Marquis expected to benefit most from Vale's group's assistance, having witnessed their strength.

He had believed that with the Vampire and the enigmatic Psychic, they could deal a heavy blow to the Kingdom's main force discreetly, increasing their chances of success.

"Sir Vale, this token is a symbol of our alliance. It doesn't have any magical properties; it is made of meteorite, so it cannot be easily broken..." The Marquis explained as he handed over the token.

"Interesting..." Vale mused as he accepted the token.

The token didn't have the Marquisate's emblem but had instead featured what appeared to be the Rebel Army's emblem... or not.

Vale was confused. "Wait... Isn't this similar to the emblem of the Church of the Divine Sorcerer?"

Chapter 608 The Witch

"There's no doubt about it. It's definitely the same emblem!"

Vale expressed his confusion as he observed the emblem of the Church embedded in the token given to him by Marquis Morgan.

The Marquis appeared unconcerned by Vale's recognition of the emblem. In fact, he seemed to expect Vale to notice it.

"Yes... I mentioned how I secured the support of the Kingdom's Neutral Faction. It's all thanks to the assistance of the Church of the Divine Sorcerer... They will be sending us their finest Sorcerers to aid us. Once they learn about our cooperation, you can expect them to visit you to introduce themselves and provide you with various resources..." Marquis Morgan explained.

At this point, Marquis Morgan paused to clear his throat.

"Ahem... That also means they might ask you to convert to their religion and serve the Divine Sorcerer. However, you are not obligated to follow them. Once we remove the King, they will be able to establish their own Holy Kingdom and claim a southern part of the Kingdom for themselves. That was the agreement we made."

Upon hearing this, Vale wryly smiled. "Sorcerers, huh... Can you tell me more about them?" Vale inquired.

"Of course! I'm more than willing to share what I know about them and my experience dealing with their ministers..." Marquis Morgan replied.

With that, Vale extended another invitation to Marquis Morgan to the castle's reception to discuss details about the Church.

After all, Vale had encountered the Church of the Three Paragons and the Church of the Fortune Goddess, but he had no knowledge of the other churches, as they were not taught in the Academy.

Then, as Vale listened to the Marquis' words, he discovered that the Church of the Divine Sorcerer was home to practitioners of Mystic Arts, particularly those who had chosen the path of Sorcery.

Similar to the Dark Arts, which encompassed Necromancers, Dark Magicians, Ritualists, and others, the Mystic Arts also included Shamans, Witch Doctors, Sorcerers, and various other disciplines.

It seemed that the practice of Sorcery represented an extreme path within the Mystic Arts, distinctly different from the other branches.

According to Marquis Morgan, the members of the Church sought to acquire a substantial territory and establish their independence, aspiring to create the largest Holy Land.

"They have great ambition..." Vale remarked as he didn't expect a Church to have such a grand ambition.

However, after thinking about it, it certainly made sense, considering they also command a powerful force.

With thousands of Arcanists in their command, it was even surprising that they were able to contain their greed for a long time.

"Yes, that's great ambition. I even conducted an investigation, and it feels as if the Divine Sorcerer himself is on the verge of descending, and they are preparing to welcome him in their holy land" The Marquis revealed.

"Mhmm? It sounds similar to the Order of Fatality's mission..." Vale remarked as he shook his head.

Nevertheless, he was open to meeting with the members of the churches, feeling curious about them since they would essentially become his neighbors once they acquired land in the southern region.

After more than an hour of discussion, Marquis Morgan expressed his intention to depart in order to prepare for their plan and organize the workers he would dispatch to repair the Vale's Airship.

"Ah... Before you leave, I wanted to ask why your Knights failed to use the Anti-Magic Stones that they have during the duel..." Vale inquired.

"Hmm? Isn't that because your companions fought from a distance? Anti-Magic Stones don't target the formed spells after all... They target the source or the Arcanists instead. However, they only cover about a meter, so the Knights have to get closer to make it work." Marquis Morgan explained.

'So it's different from my Spell Dispersion...' Vale pondered to himself as he thanked the Marquis.

Once the Marquis had left, Vale finally had some time to himself and decided to work on fusing Spells.

