

## D. of Pride 211

### Chapter 211: Null Elemental

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?".

However, instead of answering him directly, she continued to stare at the ball of light and Simon who had summoned it.

"It is unbelievable to see a Null Elemental at this level of plane".

" A Null Elemental?" Simon repeated and tried to use Analysis on it. The result he got was the most bizarre thing he had seen to say no less.

As Irene had mentioned, its race was a Null Elemental but the peculiar thing about it was not just its name but also it's level and everything.

Analysis displayed that it was unable to level and it only had a few inherent skills of unknown capabilities.

Instead of helping, the Analysis made it even more confusing. How was he supposed to know what in the world he had summoned now?

Trying his best to remain calm, Simon tried to initiate a conversation with it only to get Beep-Boop sound like that of a sonar.

In that regard, the thing in front of him was quite similar to the thing he had seen in his transcendent state back during the trial of the Ancient Titan Treant. However, he was unable to communicate with this one.

"Quick... place your hands on it before it gains full spirituality.. hurry up" Irene said in an unusually hurried tone.

Recognizing the urgency in her voice, Simon complied with her and placed his hands on top of the wisp of light.

The moment he touched it, he felt a sensation as if it was tangible and intangible at the same. While he musing over what was the objective behind placing his hands on top of it, he suddenly felt as if the whole world around him suddenly fade and change into something else.

The scene that lay in front of him was a vast universe with an uncountable number of stars dotting it.

[Beep-Boop-Ping]

the null elemental made a noise and the surrounding stars greeted it by twinkling.

The scene around him changed and now he was in front of a huge sun that was about to explode in a supernova.

The scene changed once again and now he was in front of a gigantic black hole which gave chills all over his body.

Just like that, the scenes changed many times, and Simon found himself in different places. The complexity and profundity of the information rushing to his brain was so much that Simon had a splitting headache that threatened to tear his brain apart.

Fortunately, before he could get overwhelmed by its immensity, he was back on his main floor.

"Gugh... huff..huff" Simon staggered and hastily removed his hands from the ball of light. His body was drenched in sweat and he looked just like a person who had a nightmare.

"Big brother... big brother are you alright? Your face looks pale, what happened? You just placed your hand on that thing and started huffing all of a sudden" Cecilia supported his staggering self and asked in concern.

Well even if she asked him that, he himself did not know what just happened and the things that he saw was beyond the comprehension of his current self.

"It seems you were able to establish a link with it. How was it experiencing the world of the Null Elemental?" a sweet fragrance drifted in the air and assaulted his nose.

Feeling a soft sensation around his arm, he found Irene supporting him.

"A link?" he asked confused by her words. The thing he saw supposed to be a link with that ball of light?

[Beep-Boop-Beep] the wisp of light communicated with sonar like sounds.

Huh? Strangely enough, for some reason, Simon felt like it had responded to his question.

"Yes, only a person that has created a link with the Null Elemental could see its world. And judging from your expression and reaction I'm pretty sure you have experienced it" Irene explained.

Although her explanation was simple, Simon felt like he did not understand a thing much like another someone who was tilting her head and looking at Null Elemental as if it was some kind of toy.

Seeing his dumfounded expression, Irene shook her and smiled helplessly "I'm the one who should be amazed. No matter exaggerated that [Main Menu] of yours is but to be able to summon a Null Elemental. I guess it is even more special than what you give it credit for. With something as ridiculous as this menu, no wonder you were so confident".

Irene's crystal blue eyes carefully observed the man who seemed to have become more mysterious than ever.

Having the ability to summon her, have a Forest Spring Royal Spirit as his little sister and now even bonding with a Null Elemental. All these occurrences and fate working in his favour didn't feel like coincidences anymore.

Unaware of the inner turmoil in Irene's heart, Simon continued to stare at the Null Elemental before asking "What exactly is that thing?".

[Beep-Boop-Beep] the Null Elemental once gain made some strange noises.

Smiling a little, Irene commented, "It seems it is offended by your remark".

"Offended? That thing?" his eyes twitching, Simon asked for clarification.

"Yes, although it looks like a wisp, it is an extremely sentient spiritual entity. The Null Elementals are born in the cracks between the dimension of space and time. Their body have no origin and no end which you have already experienced a while ago".

"These wisps of light called the Null Elemental, are the creation of the universe full of life force, older than time and beyond the comprehension of any mortal. It is abysmally rare to even feel their presence much less actually meeting one".

Irene explained throwing out every knowledge she had of it.

After her explanation ended, Simon felt as if he was better off without asking. Everything that she had said went over him and he felt like his head hurting even more from trying to make sense of it.

"In any case, it is alive right?" He looked at Irene and asked.

With a simple nod of her head, she answered his question which made him think inwardly. 'Why couldn't you just say that instead of talking so roundabout?'.

Although her explanation was cumbersome and difficult to understand, it raised his expectation for the Null Elemental.

"So how powerful is it?" Something that is born in the cracks between the dimension of space and time, has to be incredibly powerful right?

Hearing his question, Irene went silent for a while before replying "In terms of strength it has no power. It can neither defend nor attack and is the weakest of all creation".

The words that came out of her mouth, immediately dropped a bucket of cold water on his excitement.

It has no power? The weakest of all creation? Simon's face twitched and he didn't know what kind of face he was making right now.

