

D. of Pride 201

Chapter 201: Mysterious Woman

It was not a lie, Simon truly believed that the strength of this mysterious woman was quite high to completely elude his senses and given her strength, it was not a surprising statement.

Taking a deep breath, he tried to calm his wildly pounding heart. There was no point in getting anxious at this stage, if her objective was to kill him, he would have been dead already. The fact that she didn't, shows that she had something else in mind.

While Simon was calmly evaluating his present situation, the mysterious woman decided to initiate the conversation "Let me give you a piece of advice... whatever you are thinking in your mind, do not let your expression reveal it. This is simply providing others with important information... 'what could be the objective of this person, why did she reveal herself to me?' I can clearly read everything from your expression. Mind you I'm not using any skills... right let me show you something".

Simon felt a sudden gust of wind from his right and immediately turned his head only to find nothing. While he was contemplating what the mysterious woman wanted to do, he suddenly heard a sound coming from his left.

"You were constantly following the direction of my voice and looking right, it was plainly obvious in your face... sniff... sniff... kyaaaaaaaaa~"

Midway through her sentence, the mysterious woman suddenly screamed. To his surprise, the sound came from his left however, what was even more astounding was that the sudden presence that he felt, came not from his left or right but instead from his front.

Turning towards the presence, he finally saw the mysterious woman reveal herself.

The woman in front of him could only be described as soul stunning beauty.

Lustrous white hair like the early snow of the winter night fell behind her shoulders and extended till her narrow waist. She had two pairs of magnificent glimmering eyes that seemed to hold the essence of the world within them.

Her two tangerine pupils, clear like crystals, held enough splendour to even outshine the radiance of the sun, her two white thin and curvy eyebrows, were similar to the pair of crescent moons. Her glossy white skin that shined under the sun, looked beguiling to the extreme.

Pink lips that looked like the petals of the most delicate flower and her nose that seemed to be sculpted with utmost care was high and mighty with an innate nobility.

Her body was voluminous and exquisite like ripened juicy peach ready to be eaten with a faint sense of danger seeping out. Each and every curves of her body was perfect to the point of breath-taking.

She was wearing a crimson dress made out of some exquisite material that tightly clung to her body and highlighted her curves even more. The lustrous white hair of her moved with every movement of her body and naughtily brushed her perky bottom.

The fullness of her breast and her splendid figure was laced with an allure that could mesmerise billions of people in an instant and her subliminal charm was hard to resist.

The moment Simon gaze landed on her body, it was hard for him to tear it away.

Her jade white legs was suspended around half an inch from the ground and her body was only a few meters away from him. At this moment, the mysterious woman was pointing at him with trembling hands and a shocked expression covered her face.

It seems at this moment she herself had forgotten the advice she was trying to impart on Simon.

"You... You... how shameless! What is with that repugnant smell? Don't tell me you haven't taken a bath for more than a year" right after saying that, she hurriedly distanced herself and stared daggers at him.

Ah... now that she had mentioned it, Simon remembered that he was still covered in monster excrement which he used to deceive the keen noses of the Diluvian High Orcs.

It was no wonder that the mysterious woman lost her composure and revealed her presence the moment the smell assaulted her nose. Although he himself felt the smell repulsive, there was no helping it. If he removed the smell using the wind magic, he would be under the radar of the High orcs with their keen sense of smell.

Unlike the mysterious woman who could completely mask her presence even while being so near, Simon had no such options available to him.

The [Hide Presence] skill which was a base tier Normal skill, could somewhat mask his aura but it was impossible to completely remove his presence from the surrounding.

While he was still delving on his thoughts, the woman pointed at him annoyed by his calm reaction. "Hey are you deaf? What is with that smell? Do something about it". She was acting just like a little girl who had seen something unpleasant.

Finding the situation a little amusing, a crafty light flashed deep in his eyes and he immediately came up with an idea.

"How very rude. This is my natural scent" Simon said as he approached a bit closer. Her face visibly paling, the woman's whole body started trembling as she hurriedly tried to distance herself once again.

"Y-You dare make fun of me? Do you believe that I won't end your pathetic life?". Her voice was panicked and her previous composure with which she was talking to him earlier was nowhere to be seen.

"Eh? Did this miss say something? I was so distracted that I couldn't hear you properly" Simon said as he again approached a few steps closer. His plan was working, now that the mysterious woman got a sniff of that repugnant smell, she was afraid of him approaching closer to her.

Her reaction alone told him that her current mind was tangled enough to not think clearly or else he wouldn't have been able to pull this plan. He was now sure that the woman in front of him though powerful, was a flower grown in a conservatory. She had never come in contact with unscrupulous people.

The way she was behaving was just like a little girl who was afraid of insects. A woman like that no matter how powerful they were would they be able to kill the insect they are afraid of? The answer was clear to him.

Although Simon's self-esteem took a hit when he thought about that, all was fine as long as he could scare her away.

As he approached her step by step, the woman finally gave up "Wait... wait I give up. Don't approach any closer, I'm sorry for sneaking up against you". Her body was trembling non-stop and her face was as pale as a paper.

Now that he had achieved the desired result, Simon stopped in his tracks. His face was calm on the surface internally though, it was bleeding out from her reaction. If it wasn't for the situation needing him to use such a method to hide his tracks, he would have never done it.

"Apology accepted. Now would you care to explain what your objective behind coming here is?"

Simon asked his question while using Analysis on her. The result was as he had expected, everything was covered in question marks and he couldn't gain any useful information.

The woman glared hatefully at him before snorting and ignoring his question altogether.

Her reaction made him arch his brows, he took another step when "Wait... wait I cannot tell you my objective for coming here; however, I can at least tell you that I have no intention of meddling with the battle that you are eyeing. I came here out of curiosity and to kill some time".

The woman hurriedly replied trying to stop Simon from approaching any closer.

'No intention of meddling with the battle huh' he squinted his eyes and thought whether the woman was telling the truth or not. If he took her words for face value, she was only here to seek some fun and stumbled across the battle between Orc General and the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

While Simon had encountered a mysterious woman who was silently observing the battle just like him, the battle started to progress once again.

The Lightning Draconic Serpent which was buried under the meteor, finally surfaced out of the crater and roared at its assailants within uncontrolled fury. Its shiny black scales were cracked and blood was seeping out from them continuously, the impact from the meteor dealt a heavy damage onto it and shaved quite a bit of its hp.

Its former regal appearance was now covered in dirt and battered while its aura had marginally decreased.

"Dammit it survived even after taking the attack of Sir Berigard head on" Belmarch shouted in annoyance as he observed the Lightning Draconic Serpent. Bellock was the same as it too had hard time believing that even after their attack landed on its body, it was still standing tall and menacing.

Unlike the other high orcs who had shocked expressions plastered on their face, Berigard calmly observed his enemy before commenting "Lightning Draconic Serpent, I don't believe my attacks did nothing but break your scales. You must be severely injured internally. If we continue this battle one of us is destined to fall".

"However, unlike you, I have many subordinates who are even willing to throw their lives for my sake. Even if it costs many fatalities on my side, I have a higher chance of winning. Why don't you stop your meaningless struggle and quietly subdue to my rule? Once I usurp the orc king of his throne, I shall reign as the new king.. At that time your position will be higher than just an overlord of this small northern part of the forest".

Chapter 202: Fierce Clash

Berigard extended his hand and made clear his intention. His voice was clear and his words were precise with no hint of mixing things between.

RUMBLE... RUMBLE... thunder clouds gathered onto the sky and brightened the area with their lightning.

The Lightning Draconic Serpent glared at Berigard before hissing "You puny orc, you dare look down on this one? Even if I die, I shall not subdue under anyone. Much less to someone who can only best me by using their numbers. If you have guts stop relying on your underlings and fight me one on one".

When the Diluvian High Orcs heard its remark, they couldn't help but snicker. The intention of the Lightning Draconic serpent was blatantly clear, since it was losing against their numbers, it wanted to fight with their general who was the most powerful one among them and get him out of the way first.

Only a fool would fall for such an obvious trap and put their advantage down.

"I know what you are thinking Lightning Draconic Serpent. But you are mistaken about one thing, having strength in numbers is also a symbol of power. Unlike you who is alone and has no one to

rely on, I have my orc army with me. Even if their levels are low, when surrounded by these many, even you can't afford to ignore them. I believe my two able subordinates have proven that"

Berigard said while pointing at the large gash on the lightning Draconic Serpent.

Being made fun of like that, how could the Lightning Draconic Serpent who was used to looking down on others, take it calmly. Baring its fangs, it roared at the sky above as if letting its frustration know and the sky in return rumbled in resonance to its feeling.

"You have truly angered this one. I shall show you what it means to fight against a dragon" the Lightning Draconic Serpent erupted with a vast amount of lightning and released it towards the clouds.

BOOOOMMM... the air vibrated and the dark clouds looming over the sky churned violently. Thick columns of blue lightning could be seen forming inside the cloud with a mix of red in between intermittently.

A destructive aura descended onto the battlefield and suppressed all of the High Orcs making it hard for them to even breathe.