He felt the need to combine them!

Meanwhile, in Kirkham City, situated at the border of the Millton Kingdom, a group of people wearing what seemed like merchants or businessmen arrived.

There were a total of eight of them, and their leader was the first to disembark the carriage.

Their presence did not initially raise suspicion, as they blended in with the numerous other businessmen and traders entering the city.

Since the railway had not yet reached the city, everyone still relied on horse-driven carriages.

Nevertheless, despite their unassuming appearance, they suddenly drew the attention of many passersby when their leader, a woman in her early thirties with long silver hair and captivating blue eyes, removed the thick coat that was covering her body.

She was none other than Gale Evans.

"It isn't as cold here. Anyway, I can sense another practitioner of the Dark Arts. They have concealed it well and probably enough to deceive those Priests." She remarked.

"Professor— I mean, Miss Gale, I noticed that there aren't any Holy Knights or Priests at the city gate, unlike the ones in the central part of the Kingdom. I think they have a weak influence in this region... The Dark Magicians could probably stay here for a long time before being exposed," one of her companions behind her commented.

"I think so too... It seems as if the Holy Arts Faction's alliance and the Church of the Fortune Goddess are only focusing on their area of influence," another added.

"Yes, that's also what I'm thinking." Miss Gale concurred after a moment of thought.

"Continue with our plan. I will meet you all in an hour." n/o/vel/b//in dot c//om

With this, she immediately walked in a different direction.

The others didn't seem bothered by her sudden change of plan, as if this had already happened before.

"We'll do so, Miss Gale. Please take care," her companions responded.

Miss Gale simply waved her hand in acknowledgment as she followed the trail of the Dark Arts Practitioner she had detected.

After a while, she arrived at the part of the city where the Arcanist Guild was located.

"So it's here..."

Chapter 609 Arcanist Guild

The Arcanist Guild in Kirkham City had a far larger number of members than Gale had anticipated.

She had visited Arcanist Guilds in other cities before, but they all seemed to lack both members and powerful Arcanists.

However, as she stood outside the Guild house in Kirkham City, she could already sense the significant presence of Arcanists inside, some of whom appeared quite formidable.

'There are so many First Class Arcanists... What's going on?' Gale silently pondered, realizing that this was not a typical situation.

After taking a deep breath, she entered the Guild house, which outwardly resembled a regular tavern.

Despite its unassuming appearance, Gale knew from the signs outside that it was indeed an Arcanist Guild.

As she settled at the counter to order a drink, another female Arcanist took a seat beside her and initiated a conversation.

"You're not from around here. Did you also come here to hunt the people of the Ruri Kingdom?" she inquired.

"What?" Gale responded in surprise, as she had never heard anything about it. n/o/vel/b//in dot c//om

"Oh... I guess you haven't heard about it. By the way, I'm Corene... I'm a Summoner. To be exact, the mission was to hunt the Arcanists of the Ruri Kingdom. We're actually lacking a member in our squad... Can you join us?" Corene asked. She had long red hair and an equestrian-inspired attire. She seemed quite different from many other female Arcanists as she projected an air of confidence.

Of course, she was one of the First-Class Arcanists that Gale had detected a while ago.

"Tell me more about this mission..." Gale inquired, unwilling to immediately dismiss Corene's request and risk offending her.

Then, Corene went on to explain how the mission originated from a disaster the previous month, which claimed the lives of numerous Arcanists from a neighboring city.

She detailed a Vampire Subjugation that resulted in the deaths of several promising talents, Arcanists with the potential to become First-Class or above.

Although the subjugation was successful, the Soldiers or Arcanists of the Ruri Kingdom lay in wait outside the castle to seize their possessions. Corene also mentioned the use of multiple Airships in the attack.

"Interesting... If they possess such a formidable force, including airships, why didn't they directly attack the Vampire Castle instead of ambushing the subjugation team?" Gale inquired.

"I heard it was due to their treaty with the Vampires, which prohibited them from causing harm. However, our kingdom's people were not part of that treaty..." Corene explained.

"I see... Are we going to the Ruri Kingdom to hunt them?" Gale asked.