Look here, what was with that hype and lengthy explanation about it if it was so damn weak? He was an idiot to think for a moment that he got his hands on an incredibly powerful subordinate. ofc course all of this was his internal thought.

Looking at his demoralised face and knowing what he was thinking, Irene couldn't help but sigh in exasperation. It was better for her to show him how incredible the Null Elemental was instead of giving him some lengthy explanation.

"I did say it is the weakest of all creation but that is true only if you look at it subjectively. Right now you are unable to fathom how incredible the abilities of a Null Elemental are. However, I'm sure in the future you would understand my meaning when I say how lucky you are".

"It is that amazing? Wow, Big brother you have summoned something so cute" Cecilia tried hugging the Null elemental but it swiftly evaded any of her attempts to do so.

Realising that there is no point brooding over things that have already happened, Simon decided to just accept it as it is. Well, it was not like he can send it back anyways.

The Null Elemental was summoned by using four emblems on the [??????] option, something that was previously impossible. No matter if the ball of light was incredible or weak, he was able to at least understand that the previous parameters of the Summon option no longer applied on this bugged option.

Three emblems were no longer the maximum limit.

So now it was time for him to see if there was anything else other than the emblems that might work on the option. The first thing that came to his mind was the various weapons and objects he had in his [Inventory].

Simon threw multitudes of weapons and items inside the back spiral but no matter what he did, it did not show any reaction. He stopped after a few attempts when he realised that it wasn't working.

It seems that low-rank weapons and artifacts were no good which made him want to try his luck with the higher tier items but since they were precious, Simon stopped his thoughts at that.

Finishing his experimentations, he glanced at Irene, Cecilia and the newest addition in his dungeon the Null Elemental.

Now that he had summoned it, what should he do next? While he was pondering over his future actions, Irene approached him and said "If you are done with whatever you were doing let's move on to a different floor".

Blinking his eyes a few times, Simon questioned her in confusion "Why do we need to go away from the main floor?".

## Chapter 212: Flitting Moments Of Peace

Blinking his eyes a few times, Simon questioned her in confusion "Why do we need to go away from the main floor?".

"Of course, it is for the Null Elemental. You will understand once you create a floor for it and yes keep it extremely simple, a small floor will suffice" Irene said in a mysterious tone.

A floor for the Null Elemental? Simon did not know why Irene would ask something like that from him; theless, he complied with her request. He made a small floor less than a kilometre wide and made it extremely simple.

The floor was below the newly created 35th floor which was the territory of the mutated monsters, the Fire Fanged Mouse and the Fire Eater Rat.

Teleporting the four of them to the new floor, Simon looked at Irene and asked "We are here! Now, what were you going to show us with the Null Elemental?".

Irene observed the new floor and nodded "It is good enough. Now, you just need to place your hand on it once again and think of a name." She replied looking at him.

The naming she was talking about was unlike the Naming process where you have to mark a monster with your brand by bestowing it a name.

The Null Elemental was a spiritual entity that was already linked to him and there was no need for Simon to mark it with his brand. Hence the name can be assigned without using ones mana and without any risk of it failing.

The Null Elemental refused to be touched by anyone other than him and only because he had formed a link with it, that he could touch it.

Simon thought that he would have to go through the same thing once again but to his surprise, when he touched it once again the scene around him did not change.

Next was to give it a name, he thought long and hard for a good name but in the end, he could only come up with 'Wisp'.

The moment he decided on that name, the Null Elemental made some movement and brightened a little.

"Wisp? Is that the best name you could come up with?" Irene asked rolling her eyes at the name displayed at its status.

"Hehe, big brother is so bad with names" Cecilia tried to suppress her laugh but she still couldn't hold it back.

Simon's eyes twitched on their remark and he couldn't help but think internally 'What is bad with the name Wisp. It fits, after all, it is a ball of light'.

While he was thinking all that, the Null Elemental started making some movements and slipped inside the ground as easily as something incorporeal.

"What!?" the Null Elemental just disappeared inside the floor.

"It has already started gaining its spiritual sentience. No wonder it disappeared inside the floor since it could read your thoughts and goals. Right now, it has formed a link with you that will gradually deepen and you will be able to communicate with it more easily" Irene smiled without getting fazed by the Null Elemental's action.

Simon looked like he was still out of the circle so Irene had to clarify for him "The Null Elemental you named Wisp is linked to you. It can read your thoughts and naturally is aware of your goal which is to strengthen your dungeon".

"Since it has bonded with you now, your wish is the Null Elemental's wish. It hasn't disappeared inside the or something and instead is trying to assimilate with this floor. You will understand what I mean after some time".

By now, Simon became so lethargic to the incredulity of events that he no longer had any energy to become surprised. Taking her words at face value, he decided to return to the main floor along with the two of them.

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After observing the battle between the Lightning Draconic Serpent and the Orc General, he was once again reminded that strength was the most important factor in this world. If he didn't have the help of the mysterious woman, the Lightning Draconic Serpent might have been subdued by the Orc General and he would have been unable to keep his promise with Aldebaran.

There was also the quickly rising numbers of the adventurers that were diving inside the dungeon. If he didn't become strong enough and outpace them, he would put his dungeon along with its inhabitants at risk.

His dungeon, Laplace was currently doing quite well and the DP it is generating every hour is fairly good. The density of mana inside the Dungeon is also becoming relatively concentrated and the population of the spawned monsters is steadily increasing.