"Hmph... it's just a mere serpent with a little bit of dragon bloodline it had assimilated with which it had found somewhere. To dare claim it's a dragon... this fellow does not know what's good for him" the mysterious woman stated hearing the comment made by the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

Simon rolled his eyes and ignored the woman, his eyes were intensely focused on the battle.

Berigard who detected a terrible amount of mana convulsing inside the clouds, couldn't help but frown. His eyes were grave and his screaming instincts were telling him how dire the situation he was in now.

To be able to manipulate weather one must have a ridiculous amount of mana pool and requires a skill acquirable only after level 500. The orc king was capable of doing it only because it had surpassed level 500.

However, the Lightning Draconic Serpent in front of him had yet to breach the barrier of level 500 but despite that, it was able to obtain the skill and manipulate the thunder clouds this well. This alone spoke of how powerful and mighty the dragon bloodline was.

The thick dark thunderclouds spanned for thousands of meters and completely shrouded all of the high orcs within the area. If he allowed those thick columns of thunderbolts to rain down, he wouldn't have any army after this.

Berigard had no choice although this option was suicidal it was more feasible than doing nothing and getting wiped out.

"All of you lot, attack it with every bit of your power. Do not let it complete its skill or else it will be the end for us." Right after giving his command, he flew towards the place where the two orc commanders were.

The orc army obeying the command of their general, charged towards the Lightning Draconic Serpent with all of their strength and skill activated.

"Sir Berigard what is the situation?" looking at how grave the orc general's expression was, the two commanders immediately asked.

"It has lost all of its patience and is trying to wipe all of us out with a big attack. That might very well be the case if we allow it to complete its magic. Disturb the flow of its magic by hitting him where it hurts, buy me as much time as you can" Berigard tasked his two commanders with their jobs before quickly levitating off.

The magic that the Lightning Draconic Serpent was trying to set off was a large scale area attack that had the ability to devastate a vast patch of land and everything within it in a matter of few seconds.

It was precisely because the Lightning Draconic Serpent was trying to fuse its [Weather Manipulation] skill with its lightning magic to create a powerful attack, the delay would be equally big.

It was no mean feat to accomplish such an attack without pouring every bit of concentration and mana into it. The Lightning Draconic Serpent using such an attack at this moment would leave it wide open to attacks but because it was extremely enraged, it had paid no attention to it.

Berigard who had lived for more than a thousand years and had a vast knowledge of magic, was not going to miss that window of opportunity to exploit it.

The Orc army that had been ordered to attack the Lightning Draconic Serpent with all their strength, bombarded it with their skills, novice magic and weapons. Trying to break its concentration and disturb its magic.

However, no matter where they attacked or how much blood they spilled, they were unable to elicit any reaction from the Lightning Draconic Serpent. All of the shallow wounds they made would be healed quickly and the broken scales would mend themselves with time.

Even the large gash that their commander cut open on its underbelly was swiftly closing and healing. At this rate, they would be able to deal it any damage much less prevent it from completing its magic.

"You fools attack where it is injured the most. That large gash in its underbelly and the top of its head where the meteor had connected" Bellock roared and hurriedly instructed his army.

"Guhehe, the opportunity to attack a being who is hundreds of levels above me... this feeling is the best. I must thank Sir Berigard after we win this battle" Belmarch laughed. He swung his large club and smashed it onto the large gash that Bellock had previously created.

Finally, there was some reaction from the Lightning Draconic Serpent as its body trembled fiercely. Seeing its reaction, the other high orcs also targeted the place in hopes of disturbing the enemy.

RUMBLE... thunderous noise sounded out from the clouds and before long rain started to fall. SHHHHH... Although its body continuously trembled whenever any attack landed on top of its head which was severely injured after receiving the impact from the meteor and the large gash on its underbelly, the Lightning Draconic Serpent kept on preserving without losing its concentration.

It had fuelled the magic with all of its mana and it could feel it completing. No matter how many of these pesky orcs were there, with its most powerful magic it could wipe them all.

On another side of the battlefield, mana churned like crazy and all of it was poured inside the staff Berigard was holding. The staff was a [C] tier item that he had plundered from a team of adventurers who were foolish enough to overestimate their abilities and wandered the western region of the forest a long time ago.

It was an item that had accompanied him for a long time and had gone through many battles with him. It had a core stone as big as an egg inlaid inside the wood.

The core stone was from a mutated monster and had dropped after it was killed. When a mutated monster dies, it leaves behind a special crystal that adventurers like to call core stone. A core stone contains all of the power of the beast it was harvested from and are used as a catalyst to create powerful staffs.

Naturally, the stronger and the more special the mutated beast was, the more exceptional the core stone inside it. The existence of the core stone that helped facilitate and circulate mana was what made the staff a [C] rank.

Currently, Berigard was pouring an enormous amount of mana inside the core stone to cause an overload. When an overload occurs, the staff is able to dish out a magic of much higher calibre,

However, once the overload occurs, the core stone will be permanently damaged and the staff would be rendered useless.

It hurt Berigard to use such a method and lose his staff, but at this moment he had no other choice. There was already a huge gap in levels between them and his opponent was other than the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

He could never win with half-assed magic, the only way to win against an attack of that magnitude was to use an equally powerful magic. And so Berigard decided to overload his core stone and dish out the strongest of his magic.

"Amalgamation magic- [Tremor-Gale Mastery]... [Impenetrable Stone Golem]".

CRACK... a distinct cracking noise came from inside the staff before the entire staff shattered into tiny pieces along with the core stone.. The staff was gone; theless, it had fulfilled its use and channelled all of that mana into the surrounding.

Chapter 203: Impassable Orc Rampart

Immediately, all of the rocks and boulders within the area and inside the earth, was mysteriously pulled towards a single point. Boom...boom...boom all of the rocks present within the area whether it had fallen off from the meteor or was already present there, merged together to become a gigantic golem.

The golem was hundreds of meters big and compressed of countless stones big or small. Compared to the dozens of golems that Berigard had created before, this one was entirely made of rocks and was many times stronger and sturdier.

The Amalgamation magic [Impenetrable Stone Golem] was a result of achieving harmony between the two intermediate attributes of elements. The Golem created was not only powerful but thanks to the gale magic added onto the mix, it could manoeuvre with speed beyond that of a normal golem.

You would expect a golem hundreds of meters big and entirely made of stones to be immensely slow. But that was not the case for the [Impenetrable Stone Golem], the gale magic applied to each and rock on its body made its body much lighter and along with the sturdiness of the stone, the golem was a force to reckon with.

BANG... a large imprint a few dozen feet wide, appeared on the ground. The land trembled whenever the golem took a step and on the order of Berigard, the yellowish light flashing on its hollow eyes fixed their gaze on the Lightning Draconic Serpent who was on the verge of completing its magic.

RUMBLE ... the clouds churned and booming noise continuously rang out. DRIP... DRIP droplets of rain started to fall and before long it erupted into a heavy outburst.

A bad premonition struck him and a destructive aura spread everywhere. Berigard immediately commanded his golem to charge towards the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

The ground cracked whenever the gigantic golem took a step and a wide imprint would be left in its wake. Bringing along a ramming speed of a mountain, the [Impenetrable Stone Golem] ran towards the Lightning draconic Serpent and brought its fist down.

The fist that could have guaranteed the Diluvian High orcs the victory, came sweeping over when suddenly the whole cloud lit up and an enormous column of lightning came down on the golem destroying one of its hands in the process.

BOOM...

It was at this moment that the Lightning Draconic Serpent stopped discharging lightning out of its body and glared menacingly at the orcs surrounding it. Its large draconic eyes which were masked

with madness, turned crimson red at this moment and a puddle of blood had accumulated under its body.

Under the orders of the orc general, the Diluvian High Orcs used all of their strength to continuously aim at its wounds in an attempt to disturb its magic. The amount of pain it had suffered during those few moments was something it had never experienced in its entire life.

"This one shall make you pay for your transgressions with your lives. [Weather Manipulation], [Lightning Magic Mastery], [Water Magic Mastery]- [Lightning Rain]" with a loathing tone, the Lightning Draconic Serpent addressed its enemies and roared out loud.

The thick dark clouds looming over the sky reverberated with a booming noise and thousands of small and big lightning columns that looked like small serpents swam across the clouds.

A terrifying silence descended onto the forest before everything brightened out in an instant.

"Not good" Berigard made an ugly face when he realised how ridiculously powerful the attack conjured by their Lightning Draconic Serpent was. The attack had surpassed even his wildest estimation and if nothing is done, all their lives would be forsaken.

Although he had a pained expression when he did that, Berigard quickly tore off one of the accessories from his necklace and grabbed it in his hands.

The thing he tore off was an object completely white in colour and had an unusual shape. Looking carefully, it seemed to be the bone of some entity.

At first glance, it appeared extremely ordinary but when Berigard inserted some of his mana into it, it was as if the thing had suddenly become alive and an abrupt amount of mana started pouring out of it.

Unlike the natural colourless mystical energy, the mana that was pouring out of the bone was a slight shade of red and appeared to be extremely violent and berserk.

Quickly, all of that energy rushed into Berigard through all of his pores and after a few moments, his thin body became incredibly robust. Veins bulged all over his body and he couldn't help scream out in pain. The energy that was inside him was running rampant trying to destroy him from within.