"Yes... However, the Guild didn't want this to become a war between the two nations, so we will move discreetly. Anyway, even the Church of the Divine Sorcerer has begun offering a reward for hunting the Knights and Druids of the Ruri Kingdom... We just need to store their souls in their Sorcerer Stone to prove that we killed them and they're really Knights or Druids of the Kingdom." Corene revealed, emphasizing the gravity of the situation.

At this time, Gale couldn't help but be surprised.

She didn't expect that the Church would go so far to collect the souls of those people!

'I don't think this is a simple act of revenge. There must be more to it. We can't be too involved in this mission and find the missing Dark Magicians.'

Gale sighed as she made a decision.

Despite the significance of the mission, Gale politely declined Corene's offer.

Luckily, Corene understood her concern and didn't think too much of it.

As Gale turned away, she spotted the Dark Magicians that left some traces around the city. The Arcanist was a young woman with black and white hair, exuding a beauty that belied her timid posture.

'She looks so young... Furthermore, she's not even a student of the Academy, yet she appears so promising. I wonder what path she is practicing... If she's not delving into multiple Dark Paths, she can still be molded into a great Dark Arcanist...' Gale thought as she observed the young lady.

The young lady seemed to have noticed Gale's gaze, and as their eyes met, they both immediately recognized each other as Dark Arcanists.

Without hesitation, Gale departed from the guild house.

Simultaneously, the young lady, accompanied by her squad, made an excuse to leave and followed Gale outside.

Although she was unaware of Gale's identity, she at least recognized her as a fellow Dark Arcanist.

Upon reaching the alley, the young lady approached the enigmatic woman.

"Why did you call me?" she asked.

"I'm Gale Evans, a Dark Magician from the Dark Arts Faction. I'm curious about you, as you weren't being hunted by the Holy Knights here. Did you deceive them with an Artifact?" Gale inquired.

"It's something like that... Is that the only reason you called me?" The young lady responded.

"You seem in such a hurry... I'm simply curious if you want to join the Dark Arts Faction. The Holy Arts Faction may not have sent their people here, but it won't be long before they dispatch someone to search for Dark Magicians. Even if you're not part of our faction, you'd still be hunted," Gale explained.

"If you join us... I can personally teach you." Gale said with a mysterious voice.

"Hypnosis? A Charm Spell in the Dark Arts? Are you practicing the Succubus Path? Urghh... I'm good. It hasn't been long since I've gained freedom. I don't want to be tied down again..." The young lady replied.

"I see... May I know what to call you?" Gale asked.

"Denise..."

"Alright, Denise... I won't bother you again. However, I want to know if you've seen other Dark Magicians..."

Denise shook her head upon hearing Gale's question.

"I haven't seen them since they will not stay in a large city most of the time. They can't freely conduct their dark research in such a place..." Denise responded.

Gale nodded in agreement since that certainly made sense.

"How about the Masked Devil? I heard the news about his appearance around here..." Gale suddenly asked.

"The Masked Devil?"

"Yes... I'm curious about his identity. As a matter of fact, I have a guess about his identity, so I wanted to confirm it by meeting him," Gale explained casually. She wasn't expecting much when she asked the question.

However, as she spoke, Denise's eyes lit up.

To be honest, she also wanted to meet the Masked Devil. After all, she had a strange feeling that she knew that person!

Chapter 610 Legendary Creature

A month quickly passed...

During this time, Vale completed several Spell Fusions, reducing the number of his Spell Models significantly. He even spent quite a lot of his Essence Collection during this process.

Despite this, the quality of his Spells had greatly improved, making him considerably stronger. He had not tested most of his Spell yet, but he knew that they would surely surprise even Pearl, who had already seen a lot of Spells in her entire life.

As he finished practicing his Formation Art skills, he began contemplating a visit to the creatures imprisoned beneath the castle.

These creatures were the ones providing an endless source of energy within the castle.

"Considering that those creatures are the ones providing an endless source of energy in the castle, they must be really terrifying..." Vale muttered.

Magnus had mentioned that he was able to seal these beings thanks to the Forbidden Arts he used at that time. It sounded as if it was not a big matter, but Vale knew that Dragons could not be underestimated.