Thanks to Cecilia's existence, his dungeon was doing exponentially good compared to any other low tier dungeon and if continues on, it wouldn't be long before his dungeon ranks up.

Arriving at the main floor, Simon decided to use the mana crystals produced by the transformed trees of mana to increase his level as soon as possible. He also bought 50 seeds of trees of mana for a hefty 25,000,000 DP to be planted on another side of the main floor away from the pond.

Although staying away from the pond of serenity will limit their growth, he believed that as long as Cecilia was here, there was no way it was going to be of concern.

He has already seen the miraculous changes a Forest Spring Royal Spirit could bring, he would be an idiot to even doubt it anymore.



Increasing the ceiling of the main floor and installing a new mountain that was about five hundred meters big, Simon tasked Cecilia with sowing the seeds and taking care of them. Later on, the mountain would undergo such incredible changes and become a place where many precious and rare treasures could be found but that is something for the future.

Taking care of the things he needed to take care of, Simon cleared his mind and sat at the stone near the pond of serenity. The thick fog of mystical energy lingering near the area became even more pure with time and the gathering of mystical veins beneath the pond became even more apparent.

These high number of mystical veins carrying pure and unpolluted mana was continuously being deposited inside the pond strengthening and empowering it every day. The previous trees of mana that has transformed to become trees of mana crystals were also being heavily benefitted by being near the pond of serenity and soaking in the abundant and unpolluted mystical energy.

Simon wouldn't be surprised to find their rate of growth and mana crystal production accelerating.

Beside the pond of serenity, covered in the thick mist of mana in a cocoon was the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse who was undergoing some changes. He could feel the strong life of the warhorse and its quickly growing aura.

It wouldn't be long before the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse came out of it and displayed its newfound strength and power once again.

Simon continued to stare at the Pond of Serenity for a long time remembering how he was unable to even soak in it for half a minute.

The bottom of the pond was full of unimaginable treasures like the Scarlet Mutation Crystals, Serenity stone and many others. If he wanted to utilise all those treasures, he has to build up his endurance and body, slowly increasing the time he could soak inside the pond.

Now that he was level 320, he was confident that he could endure longer than half a minute but that was not enough. Harvesting all those treasures one by one would take more than a few minutes not to mention diving and surfacing also ate up quite a few seconds.

The depth of the pond wasn't that big; however, the water inside the pond felt just like a concentrated fluid with very high viscosity making it quite difficult to move around.

Although the pond was currently too much for the current him to handle, he knew that it would become something essential in the future.

Simon opened the [Archive] function of the main menu and peered at the progress of the adventurers. The adventurer party that successfully managed to breach floor 12th was a group of ten adventurers with a steady lineup of five warriors, three mages and two assassins.

The average level of their party was around level 200 and had undergone at least two class change. After breaching the mud lands occupied by Lizardmen and Pirodiles, they have reached the 13th floor which was inhabited by Anemodactyl.

The Anemodactyls are monsters with thin skeletal frame and are capable of flight. What made them special from the normal monsters was that these monsters were able to use [Wind Slash] and [Wind Blast] skills.

The floor was more than fifteen kilometres wide and the ceiling was quite high. There are more than four hundred anemodactyl on this floor alone and are divided into many colonies.

Fighting any of them was like poking your head in a bees nest guaranteed to get stung. Previously when he was fortifying the dungeon in preparations for adventurers diving inside, he made it so that they can't breach each floor easily and the difficulty to do so goes up the more they descend.

Every time any team of adventurers clears an area or a floor, the monsters get spawned back after only a few hours, ready to fill in the numbers and block the rest of the adventurers.

DP is generated from the adventurers who are seen as intruders every minute and when they die.. The DP earned this way is then used to spawn more monsters and the excess keeps piling on to be used later on for the development of the dungeon.

## Chapter 213: Flitting Moments Of Peace (2)

Smiling in content at the progress of his dungeon, Simon closed his eyes and cleared all the residual thoughts in his mind.

He brought out ten mana crystals from his [Inventory] and spread them around him. Clenching one of it in his hands, he started utilising his [Mana Lines] skills and absorbed the highly rich and pure mystical energy from it.

A refreshing feeling spread through his body and reached every corner and cell. It did not harm him and instead benefitted him greatly and slowly assimilating with him becoming a portion of his strength.

The feeling was the same as when he defeated a monster and gained experience through it. Although it was mostly due to him being a game developer in his past life that he spoke in gaming terms, but there was no such thing as hunting monsters for experience in this world.

It was a simple concept, when an entity is killed by another, a portion of its strength is passed onto the one who defeated it in the form of mystical energy and thus becoming its strength.

The status works in a way that simplifies the amount of mystical energy one can hold on their body in terms of levels. Stats display how strong the vessel i.e. the body which holds mystical energy is and their bloodline defines their affinity with the mystical energy.

The mana crystal is the condensation of such mystical energy capable of raising one's power when absorbed without having the need to necessarily hunt monsters.

Simon kept on absorbing the mystical energy within the crystal, he felt his body strengthening slowly and slowly until the rich energy coming from the mana crystal stopped midway.

The crystal in his hand turned transparent and crumbled apart. He picked up one mana crystal after another and soon there were many empty or shattered transparent crystals on the ground.