"Calm down Berigel... this is not the time to act out now. I promise we shall have our revenge sooner or later. Right now I desperately need your help... I need your powers to overcome this hurdle in front of me... please aide me Berigel" Grounding his teeth, Berigard seemed to be communicating with the bone in his hand.

Mysteriously, the bone seemed to respond to his call and immediately stopped its violent rampage.

RUMBLEEEE... a deafening sound so loud that it could be heard clearly from dozens of miles, rang out. Thousands of small and big lightning columns that appeared like serpents struck down on the forest like a rain of lightning, ravishing and destroying all the lives present in it.

"Die" The lightning draconic Serpent roared and marvelled at the might of its attack.

BOOM... BOOOM... wherever the serpents struck, the place would be immediately burned and scorched to the ground. The power behind each of these columns were so packed and dense that they immediately created small craters wherever they landed.

One did not even need to question what would happen if these serpents of death rained down on the bodies of the orcs. Regardless of how tough or what their levels were, their bodies were immediately turned into ash before they could even utter a sound.

The numbers of the diluvian high orcs which were around 50, was immediately cut down to around 20 in an instant and their numbers were continuously being reduced before merely a ten of them remained.

These ten orcs comprised of the two orc commanders and those that were fortunate enough to be in the backlines. It had only been a few hours since they engaged with their enemy but their numbers were already cut down so much that they could no longer be counted as an army.

"Hehehe, Die..Die..Die" the lightning Draconic Serpent hissed as it enjoyed the feeling of sniffing its enemy out of its life. Its crimson eyes that was masked with madness finally fixed their gaze upon Berigard and the ones near him.

RUMBLE... dozens of lightning serpents rained on the spots where the remaining orcs were trying to sniff the last of the remains when Berigard who was holding the white bone cried out bloody loud.

"[Impassable Orc Rampart]" like a tidal wave, thick crimson energy erupted out Berigard and soon coagulated together into become a huge rampart dozens of meters big that completely covered the area where the remaining orcs were.

The rampart formed was completely crimson in colour and if viewed from afar, resembled a huge Diluvian Orc with only a single fang protruding from its mouth.

The rampart was extremely animate and stood there like a protective umbrella storming all the lightning serpent that came striking down at them.

Thunderous noises and bright flashes of lightning continued to rain down on the [Impassable Orc Rampart]. However, was able to even make a single crack or dint on it.

ROOARRR... Seeing that its most powerful attack was not having any effects on the thing that the puny orcs had created in their last-ditch effort, it concentrated all of the lightning serpents on the cloud and rained them all on the rampart in an attempt to break it.

RUMBLEEE... CRICK some visible cracks appeared on the rampart but other than that there was no other visible changes.

As the lightning struck, the dark clouds hovering over the sky gradually died down and after half a minute of raining lightning, they completely died down. The rampart even after enduring all those attacks, appeared to be a little faded but was still holding strong.

Needless to say, the orcs underneath it were completely unharmed and not even a breeze from the attack earlier could touch their body.

Berigard's body slowly landed on the ground and he immediately coughed up a few mouthfuls of blood. His breathing was ragged and his body looked extremely frail, nevertheless, the light in his eyes was yet to die and was burning like a blazing flame.

At this moment, he extended one of his hands and the [Impassable Rock Golem] that had been stationary all this while, swung its other remaining fist towards the Lightning Draconic Serpent fiercely.

The Lightning Draconic Serpent just stood there and looked on in amazement at the orcs who had survived his strongest attack. It was completely baffled after the last attack and hence did not have enough strength to dodge the incoming fist of the golem.

BANG... with a loud sound of bones being crushed, the Lightning Draconic Serpent was squarely hit on the mouth and was sent flying far towards the distance.

CRASH...

Simon widened his eyes when he saw the huge body of the lightning draconic Serpent came flying in his direction and only came to a stop after mowing down hundreds of trees.

His eyes hurriedly moved over to its body which was twitching and trembling in an attempt to get back up; theless, it failed every time as the wounds in its body was just too much.

Chapter 204: Ancient Draconic Compel

Seeing the battered and beaten appearance of the Lightning draconic Serpent, Simon panicked and his brain immediately went into overdrive trying to think of some ways to salvage the situation.

If the Lightning draconic serpent was beaten here, it would be subdued by the orc general which means that he wouldn't be able to keep his words with Aldebaran. He had to subdue the three overlords of the north and bring them under his rule within a year. If even one of them was missing, it wouldn't be seen as him keeping his words.

All this while he had been thinking that he wouldn't even have to step into this battle since he believed that the orcs were no match for the Lightning draconic Serpent. However, surpassing his expectations, the orc army, especially the orc general was able to overwhelm the overlord of the north and bring it down.

"This is bad, the Lightning draconic serpent looks like it is already weakened to the point that it can't get back up. I have no choice but to get involved..." Simon made a serious expression and hid his presence even further so that he could act at a moment's notice.

"Hmm... are you by chance thinking of getting involved in all of that? Hmph, you are overestimating your abilities. Forget about that orc that brought down that serpent, you won't even be able to handle those two orcs by his side. Not to mention there are eight more of those orcs similar to your level".

The voice of the mysterious woman sounded out once again.

It was also at this moment that Simon realised that she was still here and the orcs weren't the last of his troubles. The situation had gotten so out of hand on the battlefield that he had completely forgotten about her presence.

He did not turn around to face her and continued to look towards the place where the Lightning draconic serpent had fallen.

Even without the need of her telling him, Simon was already aware of the limits of his powers and there was no way he would overestimate himself. He was only taking action because the situation was dire enough to force him to do so.

Otherwise, he had no interest in meddling with the battle between two entities hundreds of levels higher than him.

"Hohh~ it seems that I am right. It is so easy to read your thoughts. Well it's not like you are trying to hide it in the first place. It is your wish if you want to stick your nose where it doesn't belong. Even if you go out there it's not like you can accomplish anything" the mysterious woman snickered seeing his plight.

Finding her a little annoying, Simon couldn't help but bark out loud "Shut up".

The mysterious woman immediately flared up at his comment "Wha...?? Why you little. You dare humiliate me... do you think that I'm as weak as those ants playing over there? Hmph... ah! what a waste. Here I was just thinking of telling you a way to turn the situation in your favour. Sigh~ But it seems that you don't need it".

The woman folded her hand and said exaggeratedly. Her tone was condescending and looked down on all of them. Well given her power, she might have the right to do so.

Simon did not like it when someone who was not being helpful, acted so high and mighty.

"You don't even know me... why would you even go out of your way to help a stranger. If you believe that I would beg you to help me, then fat chance".

"Hohh~ are you telling me that you have thought of a plan other than to jump out and sneak attack your enemy to create a chance for that serpent to get away?" narrowing her eyes, the woman asked with a smile.

Simon's face reddened a little when his thoughts were being read so easily.

Indeed he was planning to use all of his skill and powers at once to attack the orcs and create a chance for the Lightning Draconic Serpent to get away.

Blinking her eyes in surprise when she saw Simon being so serious, she couldn't help but sigh out in exasperation.

"Let me tell you... your barbaric plan has a 98% chance of failing. Even if you are successful in diverting the attention of those orcs towards you, did you think that Serpent would flee using the chance that you created?"

"Do you even know what kind of existence the Lightning Draconic Serpent is? Even if it's just a Serpent claiming to be a dragon, it still possesses the bloodline of a dragon no matter how slight. There is no way a being like that would fall so low as to run away from the battle. It would rather choose to die than submit or run".

Although Simon found her haughty attitude that looked down on everything annoying, he had to admit that she was right. There was no guarantee that he would accomplish something if he just jumped there at this point.

While he was wrecking his brain trying to think something out, a furtive smile appeared on the mysterious woman's face before quickly disappearing.

"I know of a way that can help you out of this situation. Hehe, but I'm only willing to help if you apologise to me for what you did to me earlier" Making her intentions clear, the woman puffed her chest that was already threateningly big.

His eyebrows continuously twitching, Simon did his best to not get swept by her pace and impassively said "Forget about it. I'm not going to apologise, in the first place it was your fault for sneaking up to me. Even without your help I can think something out".

Fat chance If she thought that she could manipulate him by the nose. There was no way he was going to believe her who had suspicious intentions.

"Hmph, quite the prideful fellow aren't you? But there is no way you can achieve your objective without my help. It is plainly written in your face that you want to be the one who subjugates that serpent. Forget about what I said earlier... Just this once, I'm willing to help you"

The woman offered while still maintaining her distance because of that repugnant smell coming off of Simon.

Narrowing his eyes, Simon observed the woman. He must say that the woman truly had a fiery body with well-defined curves and a face so beautiful that it wouldn't lose out to the woman named Zelda he had met back during the Walpurgis.

Seeing the demon intensely scanning her body, she instinctively covered her chest with her hands. "Hey where are you looking at?" a dangerous light flashed in her peach coloured eyes.

Tearing his eyes away from those desirable curves that could generate intense emotions from men, Simon asked "Why have you suddenly changed your mind? Didn't you just say that you won't help until I apologise? What are you planning?".