Additionally, Magnus was only fortunate that they weren't able to react in time when they were summoned and entered his Trap Formation.

"Dragons, huh... I didn't really expect that there are two of them sealed here..." Vale whispered as he still couldn't believe that were two of these legendary creatures beneath him.

"Should I transform into a dragon when meeting them?" Vale pondered as he considered surprising them during his visit to their prison.

It should be interesting to see their reactions if that happened.

Whom~ n/o/vel/b//in dot c//om

Just then, an engine noise could be heard outside the castle.

Even the surrounding things, like vases, utensils, and others, started vibrating due to the mechanical engine of the Airship that was getting too close to the castle.

Indeed, the disturbance was caused by the Airship they had obtained before.

It had been repaired by the workers sent by the Marquis and was extensively modified to no longer resemble the Royal Army's Airship.

"Is it Lisa and the others? I thought it would take them two or three days" Vale muttered as he easily guessed who had arrived.

Yesterday, Lisa, Chad, and Magnus departed to visit Marquis Morgan's hidden territory to gather various resources needed by Vale and the others.

The things they were looking for weren't something that a small town could have. Some cities may not even possess them unless they have a massive gathering of Arcanists or when various Arcanist items are circulating in the city.

Apparently, Magnus required plenty of rare Alchemy Materials, Lisa needed high-quality blood samples for research purposes, and Faith needed expensive materials for the Formation Art she was planning to create in another hidden basement of the castle.

Vale had heard that Faith was actually suppressing her space ring, which contained various items inside.

Every single day she kept an item inside, it would gradually consume her vitality.

While it wasn't a big deal for a week or two, if it persisted for six months to a year or even longer, it would become a significant problem for her at some point.

"I wonder what she was keeping inside the space ring..." Vale pondered as he couldn't help but guess that it was related to a Half-Spirit.

Nevertheless, he was also quite excited about the Airship's arrival, as one of the items he had been looking for should also arrive.

Upon coming out of the castle, Vale immediately used his Presence Shift Spell, a fusion of Lightspeed Spell, Levitation Spell, and Nature's Guise Spell together with 1,000 Elf Essence. It was already a Level 7 Spell when he had acquired it and perhaps, he would consider this as his favorite Spell at the moment.

Whoosh~

As soon as he appeared on the deck of the Airship, he immediately asked Lisa...

"The Immortal Shards—No, I mean the Rare Formation Nodes, do you have them?"

Vale inquired as he observed the satisfied expressions of the group, realizing that they had successfully gathered all the necessary items in the Marquis' territory.

Even Chad seemed to be in an excellent mood, so he probably obtained the material he needed to advance his Ghost King Body.

'That Marquis is really good. He still has a vast network of suppliers even in his current situation as a part of the rebel army.'

Vale thought as he noted the Marquis' impressive influence even if he was considered a criminal by the Kingdom for the treason he had committed.

"The Rare Formation Nodes are here. The Marquis mentioned how he spent a huge sum of money to acquire them. Ahem... So he's expecting that we will have no problem destroying the capital's barrier." Lisa reported.

"Hahaha... Is he still worried about that... You should've told them that we will be using a Dragon to destroy the capital and the royal castle's barrier..." Vale chuckled.

He had only thought of this idea a few minutes ago.

Initially, he had planned to use his Extraction System to destroy the castle's barrier. However, he realized that if they used a Dragon and made it appear as if the Dragon was being controlled by the people of the castle, they would gain the reputation they needed, and he might gain more access to the Immortal Items that could provide him with more Divinity Points.

However, there could also be a problem with this since they would attract the attention of many powerful individuals who were hiding in the continent.

Nevertheless, now that the Abyss Realm's invasion is near, he doesn't think it would be a huge deal.

After all, everyone would be too busy at that time, and they might also get into contact with such powerful individuals, which could be considered a good thing.

"What? Can you really summon one from the Dragon Realm?" Lisa asked curiously. The others, including Magnus, also listened to their conversation with curiosity.

"What do you think?" Vale responded with a mysterious smile.

However, Chad could already tell the answer from that hint!

He was already in disbelief as he realized that Vale was indeed capable of calling out a Dragon to assist them!