Simon had in a span of half a day, had absorbed all the ten mana crystals.

"Ten mana crystals of grade [1] isn't even nearly enough to level up once. I feel like I'm close to a level up yet I have already gone through ten of these" he said after feeling the changes occurring within his body.

Taking out another ten or so mana crystals from his inventory, he hurriedly started absorbing all of them. A day passed by and Simon had undergone one level up reaching level 321.

However, that was just the start, after absorbing twenty or so crystals to level up once, he took out hoards and hoards of them and started absorbing the mystical energy within them.

This time, it took him more than three days and thirty-five mana crystals to achieve his second level up, on the fifth day he needed sixty mana crystals to reach level 323, on day ninth one twenty mana crystal for his fourth level up and two hundred ten crystals on the twelfth day to reach level 325.

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On a rock near the pond of serenity, Simon was sitting silently as hundreds of used mana crystals and their shattered remains littered the area near him.

Breathing a deep breath of air, he clenched his hands and felt the power from the level ups surging within his body. It took him a total of 12 days to level up five times and half of the initial 900 mana crystals he had with him was already gone.

From these level-ups, Simon understood one thing and that was that the mana crystal needed to level up after every successful level increase, goes up the higher your level is and the more you rely on it.

It can be observed from his twelve days of training, the more his level went up, the more mana crystal he needed for an additional level up.

With each level, the mystical energy that he can house within his body, drastically increases which makes the finite energy within the mana crystal unable to keep up. The higher his level, the more mana crystals he needed and as of now, he only had around 455 or so mana crystals.

Although the mana crystals were incredibly useful in increasing one's strength, it was also extremely precious. Not every organism in this world are fortunate enough to obtain mana crystals which are in the first place rare to find.

If not for the special powers of Cecilia, Simon would have to wait for his dungeon's rank to go up before even thinking about utilising the mana crystals.

Currently, he had twenty or so trees of mana crystals on his main floor who are in their sapling stage and can only produce 45 crystals each of grade [1]. These numbers might go up in the near future after the trees grow adequately but it is a slow and long process.

When giving Cecilia the fifty or so seeds of trees of mana, Simon was expecting some of them to transform into trees of mana crystals. That way, the number of mana crystals he could harvest would steadily increase with time.

The mana crystals were an effective method to level up but not the most efficient. One would need a vast amount of mana crystals to even increase their strength by a little bit the more their level goes up.

Because of that, Simon couldn't entirely rely on it as he did not have enough income of mana crystals to support his expenditure. For now, defeating monsters to level up was still the most efficient way since it also ensures improvement in his battle experience.

Fortunately for him, he was in the Ghastly winding forest, a place filled with monsters; strong and weak.

That being said, investing in the Trees of mana crystals was by no means wrong as it was also another source of levelling much more reliable than hunting monsters which involved unknown risks.

Deciding to use the remaining mana crystals on some other occasion, Simon got up from his seat and walked towards the pond. It was time he tested out his strengthened body and powers and what better way to do it other than the pond of serenity.

The pond of serenity was one of his or even possibly the greatest treasure he had inside his dungeon and just like him, it too was constantly improving itself.

The change was already becoming obvious, the colour of the water had started to slightly become a pale shade of blue because of the presence of the mystical energy. The pond was so densely packed with mana deposited by the increasing mystical veins beneath the ground that it gave him chills.

There was no doubt in his mind that the purity and concentration of mana within the pond was far greater than what it was previously.

The best way to check on his progress was to pit his body against the pond of serenity. Clenching his hands, Simon determined himself before diving inside it.

SPLASH... His entire body shuddered intensely the moment he jumped inside, the pond felt cold and excruciating to the extreme. The high concentration of mystical energy present within the pond felt like high voltage electric currents as it repeatedly and continuously electrocuted his body.

Simon could have gritted his teeth and endured it if it was only that but the coldness of the pond multiplied the pain and made it even worse. Left with no option, he had to hurriedly use [Mana Lines] and channel all of his mana into protecting his body.

A vast amount of mystical energy like a river, rushed inside his body from all of his pores and immediately filled him to the brim.

The purity and concentration of mystical energy inside the pond was many times greater than what he felt while absorbing the energy from the mana stones. If the energy inside the mana crystals was like a gentle stream, then the mystical energy here was like the rapid currents of a river that wildly and rampantly crashed onto the rocks.

Other than that there was also the volumes in which they poured inside his body. The flow of the mystical energy from the mana crystal can be controlled at least the low grades ones but the mystical energy from the pond was like a rampant beast that refused to listen to anyone as it wildly rushed inside him.

Forget about controlling the flow, it took everything Simon had just to make sure that his body doesn't blow away from the pressure.

Adjusting his mind to the pain, he opened his eyes and observed his surroundings. To his surprise, the water inside the pond unlike the surface wasn't a pale blue and instead a deep ocean blue and the deeper he went, the more brilliant the shade was.

"Judging from the current condition of my body, I can hardly endure the pressure for forty-five seconds; one minute max if I push my body to their limits. Any more than that will be suicidal" Simon analysed checking the condition of his body.

The previous experience inside the pond had made him aware that it was foolish to stubbornly increase his limits in one day. Once inside the pond, the highly condensed water continuously depletes one's mana and HP and it took everything one had just to remain conscious.