With a haughty tone that was inborn to her, she looked at Simon and stated "Hmph... you are so weak that I don't need to scheme anything to snip your life out, all it will take is just a snap. The only reason I'm helping you is because I don't like the way these orcs are ganging up on that lone serpent".

"Although it was more powerful than them, it couldn't help but succumb to their numbers at the end. I hate it when someone uses their numbers to oppress others. You can rejoice! With my help, you can easily accomplish your objective. Well, my assistance will just be a teeny tiny bit so whether you can accomplish what you have in your mind or not depends on you".

Simon thought over his options and decided that he couldn't dilly dally any more. In the end, he couldn't come up with any better plan and had to take the woman up on her offer.

"Alright, I agree to you helping me. However, do remember that if you double-cross me and if I don't die here, I'll definitely make you regret this".

The woman scoffed and breezed through his warnings as a passing joke.

"So what is that plan of yours that you are so confident of?" Simon asked looking at the distant orc general who was taking his time and trying to recover some of his stamina and mana.

"Hehe, it's simple. Run towards that serpent and tell it to subdue to you" the woman said smiling beautifully.

Simon blinked his eyes a couple of times before asking in a dead-serious tone "Are you messing with me? The Lightning Draconic serpent denied so vehemently to be subdued by others. How on earth am I going to convince it otherwise?".

The woman smiled mysteriously and her tangerine coloured eyes suddenly lit up with a peculiar light "You can go and try it, leave everything else to me".

Simon did not know why he had chosen to believe this woman; theless, he still did what he was told and sneakily approached the Lightning Draconic Serpent while hiding his presence to their limits.

The previous prestigious body of the Lightning Draconic Serpent which was covered in magnificent scales and gave off a powerful aura, was now battered to the point where every scales in its body was broken and wounds littered every corner of its skin.

It no longer looked like the overlord that reigned supreme in these parts of the forest. A large pool of blood that seeped out of its body lay underneath it and stained the ground red.

Simon silently approached it... twenty meters.. fifteen meters... ten meters.

Chapter 205: Ancient Draconic Compel (2)

Simon silently approached it... twenty meters.. fifteen meters.. ten meters.

Just when he was about to reach five meters near it, the Lightning Draconic Serpent detected his presence and tried to move its tail in an attempt to squash him. However, it was already too weak and drained to even do such a basic movement.

Hissing menacingly, lightning... no weak sparks arced its body as it tried to scare off the unknown enemy that just approached him from behind.

"Relax, I'm not here to hurt you?" Realising that the Lightning Draconic Serpent was on guard against him, Simon spoke out.

"Snort, did you think your presence went unnoticed by this one? You were observing the battle from the start trying to be the fisherman who reaps all the benefits at the end. Your intentions were already clear since the moment you came here. If you want to kill me then do it, I won't bow my head in subservience to anyone" the Lightning Draconic Serpent said staring at him with its wide Draconic eyes.

Simon frowned his brow and looked at the distant orc general and his commanders who were coming over here right now.

"Your plan did not work what now?" He asked looking at the empty space a few meters behind him.

"What are you blabbering demon... Wha-.. how did she? N-N-No w-who are you?" Just when the lightning Draconic Serpent thought that there was no one else in the vicinity, out of a sudden it felt an aura appear near him and completely freaked out when it felt the person's presence.

The moment the mysterious woman appeared, the Lightning draconic serpent started acting weird and its serpentine body which refused to bend down even after being wounded all over, bent to their limits until it hit the ground.

Its body was trembling and its wide draconic eyes violently contracted.

What was going on? Why did the Lightning Draconic serpent, one of the three overlords of the north and the one possessing a dragon bloodline suddenly become so docile and cowered? The only reason Simon could think off was this mysterious woman who definitely had done something to it.

"What did you do?" he asked.

"Nothing... hmm, if I have to say the reason, then it might be because of my presence" the woman stated looking down at the frightened and terrified Lightning Draconic Serpent.

'Presence! What presence?' Simon thought, the woman was so good at erasing her presence that it was next to nil. There was no way he was going to believe that the woman did nothing.

"Well you should hurry up, that orc is coming over here right now. And judging from the way he is hurrying over, it had definitely sensed you" the woman said teasingly as she savoured Simon's troubled reaction.

Ignoring the antics of the woman, he asked "What do I do next? How do I make it subservient to me?".

Extending her milky white hands, shapely and perfect, she lifted a droplet of its blood without even touching it and pulled it towards her. Just when the droplet was a few inches away from her, it stopped.

At moment an unusual phenomenon occurred, Simon blinked his eyes a few times, for a second there he saw the air around the woman vibrate ever so slightly. No, it was not just the air but the very space as if it was a thin transparent film, quivered slightly.

The changes were so minuscule that he would have missed it entirely if not for him paying enough attention to the action of the mysterious woman so as to not get deceived by her. Unbeknownst to him, tiny runic letters that was not visible to the naked eye, entered the blood and formed a strange array.

After what took her a second or two, her extended hand next pointed towards him and the droplet of blood came to rest near him.

Looking at the droplet suspended in front of him, Simon made a confounded face and asked "What should I do with this droplet of blood?".

She is not telling me to drink it is she? He thought as he inspected the blood for any peculiarities.

Hearing his question, the woman was the one who had a surprised expression. Blinking her eyes, she observed Simon with a peculiar look that seemed to say she was looking at an idiot.

"You don't even know that?".

"Well excuse me for not knowing something so obvious. Now care to explain what should I do with this droplet of blood before that orc general comes seeking my blood?" although that remark irritated him for some reason, he let that slide.

He was a demon born from the mana of this world with an impure bloodline and because of that the memories of the world that he had inherited, was also incomplete.

As if it was not obvious, the woman had to say it loud "I see so you are a demon noble born from the ample mana of this world. Well, it makes sense now... you just have to make a slight cut on your thumb and allow your blood to assimilate with that droplet of blood".

To be honest, it was natural for Simon to be doubting those words. You have to be a complete idiot to believe every word of a stranger whose intentions were unknown.

However, since he was running out of time, he cut open a small wound on his thumb and allowed the blood to seep out of it. Next, he extended his thumb and the droplet of blood quickly assimilated with his own.

The moment the droplet of blood from the Lightning Draconic Serpent assimilated with his own, a strange phenomenon occurred. It was just like the time when he was reincarnated into this world.

New sets of information that felt like memories came pouring inside his head. But unlike the previous time, he had to go through a massive headache, this time the pain wasn't that worse and easily endurable.

"What a powerful technique to be able to subdue a monster of this level. [Ancient Draconic Compel], a technique that can bind any monster that has a dragon lineage or bloodline within it to the user. So this was the method you were talking about. Did you create this technique?" marvelling at the absurdity of this technique that flowed in his mind, Simon asked.

The woman vaguely smiled neither denying nor agreeing with his words.

Anyways it did not matter to him where the technique came from, with this he would be able to subdue the Lightning Draconic Serpent who had the dragon bloodline.

Simon expanded his consciousness on feeling the Ancient Draconic Compel technique more strongly that inadvertently created a gateway between the lightning Draconic serpent and him using the droplet of his blood.

The gateway that was created by the technique, bound the Lightning Draconic Serpent to him in a master-servant relationship.

The technique once formed allowed him a certain amount of control over it and made it unable to hurt him in return. That was not all, with this technique he would be able to influence the mind of the Lightning Draconic Serpent slowly and make it absolutely loyal to him.

The worth of this [Ancient Draconic Compel] technique that the woman had casually tossed out, could not be even measured.

"Wha-What did you do to me?" the Lightning Draconic Serpent glared at Simon and roared furiously. It could clearly feel some form of network being formed inside its core stone that connected it with the demon in front of him.

To make matter worse, no matter how it tried to destroy or remove that network, the blood in his body would start churning and make it absolutely impossible for it to do anything.

The [Ancient Draconic Compel] was a powerful technique that once established is impossible to remove unless the master wishes it so himself.

Just when the Lightning Draconic Serpent realised that it was unable to remove the network created on his core stone and was about to flip out in anger, a flood of mana came rushing out of the network and poured into its exhausted and tired self.

Simon roared out in anguish when he felt the mana inside him was being rapidly depleted soon after the network between them was formed.

"Y-you... you were planning this?" Simon realised that at this rate his mana pool would soon be emptied, he ground his teeth, looked at the woman and asked.

Arching her crescent brows at the random accusation, the mysterious woman said while snorting "Hmph so rude. I did not do anything, you are experiencing mana depletion because the technique had successfully worked. Your mana is being poured inside the body of the Lightning Draconic

Serpent; if you want to make it stop just command it. But I advise you to pour all of your mana into that serpent, that way you would have a better chance to survive".

"What?" he wanted to ask what she meant by that but before he could even open his mouth, the woman which had appeared as mysteriously as she did, was already gone.

"Who is there?" before he could ponder over her words, one of the orcs that was marching towards here, felt the presence of Simon and roared out loudly.

"Sniff... Sniff.. this smell!" Bellock who was walking along with Berigard and Belmarch, couldn't help but comment when he smelled the odour.

"Guhaha... Bellock it seems you know this trespasser?" Belmarch asked when he noticed the reaction of his fellow commander.

"Sir Berigard... he is the trespasser that had intruded our territory a few days ago and managed to kill quite a few High Orc Soldiers" Bellock said without tearing his eyes away from the demon.

Chapter 206: Putting Up A Brave Front

"So that's how it is. I guess the presence I felt back then at the black mountain was his after all" Berigard scanned Simon with his eyes before losing all interest. From his perspective, the Demon noble in front of him looked just like a weakling.

"Guhaha, a weakling like that managed to intrude so deep into your territory? Bellock, you must be quite the slacker" Belmarch laughed, he found it humorous that his fellow orc commander wasn't even able to deal with such a weak enemy.

"Enough... we are not here to chit chat with that demon. It matters not what his objective behind tailing us was, I want you to quickly deal with him. We cannot allow the Lightning Draconic Serpent to recover its strength" Berigard cut the words of the orc commander off before giving his orders.

His eyes observed the condition of the Lightning Draconic Serpent and seeing that it was badly wounded and wasn't even able to lift itself up, he sighed in relief.

However, the next second he for some reason, felt a bad foreboding wash over him. Berigard did not know why he would feel like that at this point when the enemy in front of him was already lying on the ground defeated.

Nevertheless, his prudent senses was something that was honed through many battles and he knew better than to ignore it.

"Guhaha... Sir Berigard allow me to clean the mess that Bellock had supposedly created due to his ignorance" Belmarch proclaimed loudly looking at the demon and brandishing his club.

Seeing that Berigard was not rejecting his offer, he took that as a yes before walking towards Simon.

Belmarch was a level 383 Diluvian High Orc Commander with great strength and incredible defence. His powers were so mighty that he was able to stand head and shoulders above other Diluvian High Orcs and there were only a few other orc commanders of his level who could match him in the entire High Orcs territory.

As the orc commander gradually came closer, Simon realised the difference in their strength and frowned his brows. Even if he used all of his trump cards and the Crimson Blazing flame blade, it would be a tough battle with a paper-thin margin of victory.

Simon would have chosen to stand his ground and fight if the orc commander was alone. However, that was not the case, although most of the orc army was obliterated by the Lightning draconic Serpent, ten of them still remained and out them, two were orc commanders with levels over 380.

There was no way these orcs who are accustomed to fighting in numbers and using their advantage to topple enemies higher level than them, would sit still and allow him to defeat one of their commanders.

The battle between the Lightning Draconic Serpent and the Orc General was the proof. There was only one option available to him in this situation...

"Belmarch be careful. Though I doubt that Demon Viscount is higher level than you, he is definitely scheming something" Bellock reminded from the backlines.

"Guhaha, just stand there and watch, everything will be over in a jiffy. Sorry demon... I would have liked to take this slowly and break your confidence before killing you. But you see we are in a hurry, that beast beside you.. we cannot allow it to recover its strength anymore so I would like to take care of it fast".

Right after saying what he wanted to say, Belmarch wielded his club and rushed towards Simon with a speed that was unbelievable for a hulking fellow such as him.

Feeling the threatening charge of the orc commander, Simon chose the only option available to him for surviving this and emptied all of his mana into the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

"Take as much of my mana as you need, I command you to engage the enemy".

ROOAARR...

The battered and beaten body of the Lightning Draconic Serpent at this moment lit up with a flash of brilliant lightning before rising up. It glared menacingly at Simon before loudly declaring "Don't give me order".

Its voice was strong and full of vehemence; nevertheless; it still executed Simon order and flung its tail towards the onrushing Belmarch with a supersonic speed.

BANG... before one could even blink their eyes, a loud sound of bones crushing rang out and the body of the orc commander flew back like a cannonball and crashed into the gigantic foot of the [Impenetrable rock Golem], cracking it in the process.

The power and speed behind the attack of the Lightning Draconic Serpent was so terrifying that no one present here could believe that its body was badly wounded and beaten a few moments ago.

The remaining orcs looked on with wide eyes at the crippled figure of their orc commander plastered on the golem. Never did they imagine that the orc commander who sounded so sure of his victory, would be put out of commission in the next second.

The body of the orc commander twitched ever so slightly indicating that the commander was still alive thanks to their innate high defence stat and the weakened state of the Lightning Draconic Serpent. if the Lightning Draconic Serpent was at its peak, he might as well not have survived it.

At this moment, Berigard was finally aware of why he was getting this foreboding feeling. The Lightning Draconic Serpent was still not defeated yet.

But how could that be? I clearly felt its aura weakening and my last attack should have dealt a great deal of damage. Something must have happened.

No, it would be right to say something had happened during the moments when he sent it flying. The sudden appearance of the demon and the Lightning Draconic Serpent obeying its order.

"That's right it must be that demon" Berigard said as he looked at the demon hatefully.

Why wouldn't he? Berigard had used all of his powers and had even incurred a huge casualty in terms of their numbers only to be snatched of his reward at the end. The amount of frustration he was feeling was difficult for him describe.

Cough... coughing out a mouthful of blood, he manipulated the last strands of mana within his body and activated the [Impenetrable Rock Golem] once again.

BOOM... the huge golem took a step forward and slowly closed the gap between them.

When the rock golem cast a gigantic shadow over the place, Lightning Draconic Serpent couldn't help but hiss in annoyance. Before during their fight, it had prioritised the might of the magic on the controller rather than on the golem.

Hence due to that, the [Impenetrable Rock Golem] was most unharmed other than missing one of its arms.

Simon narrowed his eyes, he observed the movement of the rock golem and found out that it was much more slower than before. Well, it did make sense seeing that the controller was almost spent himself.

However, knowing that did not change the situation. The [Impenetrable Rock Golem] was still as threatening as ever.

Realising that the situation would get worse the more they waited, Simon ordered the Lightning Draconic Serpent to use all of its mana in one last attack. He, on the other hand, took out the Crimson Blazing Flame blade out of the [Inventory].

A sword completely crimson in colour, as if cutting through the space appeared on his hand. Feeling the buff in stats provided by the sword, the feeling of mana exhaustion washed over from his body.

ZZzSssTT... the Lightning Draconic Serpent unable to disobey the orders from Simon, opened its mouth wide and quickly spat out an attack.

This time though it wasn't a blue streak of high voltage [Lightning breath] and instead an incredibly frosty [Ice breath].

The temperature around the surrounding quickly dropped as the [Ice breath] travelled through the air and in a few moments froze half of the [Impenetrable Rock Golem] and stopped it from approaching any further.

With this last attack, the Lightning Draconic serpent had completely depleted the mana that Simon had poured onto it.

Cough... Berigard spat another mouthful of blood when his golem was frozen and his pale body trembled intensely before collapsing. Right when his body was about to hit the ground, Bellock caught him and immediately ordered the rest of the orcs to create a barricade around them.

"Leave me be and go get Belmarch" the orc general ordered and forced his body to stand back up.

"But Sir Berigard the opponent is..."

"Enough... go" Bellock wanted to say that the opponent was the Lightning Draconic Serpent, but Berigard had cut him mid-way and insisted on getting the unconscious body of the orc commander.

Bellock looked at the Lightning Draconic Serpent and the demon beside it who was now holding an unusual sword that even gave him chills before hurriedly turning towards the half-frozen golem.

Belmarch was still plastered onto the golem and was even suffered from being frozen from the Lightning Draconic Serpent last attack. If they left him be, there was no doubt that the orc commander would die.

Thus the orc general decided to save the orc commander first and refrained from incurring any more casualty. Berigard knew that the situation was looking worse for them, with him completely spent and with the Lightning draconic Serpent mysteriously recovering its strength, there was no one left who could handle it.

Forget about subduing it, if they stayed here any longer, they would be the ones to disappear next.. It frustrated him extremely to see something that was almost in reach, to be suddenly snatched by someone else.

Chapter 207: Putting Up A Brave Front (2)

It frustrated Berigard extremely to see something that was almost in reach, to be suddenly snatched by someone else. However, he was level-headed enough to know when to press forward and when to retreat.

Never would he have guessed that the mysterious strength of the Lightning Draconic Serpent that he was talking about, was already spent and just like him, it was also running on fumes. But the absurdity of the situation was so great that Berigard did not have necessary information to know that he still had a chance.

Seeing that the orcs were making some peculiar movements, Simon prepared his body to react at any moment. He knew that the mana he had provided to the Lightning Draconic Serpent was completely spent and with that his chances of defeating them had also gone down.

Although he knew it, his days of constantly fighting with monsters had taught him a very important lesson and that was to never show weakness in front of your enemy.

The orcs were not aware of the mysterious power that the lightning Draconic Serpent suddenly erupted out with was already spent and hence were being wary of them.

Just when Simon thought that the standstill wouldn't continue for a while, from the corner of his eyes, he spotted the orcs bringing the unconscious body of one of the orc commanders that had been sent flying by the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

"Lightning Draconic Serpent it seems that you are shameless enough to fall so low as to take commands from a low-level demon. What happened to your previous words about not subduing to anyone? Did you not just do that to survive. Snort, It seems I was mistaken about you" Berigard spat on the ground, roared in anger and let out all of his complaints.