Realising that the current limits of his body was much more higher than what it was before he had even breached level 300, Simon felt pleased at his growth and decided to delve towards the bottom of the pond.

Even while electrocution and the coldness of the water had made his body completely numb, he still hanged on and slowly delved deeper.

#### Chapter 214: Trouble Comes Knocking

The bottom of the pond was masked by the deep blue light of the water and if one wanted to see what was at the bottom now, they had to dive deeper.

Utilising the sturdiness and power that came with recent level-ups, Simon steadily delved deeper before penetrating through the blue dome of light that covered the bottom of the pond.

Words couldn't describe the sight he saw, the bottom of the pond which was closer to the mystical veins had changed dramatically. Many treasures of varying shape and colours dotted the place, mysterious bubbles and speckles of light roamed the area and the mystical veins underneath the earth could be seen pulsing with energy as if they were alive.

The Sight was so striking that Simon completely forgot that he was at the bottom of the pond where the mystical energy was more concentrated than the surface. The moment, he pierced through the dome of blue light and arrived here, a great pressure the like of which he never experienced before came crashing down on him.

The mystical energy here was so berserk and pure that he felt this skin was burning just by being here and the circulation of mana within his body even with help of [Mana Lines] had slowed marginally.

Snapping his mind from the grandeur of the sight, Simon grabbed at the thing that was closer to him before hurriedly surfacing from the water.

"Huff... huff.. the mana on the bottom of the pond is even scarier than what it is on the surface. Good thing I surfaced before forty-five seconds were over any second later and my body would have been burst apart" he mumbled out loud.

It seems his body was still not powerful enough to endure the bottom of the pond where the mystical energy was far more dense and concentrated.

Nevertheless, the experience itself was not that bad as Simon could distinctively feel his body and powers reaching new heights after only soaking in it for a few seconds.

Immersing in it every day was bound to make him more stronger and powerful steadily. The altered pond of serenity really turned out to become one of his greatest treasures.

Propping himself up, he checked the object which he had picked from the bottom of the pond. At that time he did not have enough time to give it a careful look but now that he was out, he had no other concerns plaguing his mind.

The object in his hand was circular shaped and as big as a marble with no particular colour to speak of. It was translucent, gave off no aura and appeared to be ordinary; however, an object harvested from the bottom of the pond, how could it be something ordinary?

Simon was sure that there was something more to this marble than what meets the eye.

Using Analysis on it, displayed the name of the object. Skill Crystal Grade [1] Rank [C]. A Crystal that is capable of storing any skill or magic of the appropriate tier for a long period of time or until the skill crystal is used.

Once the skill or magic is stored inside the skill crystal, anyone possessing it as long as they have sufficient mana, will be able to cast it. The higher the grade of the crystals, the more powerful the skill or magic it can store.

Note that once the skill imbued inside it is used, the Skill Crystal becomes unusable until a new skill or magic is stoned inside it. Can be destroyed.

Simon blinked his eyes a few times and read the information displayed by the Analysis. The thing that he harvested from the bottom of the pond was called a skill crystal and it can store any kind of magic or skill inside it.

Well, not any kind as the grade of the skill crystal needed to be higher to store powerful magic and skills. But even then, there was no denying the usefulness of the skill crystal.



If one just looked at it objectively it might not appear so incredible; However, its usefulness depends on the user and how he uses it.

Depending on the situation, the skill can even turn the situation around. Thinking of it like this, a person caught in a precarious situation and is unable to get out might even change the situation with the aide of this Skill crystal which can store any kind of magic.

He can use this to his advantage and dish out an attack that the enemy has no knowledge of.

The skill crystal can serve as a great diversion or a tide turner depending on how it is used. Simon could already picture thousands of scenarios in which he could use the skill crystal to his advantage.

As of now, the Skill crystal in his hand appeared translucent indicating that it was empty with no skill or magic stored in it. The bottom of the pond of serenity had many of these growing and some of which were even bigger than the one he had in his hand currently.

That was not all, the bottom of the pond was just like an un plundered treasure trove brimming with all kinds of rare objects and treasures. Although it was asking too much from him to plunder all those treasures right now, but with time Simon was sure that he would be able to discern all of the secret hiding at the bottom of the pond.

Tossing the marble in his [Inventory], he focused on restoring his HP and MP that has been drastically shaved after his endeavour inside the pond before returning back to his palace.

These past twelve days, nobody came to disturb him and he was able to focus on increasing his strength worry-free. Now that he was free of his training, he naturally wanted to check on the other floors and see if there were any other changes occurring besides on his main floor.

The first thing that came to his mind was the newly created floor for the Null Elemental. Previously when he brought Wisp to the floor, it disappeared inside the floor like an incorporeal being and he did not know what happened to it after that.

If not for Irene's words that insistently praised the abilities of the Null Elemental, Simon wouldn't have created a separate floor just for it.

Thinking that there might be some unexpected surprise waiting for him back on the floor, he couldn't help feeling giddy. After all, the ball of light which he named Wisp, was something that had appeared from the black spiral after he used four emblems on it.

It would be a lie if he said that he didn't have a high expectation for it.

The next floor on his list to check was the Forest Spring Spirit village that he made a mental note to visit in the future. These Forest Spring Spirits were a race loved by the nature and wield abilities that are far more mysterious and profound.

Their power to manipulate nature to their will and accomplish things that would have been otherwise seen impossible, made them an important race for the development of his dungeon.