Listening to the accusation made by the orc, the Lightning Draconic Serpent hissed in irritation and felt extremely depressed internally.

It had no choice in all of this, before it could even comprehend what had transpired, the mysterious woman appeared and did something that made him submissive towards this demon. The Lightning Draconic Serpent had a belly full of frustration to say no less.

Simon narrowed his eyes and channelled the pitiful amount of mana he had remaining, ready to take any action necessary. However, to his surprise, the orc general after glaring at him and the Lightning draconic Serpent, took out another mysterious bone from his necklace and started spouting some peculiar words.

~~"Space/reverse location transmit."~~

Right after those incomprehensible words sounded out, mysterious runes and markings started appearing around the surrounding air and quickly formed a circle around Berigard and the remaining high orcs.

The markings looked profound and ancient to the extreme and before anybody could even twitch their body, the space as if a whirlpool suddenly contorted before all of the orcs encircled in disappeared.

All it took for the peculiar phenomenon to occur was a second or two and all of the Diluvian High Orcs disappeared from the battlefield just like that.

Simon who was still in a battle-ready mode, blinked his eyes a few times and looked around the surrounding trying to find if there was any deception that his eyes couldn't see. But to his surprise, he found out that the orcs were truly gone and not even the slightest of their presence remained.

Although he was still confounded by what just happened, for the time being he sighed in relief.

"Tch... this one knew it. That bastard knew Space Magic, that's how he was able to dodge my attack the last time" The Lightning Draconic Serpent accessed the situation before its towering body slammed onto the ground from exhaustion.

Hearing his words, Simon finally understood what had happened. That peculiar words and that distortion in space, he should have guessed, those were other the incantation for the activation of Space Magic, one of the four rare attributes of mana.

This was Simon's second time coming in contact with space magic, the first time being the portal formed during the Walpurgis.

"The space magic is truly something... to allow such instantaneous movements, isn't it like having another lifesaving card on your hand?" he said marvelling at the powers of Space magic.

"You there demon... what have you done to me? What was that technique that you used? What is your relationship with that woman?" The eyes of the Lightning Draconic Serpent looked extremely depressed as it thought about the peculiarities relating to its body.

Simon thought over his words before addressing it. "Lightning Draconic Serpent, I know that you feel depressed and unresigned at the events that had occurred. But I wouldn't have likely used this technique if the situation didn't force me to. The technique I used is called the [Ancient Draconic Compel] that allows me to form a master and servant bond with any entity that has a dragon bloodline. Honestly, even I'm surprised by how profound the technique is"

Simon said recalling the information he had received about the technique.

"As for who that woman was... even I do not know. She appeared and disappeared just like a mystery. I can't even see through her motive behind imparting me such a valuable technique" He replied honestly.

Well, it was also true that other than this he did not have any other answer. The woman was an enigma through and through.

Listening to the name of the technique and his answer, the Lightning Draconic Serpent squinted his eyes in contemplation.

"What was your motive behind all this? Even if you have made me subservient towards you demon, I'll never recognise you as my master. You have clearly used this opportunity and underhanded means to subjugate me... a person like that, I'll never recognise them as my master" the Lightning Draconic Serpent cursed, its eyes were extremely resolute and vehement.

Simon sighed, he knew that the Lightning draconic serpent would not recognise him as its master. The [Ancient Draconic Compel] allowed him to influence its mind but that was over a long period of time, there was no way he could make it loyal to him instantly.

"Although its quite early and I must say that fate had also played a major part in it, but I'm planning to bring all of the three overlords of the north under my rule within a year or atmost two" Simon matched the gaze of the Lightning draconic Serpent and made his intentions clear.

The moment he heard Simon's boastful words, the Lightning Draconic Serpent couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"You a low-level demon is going to subjugate all three of us within the timeframe of a year? Snap out of your dream demon. Though I do not know how you are managing to block my attempts of Analysis, but given your weak level and aura, you are most probably not a high-rank demon. Hahaha, I bet your bloodline is also impure. Did you really think it would be so easy to subdue all of us? Not to mention the other two, if I was not taken advantage of by using such an underhanded technique, I would snap your head off myself".

Simon had expected this kind of reaction the moment he told his plans to Lightning draconic Serpent. He did not get angry nor was he fazed by it, he was already aware of how ridiculous the trails set by Aldebaran was.

And honestly even he would have thought it impossible if not for the [Main Menu] and Irene who was there to guide him. Her powers and knowledge were beyond what her level indicated.

There was no need for him to fall for the Lightning Draconic Serpents taunts nor tell him about the existence of the [Main Menu].

With an impassive tone, Simon addressed the Lightning draconic Serpent "No matter if you believe me or not, at the end of the day you have been subjugated by me".

The Lightning draconic Serpents eyes twitched when he heard those words, there was no way he could refute that as it was the truth.

"The plan to subdue one of the overlords of the north was accomplished a little sooner than expected. Call it an underhanded technique or whatnot, you should accept the fact that you had lost. Even if I did not subdue you, that orc general would have done it. Your fate was already sealed the moment you lost in that exchange".

ROAARRR...

Simon's remarks incited a violent reaction from the Lightning Draconic Serpent "You dare mock this one demon?".

The [Ancient Draconic Compel] displayed its effect and quickly suppressed the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

"I'd be a fool if I cancelled the technique that is binding you to me. Luck is also a part of a person's strength wouldn't you say?" Simon's crimson eyes stared directly at its huge draconic eyes without backing away.

"While it is also true that in my current state I do not have what it takes to order you around. So for now, you are free to do whatever you want, you can keep being the overlord of this part of the forest. Other than when it is absolutely necessary, I would refrain from using the [Ancient Draconic Compel] technique on you".

He said comforting the depressed looking Lightning Draconic Serpent a little. While at the same time, he said those words so that he does not end up relying too much on its power.

Simon did not want to rely on the strength of the Lightning Draconic Serpent to overcome all of the obstacles that came his way and that was why it was necessary for him not to abuse this technique.

Chapter 208: Trees Of Mana Crystals

A part of him also wanted to bring the Lightning Draconic Serpent inside his dungeon, but its size which was so huge, wouldn't fit through the front gate and even if he modified it, the adventurers above the ground would freak out and start attacking it.

He also cannot use the teleport function since the dungeon did not recognise it and unless he learns the space magic in the future, he couldn't bring it inside his dungeon.

Saying what he needed to say, Simon turned around and was about to leave the scene when the Lightning Draconic Serpent suddenly stopped him.

"Wait... Tell me your name demon?" It asked looking at the demon who was now also its master.

Turning his head slightly, the demon replied "It's Simon."

"Simon is it... very well, I hope you keep your words. I will look forward to see if you can subjugate the other two with your own strength as you said" the Lightning Draconic serpent said relieved after knowing that it wouldn't have to live a life of submission under someone.

Nodding his head, Simon left a few parting words before swiftly flying off.

"You better find a secure place for your wounded body to recover or else you will have your plate full trying to fend off the monsters trying to hunt you down".

—

High up in the sky above the stratosphere, a woman with absolutely beautiful features appeared out of nowhere. Her clothes were exquisite and her well-rounded curves that had developed pleasantly, made her extremely tantalising.

Releasing a subliminal allure, the woman was other than the one that had met Simon a while ago. At this moment, her tangerine eyes were intently observing the back of the demon.

"Hohh~ so he chose to rely on his own strength rather than to depend on the power of his servant. He is quite the amusing low-rank demon I have met. Hehe~, still the punishment for messing with me must be handed out. By the time he realises it, it will be too late".

Her glossy pink lips parted to make a dangerous yet charming smile. Right after she put her words, she extended her index finger and her well-maintained nails gently drew an arc across the space.

Instantly, a huge gash appeared in the air and a different scenery could be seen on the other side. Gently stepping inside the tear in space, the woman disappeared from the place leaving not even her presence or aura behind.

Simon did not directly return to his dungeon and instead hunted large numbers of monsters using the [Mental Map] skill of his.

The main objective for him coming out of his dungeon was to level up. Though he got caught up in the schemes of the orc general, now that he was free Simon decided to increase his level a few times before heading back.

He was now level 320 and even after hunting large groups of monsters in the northern part of the forest for a whole day, his level only went up by one. This itself showed that how hard it was to achieve each level ups after level 300.

It wasn't like the monsters he was hunting were weak, Evil Helix Bats were each level 180 and are one of the strongest colonies of monsters living inside the northern region of the forest.

At his level, if he doesn't at least defeat monsters above level 250, he wouldn't see much progress in his level.

Simon couldn't go back to the high orc territory to hunt down some orcs since they were now aware of his existence not to mention he had even foiled the plans of one of their orc generals.

The moment he intrudes on their territory, their position would be switched and he would be the one being hunted. He did not know what kind of plans the orc general Berigard would come up with next, hence he had to always be on guard.

Leaving the territories of the High orcs and the Seven Kings, there were only a few other areas within the western region of the forest where he could delve in. However, those territories were very far from where he was now and difficult to traverse.

Giving up on going there for the time being, Simon quickly took out any monsters colony that was marked on his [Mental map] as he made his way back to his dungeon.