Simon was aware of some of their incredulous ability and it would not be an exaggeration to find the floor completely changed than before.

Entering inside the white palace, he searched for the presence of two other inhabitants that lived together with him in the white palace.

Sensing that the presence of Cecilia was nowhere to be found, he frowned his brows. "Is she not on the main floor? Well, she might be with her clansmen on the forest Spring Spirit floor" Simon mused and went up to the dining hall.

It had been more than twelve days since he last ate anything and honestly he was starting to miss some of the food he used to have back on earth dearly.

While it was true that he can go on without eating or sleeping for months since the mystical energy was enough to sustain his body, it cannot recreate the delicious taste of the food nor could it satisfy his appetite.

Arriving inside the dining hall, Simon made himself comfortable in one of the seats before opening the [Shop] option of the [Main Menu] and ordering some food and desserts.

While he was busy picking the food of his choice, his eyes coincidentally went towards the kitchen adjacent to the hall. The kitchen had been lying vacant ever since he installed the white palace and everything inside it was left untouched.

Since all of the food can be easily bought from the shop, up until now Simon felt no need to enter the kitchen. However, looking at all of the gadgets and wear, he felt like it was quite a waste to not make use of them.

The kitchen was prepared with those entities from the 12 heroes in mind; but now that the menus have merged and the [Hero's Altar] has disappeared, the kitchen was left with no more use.

In his previous life, Simon had created the twelve powerful heroes with much difficulty and various ideas in mind. Each of them had their own abilities and powers that set them apart from one another and were set in a way that they become the best of companions for the players.

He sighed in disappointment at the thought of them disappearing for good. He had created them with all of his abilities, there was no way he won't feel disappointed at their disappearance.

There was no point in lamenting now that everything had already occurred, he could only accept the situation he had no way of reversing

## Chapter 215: Trouble Comes Knocking (2)

While having those thoughts in mind, Simon entered the kitchen and decided to make some tea for himself.

The palace that he bought from the [Shop], was designed so that everything is replenished after use. From ingredients to beverages or even the material things such as the glass and plates when consumed or broken, is set to replenish itself by using the DP.

Preparing the tea leaves, he was just about to make some tea when...

"Ummn~ I must say the food you have prepared is quite good especially this fluffy and spongy thing". A voice that he had never heard before, a voice that shouldn't be present in his dungeon and more so on the main floor, came from the dining hall.

The voice was relaxed and had an added childishness to it. Turning towards the voice with eyes wide open, Simon finally saw who it was.

A girl who seemed to be a few years older than Cecilia, was currently sitting on the seat he was supposed to and eating the food he had prepared for himself.

Her figure was petite and delicate, just like a beautiful flower swaying with the wind. She had lustrous black hair tied into twin tails, wore a bright golden dress that reached up to her ankles and carried an object that looked like an umbrella by her side.

Her skin was pale white, beautiful face, cheerful eyes, cherry red lips and a small nose.

No matter how one looked at her, the girl appeared to be extremely beautiful and attractive. If Simon had to point, the only department she was lacking was her chest...

"Do you want to die?" Just when his thoughts reached there, a tone laced with bone-chilling cold and killing intent rang out.

Of course, the speaker of the voice was other than the girl who was currently staring at him with a smile that didn't seem to be a smile. It appeared that his thoughts which had been said to be easy to read, had been read by the girl.

Ahem, forcing a cough, Simon cleared his mind of any unnecessary thought lest he got called something he was not.

'Wait a minute.. why am I getting lectured by a girl no less than fourteen years old? She is the one who intruded my dungeon... in the first place how did she enter the main floor?'

Simon was so focused on her casual manner that it completely skipped his mind. The girl had appeared so close to him without even him noticing and not just anywhere, but on the main floor of his dungeon which was also the place where the dungeon core was located to say no less.

He suddenly felt his feet getting cold at the thought of how the woman accomplished to do something as incredible as intrude his dungeon and reach the main floor without anyone noticing.

The girl crossed her pearly and shapely white legs, and dangled a shoe around looking extremely pleased with the food as she finished one plate after another.

Turning towards Simon, she leaned her head on top of her hands and smiled "Oh~ are you making some tea? Excellent in that case I'll have some".

His brows twitching uncontrollably, Simon tried to keep his composure before asking in a serious tone "Who are you?".

Before he could get his answer from the girl, a freezing coldness descended onto the room before the space near him was torn apart and Irene's figure came out of it.

Everything happened in just a fraction of a second and before he could comprehend what had happened even with his [Thought Processing], Irene was already here.

What was the same was that the girl still had a calm and laid back attitude as she watched Irene make her appearance. Smiling brightly, the girl looked at the new entrant and Simon who was trying to make sense of the situation.

"Hehh~ interesting indeed. A Demon Viscount possessing such a powerful subordinate and sheltering so many Forest Spring Spirits. Colour me surprised, I did not expect to see all that when I decided to come here" the girl mumbled while one of her feet was still playing with the shoe.

Irene's phoenix eyes narrowed and a bone-chilling cold that could even freeze the space spread around the surrounding.

Not paying her action any mind, the girl simply sat at her chair and commented "You do realise that if we make a move that demon there would die if he gets caught in between it right? Besides you are quite peculiar... why do I feel you are powerful yet weak at the same time?".

The girl asked observing Irene carefully.

Irene on the other hand narrowed her eyes but did not make any move.

While all this was happening, Simon was calmly assessing his situation. A girl that can potentially become an enemy any moment, had intruded his dungeon all the way to his main floor without the dungeon notifying him.

As absurd as it sounded, the reality was that the girl he had never seen before, was already here. To make matters even worse, she knew about the Forest Spring Spirits residing on one of the floors of his dungeon.

If she wanted to kill him or destroy his dungeon core, given the composure and strength she displayed up until now, it would be as easy as flipping a coin.

His most important priority here was to gather information from the girl who looked no more than fourteen years old. "Who are you and how did you arrive here?" Simon repeated.

"Hmm~ let's see... I haven't introduced myself, perhaps I can do that after a cup of tea" the intent behind her words were clear and that was she demanded a tea before the talk proceeded any further.

Simon's heart became cold, nevertheless he didn't move from his place. It was his place, who was she to order something from him?

The girl's gaze passed behind him and landed on to the glass he poured the tea for himself.

Whoosh... with a move of her fingers, the cup flew towards her.

SLURP... sipping on the tea, her eyes widened a little. "Thank you for the delicious meal, it was quite satisfying. Honestly, I didn't expect this level of culinary when coming here. Hehe, you have managed to surprise me in various ways" the girl smiled brightly looking very satisfied.

"I'm feeling quite pleased and as a reward, I'll answer some of your questions. I'm Adalinda and as for how I arrived here, hmm it's quite simple I just made a spatial tear, broke through the space laws of this dungeon and arrived here. Ah, even though I may not look like it, but I'm quite delicate so do you mind quitting with that intense glare of yours".

Looking at the girl talking and acting coyly, Simon couldn't help his face twitching.

What did she just say? Speaking about tearing the space law of his dungeon as casually as if it was nothing but paper. Every dungeon is located inside a special space that has its own spatial laws and the higher the rank of the dungeon, the more powerful the spatial laws.

Even though his dungeon was a low ranked one, its space laws weren't something that can be easily breached.

This little girl knows not the time and place for acting like that. No one could blame him for not believing her words.

"Now that I have answered one of your questions, it makes sense that you answer one of mine right? So... my question is what the hell are you?" Adalinda asked focusing her gaze on Simon.

The moment her gaze landed on him, he suddenly felt the entire place crumbling and his body for some mysterious reason felt extremely heavy and sluggish. There were no abilities or power involved nor any suppression with aura, just the look from her eyes was enough to achieve that effect.

Simon felt extremely depressed, not only the girl not answer his question, but she started questioning of her own.

Even though he was reluctant, he dare to act out at this moment "I'm Simon, a Demon Viscount born from the ample mana of this world".

Hearing his answer, the smile on the girl's face deepened, she commented "Hehh~ just an ordinary Demon Viscount huh. Well, if that was the case then the Demon Viscount these days are quite something to have such a powerful subordinate and a group of Forest Spring Spirits under him no?".

Simon frowned at those words, was the girl here for the Forest Spring Spirits? If so then was she an enemy? Various thoughts churned inside his head as he tried to make sense of the objective of this little girl.

Seeing that Simon was making a difficult face, Adalinda displayed a crafty smile before probing further "So sir Demon Viscount how did you manage to achieve something like convincing the Forest Spring Sprits to reside in your dungeon?".

Her eyes refused to budge from his body and seemed to pierce through his soul.

"Enough with your silly questions... tell us why are you even here?" the bone-chilling cold around Irene intensified as she released her own subliminal pressure.

Instantly, the atmosphere around the room was divided into two halves as both the parties kept each other at bay.

The staredown lasted for a while before Adalinda finally got up from her seat and silently approached Simon.

Simon who was well above two meters in height, had to look down at the girl who appeared just like a little kid less than fourteen years old.

She had a youthful face that might delude someone into thinking that but make no mistake, the aura that emitted out of her even while restrained, was monstrous to say no less.

This kind of absolute suppression, Simon only felt it from those peak ranked Demon Archdukes that were present during the Walpurgis.

#### Chapter 216: Adalinda

This kind of absolute suppression, Simon only felt it from those peak ranked Demon Archdukes that were present during the Walpurgis.

Adalinda came near him before coyly tilting her head "Well I'm very much interested in how you a Demon Viscount managed to do that, but leaving it all aside, do you know the reason why I am here?".

Simon simply shook his head, how the hell was he supposed to know? He did try to guess her motive but he ultimately came up with nothing.

Adalinda pointed her index finger at Simon before continuing "It's because of you".

Her answer confounded both Irene and Simon who were intently watching her every action.

It was because of him? What does she mean by that? he had not even seen her before today so how come she said that she was here because of him?

Irene narrowed her crystal blue eyes and seemed to be thinking something.



"Me? I have never even met you, why would you be here for me?" Simon asked.

"Hm? Don't tell me you don't know or are you acting innocent?" Adalinda revealed a slight tinge of surprise in her voice as she casually conversed with Simon.

"Well it doesn't matter... I'll eventually squeeze every information out from you. Hehe, so Mr Demon Viscount the reason why I am here is because of a familiar draconic aura I'm sensing from you".

Simon was getting increasingly confounded, what did she mean by him releasing a draconic aura? He was a Demon Noble and the draconic aura can only be released by those that are actual dragon, have dragon bloodline or from dragon ancestry.