On his way, he found a small lake and quickly dived inside to get rid of all the filth and mirth that was on his clothes. He did not want to return back with the disgusting smell still coming off of him.

The tortoise-like monsters called the tortacoasta living inside the lake did try to attack him but their levels were only around 120-150 and so he quickly took care of them.

Arriving near the vicinity of his dungeon, he hid his presence using the skill [Hide Presence] and observed the groups and camps made by the adventurers around the spiral tower.

He had to say that the tower had become quite the splendid landmark for the adventurers to gather near. Loads of carts pulled by monsters that looked like rhinos with five horns were filled with Silver crystals and corpses of monsters harvested by the adventurers delving inside the dungeon.

They would be later sold onto the cities and would become the source of income for these adventurers.

Not only them, but crowds of small and big merchants have also set up their shops looking to buy the stuffs the adventurers would bring from inside. At this moment, they seem to have completely forgotten that they were inside the eastern region of the Ghastly Winding Forest where monster roams.

Although the aura emitted by the dungeon served a huge part, it was also true that the adventurers were capable enough to dispose of any weak monsters that were unintelligent enough to linger near.

Seeing the progress made by his dungeon with his own eyes, Simon couldn't help but feel pleased.

—

Inside the dungeon Laplace, near the altered pond of Serenity on the main floor.

Cecilia wore an anxious face as she walked around the place. "There is no need to worry it wasn't your fault. On the contrary, I believe he would be quite pleased to see all of these changes taking place" Irene who was seating on top of a large rock, smiled beautifully to comfort the Little girl pacing back and forth.

"But... but elder sister Irene.. those trees were planted by big brother himself. He might become sad or angry to see them suddenly change like this" Cecilia said as her eyes glossed over with tears.

Finding the needless worry of the little girl funny, Irene sighed and rustled her emerald green hair.

"Why don't you ask your big brother himself whether he is mad or not after seeing the changes".

"Wha..." Right when Cecilia was about to say something, Simon suddenly teleported near the pond.

"As I thought you people were here after all" Simon smiled when he found the two of them.

Irene observed him for a moment before immediately taking her eyes away while Cecilia constantly looked down, trying to avoid his gaze.

"Did anything happen while I was gone?" he asked as he too found a rock to sit on.

"Nothing in particular. Other than the adventurers being able to breach the 12th floor, nothing important happened that needs your immediate attention" Irene said after musing over.

"I see... so why does my little sister look so downtrodden to not even greet her big brother like usual?" Simon asked teasing Cecilia a little.

Cecilia grumbled and fidgeted around trying to find her confidence.

Seeing her become so docile in front of him, Irene couldn't help but speak out "Why don't you look around yourself, see if you can spot any difference".

Being said something like that, Simon became curious as to what changes Irene was referring when his eyes immediately went towards the Trees of mana that he had planted around the pond of serenity.

It would be right to say former trees of mana since the trees in front of him looked nothing like the sorts.

The trees in front of him were as huge as he was used to seeing them but rather than having leaves and branches, the trees were completely decorated in crystals and looked just like a crystal tree.

The trees of mana that he had planted near the pond of serenity to increase the density of mystical energy within his dungeon and whose growth even astonished him, had become something else.

What was going on? In his memory that he inherited, there was no mention of Trees of mana becoming something like that.

If it wasn't a natural change, then it could only mean that it was altered by someone. Simon did not have to guess as to know who could bring about such a change.

"I'm s-sorry big brother... I did not know that the trees would become like that" Cecilia said looking like she was about to cry any moment.

Simon observed the transformed trees for a while before using Analysis to better understand them.

The result he got was as such:- Tree of Mana Crystals (Saplings). An extremely beautiful tree born from the exceptionally rich mystical source and contains an enormous amount of mana. Their branches are made up of crystals and only grow in places with a very high density of mana.

The tree if soaked continuously in the energy of the mystical veins, would be able to produce Mana crystals of varying grade.. The older the tree, the better the grade of the mana crystals it can produce.

Chapter 209: Trees Of Mana Crystals (2)

Mana Crystals Grade [1] Tier [C]:- a crystal condensed with the purest energy of the mystical veins for a long period of time. When absorbed, it can generate an extreme amount of mystical energy and can help one quickly increase their level.

Simon was amazed the moment he read the description of the Trees of mana crystals and the crystals they produce. At a glance, he could see hundreds of mana crystals hanging on the branches of twenty or so trees.

Ignoring the incredible uses these trees have, they were so beautiful and the light they released were extremely pleasing to look at. Just like a tree made out of diamonds.

Simon was gobsmacked at the scene that lay in front of him. What did Cecilia do to trigger such a splendid change? Each of these trees were just any ordinary trees of mana that any [D] rank dungeon could purchase from the shop.

But now thanks to Cecilia, they have undergone a marvellous change to become incredibly precious Trees of Mana Crystals.

He immediately opened the [Shop] and browsed through the item before finding the option of Trees of mana crystals (saplings) being listed for 15,000,000 DP there.

According to the [Shop], he could only purchase them after his dungeon reaches the rank [B]. Not to mention purchasing each of these took a fortune. Compared to the trees of mana that were listed for 500,000 DP each, the Trees of Mana Crystals were much more valuable and precious.

The Mana Crystals they produce were also something Simon needed desperately to increase his level. Compared to the easily available Trees of mana in the [Shop], the Trees of mana crystals were much more valuable since he couldn't even purchase them at this point in time.

His [D] rank dungeon able to exploit the benefits of the mana crystal so early was a blessing through and through.

Simon silently approached the downtrodden figure of the little girl who seemed to be anxious about him becoming mad due to the changes she had triggered.

Seeing that her big brother had a serious expression as he came near, Cecilia thought that Simon was incredibly mad for ruining his trees. However, when she felt his rough hand lovingly caress her hair, she couldn't help but look up at his face.

At this moment, his face seemed to beam with joy as he looked at her, there was no disappointment nor any ounce of anger on his person.

Tilting her head, she asked "Are you not mad big brother?".

"Haha, what is this silly girl saying... why will I be mad at you? On the contrary, I feel quite grateful to you. Do you even know how much of an edge you have provided to the dungeon by transforming these trees? Truly, if anything I should be thankful to you" Simon stated dissolving the concerns of his little sister.

"Hehe... really?" Cecilia rubbed her nose in delight when she was being praised by her brother who she looks up to so much.

"See I told you he wouldn't be mad" Irene commented. When she first saw these changes happening, even she was surprised somewhat. Her abilities were that heaven defying after all.

"How did you do this Cecilia?" Simon asked looking at the little girl in front of him. He wanted to know whether she was able to now control her powers to some degree.

Putting her finger on her head, she pondered intensely before replying "It was when I was sitting here at the edge of the lake. All of a sudden I felt like somebody was calling me, the feeling was like they wanted to talk with me. Sensing this feeling, I approached the trees and found out that it was them who wanted to converse with me. When I started talking to them, I could clearly feel their thoughts and emotions mysteriously conveyed to me".

Simon frowned at those words 'The trees talking? It wasn't like they were treants!' if it was someone else saying those words, he wouldn't have believed them. But Cecilia was different, she was the Forest Spring Royal Spirit and also a reincarnation of one of the Eight Emissaries according to Aldebaran.

"They were trying to convey their appreciation for me and at the same time their disappointment for not being able to give anything in return. I felt their pain and prayed for their wishes to be fulfilled and disappointments to scatter when suddenly these trees started glowing with beautiful lights and before you know it they had become something like this".

Cecilia pointed trying very hard to explain everything that had happened

Simon was stunned, the reason for that was not because Cecilia could hear the voice of the trees but because her abilities were starting to manifest more and become active.

Although from her words it was hard to tell whether she had any control over her powers, one thing he notice was that all these changes occurred because she wished for it.

Cecilia did not have any control over her powers theless, there was no dangers of her powers going out of control.

Simon carefully observed her and saw that she was the same little girl he had taken in as his little sister and felt relieved. Next he went near one of the Trees of mana crystal and carefully inspected all of the crystals growing in it.

According to Analysis all of them were Grade [1] [C] rank, the lowest tier of mana crystals. There were other grades but since the Trees of Mana crystal were only in their sapling stage, Grade [1] was the best he could ask from these trees for now.

Ordinarily, if he bought these trees of mana crystal from the [Shop], he would have to grow them from seeds which would have taken months of time to grow into saplings even with the help of the altered pond of serenity.

The fact that he did not have to take that long for them to grow was a godsend. However, it wasn't without any issues, now that the trees of mana have transformed into trees of mana crystal, he had to plant the Trees of mana from the seed once again.

Each of these trees had a different function and couldn't replace the other.

Thinking of peculiarities, Simon wondered about the Obsidian Energy Exuder, those [A] rank constructs that had been altered from the Obsidian plates that he placed on the Forest Spring Spirit Floor.

There was also the seeds of the Trees of mana that Simon had given to Forest Spring Spirits to plant. He made a mental note to visit the floor and observe any changes that had occurred in the near future.

For now, Simon paid all of his attention to the mana crystals that were in front of him. Now when he hunted monsters on the northern and outer region of the western part of the forest, the experience he got even with the buff provided by his pride fragment, was so less that it can even be considered negligible.

He needed to at least delve a little bit deeper and find strong monsters to increase the pace of his levelling. However, it was not like strong monsters were easy to hunt. Many a times, they move in group which makes them increasingly harder to deal with and the higher their level were the more sentient the monster.

Hunting strong monsters in groups was incredibly risky and more so when Simon was in their territory where it would not be surprising for him to find their numbers increasing and him slowly becoming the prey instead.

The altered pond of serenity was another option that could increase his strength but the power within the pond was so profound and vast that his body wouldn't even be able to immerse in it for a minute.

The last time he had dived inside, he was only able to endure inside it for half a minute which made the pond a less feasible option for grinding levels.

Now though, other than the pond, there was another source which could help him increase his level, namely the mana crystals.

Bending his body, Simon picked up one of the mana crystals that had fallen onto the ground. The crystal resembled a little bit like the shape rhombus and shined with multi-coloured lights due to the condensed mystical energy within it.

The mana crystal wasn't that big and could be easily grasped within his palm. As he was feeling the mana crystal, a peculiar sensation passed through his body before he felt a vast amount of pure and unpolluted mystical energy flow within his body through the crystals.

Simon immediately used his [Mana Lines] to circulate the mystical energy throughout his body and kept on repeating the process for a whole five minutes or until he felt that the energy pouring out of the crystal had somewhat slowed down before stopping altogether.

Crack... the mana crystal in his hand became transparent after the mystical energy within it was absorbed and shattered into tiny fragments.

Simon licked his lips feeling a little discontent at the unexpected end of the mystical energy. It had only been a few minutes since he started absorbing the mana crystal and he had already gone through one so fast.

He felt like he was enjoying a fine meal only to be forced to stop midway, it left a bad aftertaste in his mouth.

Sighing internally, Simon inspected the changes within his body after absorbing the mana crystal and vaguely felt that his mana pool and power had increased.. The changes were so slight that the status failed to display it theless; the changes did occur.

Chapter 210: The Third Guardian

Simon understood that one mana crystal of grade [1] wasn't enough for him to level up. He needed at least hundreds of them to even level up once.

With a glance, he could see approximately 40-50 crystals growing in each of the twenty or so trees of mana crystals. These trees were still in their sapling stage and with time and adequate mystical energy, their growth might produce more of these crystals and even some higher grades.

Not to mention there was still Cecilia whose powers was like a mystery to him and might even induce some more changes like these in the future.

"Honestly, even I'm impressed by what this girl can do at her age. These mana crystals although they are only grade [1], they are still useful to you at this stage. There are more than 900 of these mana crystals and it seems that the numbers would go up every month. With these, you can gain a few levels".

Irene stated as if reading his inner thoughts.

Earlier it was that mysterious woman and now it's was Irene. Was his expression that easy to read? Both of these women were absolute beauties and can endlessly evoke one's desire.

If Irene was cold and icy beauty, then the woman he had met had a childish personality that wasn't drowned by her alluring yet noble aura. Back when he met the mysterious woman that appeared and disappeared out of nowhere, he was able to keep his thoughts in check.

However, why is that when meeting Irene, his mind starts running rampant and his thoughts turbulent?

Realising that he became absentminded for a while, Simon hurriedly dissipated all his thoughts.

"What about you and Cecilia? Are these mana crystals no use to you" he asked perplexed.

"Yes, Grade [1] crystals are of no use to me. They at least need to be grade [3] or [4] to be useful to me" Irene said looking a little lost.

"As for Cecilia, absorbing mystical energy would mean nothing. To her, the thing that she needs the most is time. With time, she would be able to unlock her powers and with that, her level would also go up".

Simon nodded and did not ask any further, to him both of them were oddities with an unbelievable amount of power that the current him couldn't comprehend.

Speaking of them, he was reminded of the emblems that his dungeon produced every month. These past few weeks he had been quite busy with his training and remodelling his dungeon for the new inhabitants that he completely forgot to use his emblems.

By now, he had collected four emblems that were sitting quietly in his inventory. Thinking that it was time he used the [??????] function once again and learned a thing or two about his new bugged function, Simon decided to inform his two Guardians.

When he brought this issue to them, they immediately seemed interested and decided to tag along. While they have the authority to use the [Main Menu], the Summon (now [??????]) and a few other functions can only be used by the Dungeon Master and no one else.

"Isn't that the function that was able to summon me? Of course, I'm curious" Irene explained her reasoning for tagging along.

Although what she said wasn't false, she also wanted to know more about this function and which tier it belonged to. This suspicion was plaguing her from the moment Simon told her about some of the special functions of the [Main Menu].

On the other hand, Cecilia's intention for coming along was plainly clear. She had nothing better to do and just wanted to see what the summoning looked like.

Since they decided to observe, Simon did not stop them.

Coming to an area that was a little distant from the white palace and the pond of serenity, he came to a stop. The reason for him coming here was so that in case of any malfunction with the [??????]

option, the white palace that guarded the dungeon core and those precious assets of him doesn't get destroyed in the process.

The Main Floor was ten kilometres wide and did not have much attraction other than the white palace, pond of serenity and the area near it.

Though Cecilia and Irene did some gardening and installed mountains in some of the places, it was still mostly empty. And the place he was in currently was one such area.

Simon took a deep breath and brought the four emblems out from his inventory.

"So this is the emblems that big brother's dungeon produces every month. It is quite pretty" Cecilia said while looking at the emblems.

Simon did not know what was so cute about these coin-shaped, charcoal grey emblems with a demon with golden tattoos engraved in it.

Taking a deep breath, he called forth his [Main Menu] and stared at the [??????] option. The black spiral that looked like the eye of a black hole of the silently rotated inside and gave him chills whenever he saw it.

Clenching the four emblems in his hands Simon said "Here we go...". Other than hoping for a good subordinate, he was also experimenting something.

Before the merger of the two menus, three emblems were the maximum one could use at a time. However, the merger changed all of that and the result was this mess. Now given the option, Simon wanted to see if the parameters of the summon function still applied onto the [??????] option or not.

Steeling his mind on whatever the outcome may be, he tossed the four emblems into back spiral inside the option.

As if gobbling it down, the black spiral easily devoured the four emblems without any difficulty.

Slowly, the black spiral started rotating before getting faster and faster and coming to a sudden halt after some time.

Simon knew what this phenomenon meant as it wasn't his first time seeing it. Immediately after the back spiral in the [??????] option stopped, the space in front of him started cracking as if it was made of thin glass before shattering completely.

What appeared was a black spiral exactly like the one in his option but many many times bigger.

The moment the huge black spiral appeared in front of them, Irene suddenly locked her delicate brows and stared intensely at it. The mysterious glow in her eyes were more profound than ever and it seemed like she wanted to unveil every secret there was related to this option.

Silently, the black spiral started rotating, the space around the main floor trembled and the light coming from the phosphorescence crystal dimmed as if being devoured by the spiral.

There was no sparks of lightning generated unlike the last time nor was there any intense disturbance all around the dungeon.

Seconds passed and minutes became hours but the black spiral kept on rotating. There was no hint of a new entity coming out of it and the atmosphere around him became deathly silent.

Simon would have doubted the summon as a failure if not for the black spiral slowly becoming smaller and smaller with every passing second.

"Big brother... nothing is happening. Did the option really work?" Cecilia who was a bundle of excitement up until the back spiral appeared, asked with a tired tone when there was no other movements happening for so long.

While Cecilia was bored out of her mind, Irene seemed to be caught up by something as she intensely observed the black spiral, her eyes never left the thing.

When the black spiral shrank to a few meters in size after some time, her brows that was locked together, suddenly twitched.

Simon observed the shrinking black spiral with bated breath, the phenomenon that occurred was completely different than what it was during when he summoned Irene.

He could not determine whether the summoning was a success or not since the back spiral was still there; theless, this wait was killing him.

After what felt like a long time, the spiral finally shortened to a mere few meters. There was no way any person could fit through that and it looked like the summoning was a dud, when suddenly some changes started to occur.

The light in the floor started coming back to their former brightness and there was finally some movements with the black spiral.

[Beep-Boop-Ping] a resonant sound like that of a sonar echoed across the whole floor and the being which it came from, soon exited out of the black spiral.

The moment it appeared every one of the onlookers was stunned as they looked on with wide eyes at the being that just appeared.

The thing... yes, the thing that appeared was a ball of light that looked like a wisp. It was no more than half a meter big and appeared to be full of life.

The space mended itself and the back spiral disappeared leaving behind the ball of light behind.

[Beep-Boop-Ping] it made some noise and started becoming more active.

"What is that?" Cecilia tilted her head, her emerald green eyes reflected the image of the ball of light.

Simon opened and closed his mouth many a time unable to even utter a word.

It was at this moment when the two of them were having a headache trying to figure out what it was, Irene softly mumbled.

"A Null Elemental... how can it appear here?". Her voice was shaking and her tone was full of disbelief.

Hearing her words Simon turned towards her, pointed at the ball of light that was levitating above the ground and asked "What did you say it is?".