Simon having of those, he wouldn't be able to release draconic aura exclusive to the dragon tribe.

On the contrary, Irene revealed an expression that seemed to show that she finally put the two and two together.

Adalinda who carefully observed every expression of Simon, frowned at his confusion before enlightenment dawned on her.

"Hohh~ so that's how it is. Sigh... that girl, she deliberately did all of this to divert my focus somewhere else".

She then looked at Simon and dispelled his confusion "The reason why I am here is because of my disciple who you should have met a while ago. You see my disciple ran away from her home and I'm tracking her all across the continents and when I finally arrived near this place, I sensed a slight trace of something that led me all the way here".

Simon did not have to think hard to know who Adalinda was talking about, the mysterious woman that he had met back in the territory of the Diluvian High Orcs, perfectly fit her description.

He stared at the little girl in front of him with a weird look in his eyes. Why wouldn't he, the girl named Adalinda claimed to be the master of the mysterious woman when she herself looked no more than fourteen years old.

Nonetheless, the situation was solved and he no longer had to fret over the objective of Adalinda who somehow had barged on the main floor of his dungeon.

"As you can see your precious runaway disciple is nowhere to be seen.. so you should also make yourself scarce from here" Irene commented in a not so friendly tone.

Simon was also of the same notion, the girl appeared here uninvited not to mention on the floor which was the core of his dungeon. Even though they had an amiable conversation, there was no guarantee that Adalinda wouldn't turn hostile on them.

If possible, Simon wanted her to go away as soon as possible.

"She is right; your disciple is not here so there is no reason for you to be staying here any longer".

Listening to his words, Adalinda smiled widely and flashed her two pointy teeth "Hehe, It seems that I'm not welcomed here even after we shared such a delicious meal".

Her words immediately made Simon frown and his brows twitched increasingly. What share a meal? She was gulping down the food he had prepared for himself one-sidedly and even had the nerve to demand tea from him.

If not for her powers that he was cautious about, Simon would have thrown her out by now.

"Well it matters not because we are not done yet. Although my disciple was able to deceive me with that little trick of hers, it still holds true that she came in contact with you. The draconic aura lingering around you should be from the technique [Ancient Draconic Compel]".

"It is a powerful technique that I had created long ago which can subdue any monsters possessing dragon bloodline. The fact that she decided to bestow you with such a technique, you piqued my interest in various ways" Adalinda displayed a charming smile as she observed him.

When Simon felt her gaze on him, his whole body shuddered for an instant. In his mind though, he couldn't help but curse himself for falling for the trap of the mysterious woman.

He should have doubted her from the moment that woman decided to help him with no strings attached. However, at that time the situation was so that he had no choice but to accept her offer.

Now karma came back to bite him.

"Hehh~ it seems that you have already used the technique on someone. How was it, did you like my technique?" Adalinda asked drawing closer to him.

Simon's brain churned as he tried to estimate the level of this little girl whose age seem to deceive her powers. How much one's level and mastery over mystical energy should be to create a highly complex technique such as this?

The [Ancient draconic Compel] was so powerful that it can easily subdue the Lightning draconic Serpent with just a tiny droplet of its blood.

There was no denying it, the little girl in front of him was so powerful that she can even wipe out his entire dungeon without any difficulty.

Grinning mischievously, Adalinda continued "There is no point in keeping silent; I can see it through your eyes how shocked you are. Anyways, since you have benefited from something I had created once, it is only natural that you help me in return wouldn't you say?".

Simon arched his brows while the temperature around Irene dropped a notch. A faint symbol of phoenix silently appeared on her forehead before disappearing in an instant.

Pondering over his options, he fixed his gaze on her and asked "What if I refuse?".

SILENCEE~~

A dreadful silence descended onto the main floor. Adalinda's smile didn't falter from her pretty face; however, the mood in the place was no longer the same.

"Hehe, Mr Demon Viscount... I think it is better that I remind you early on, in this world only strength recognises strength. You who are at the bottom of the chain, have no right whatsoever in the first place to even refuse. There is always a sky above a sky, a power above your own. It would be for your own betterment that you learn this early".

The eerie silence disappeared as if it was never there.

A clear threat, her words did not contain any bit of consideration and reminded Simon of what his position was. Her words clearly suggests that he was in no place to deny her.

CREAK... CRACK...

It was at this moment, a bone-chilling cold that seemed to come from the deepest pits of hell, erupted out of Irene and started spreading across the floor.

FREEZE... Instantly, the ice appeared to have travelled across the dimensions and approached near Adalinda when Simon suddenly roared "STOP".

WHOOSH... the moment he roared, the ice that was about to reach Adalinda, arched across her before spreading across the edges of the floor.

Irene's face held the same composure, but her crystal blue eyes that were staring at him, seemed to be asking 'why did he stop her?'.

Inhaling a deep breath of cold air, Simon turned around to face her.

"It's alright; I know that you are plenty strong but let me handle it this time" he said as he matched his gaze with her.

The two gazed at each other's eyes for a while before Irene suddenly shifted them away. Nonetheless, the aura around her didn't lessen a bit.

Sighing helplessly, Simon shook his head before turning towards Adalinda who still had that coquettish smile plastered on her face as if the previous outburst from Irene had never happened.

Honestly, even he was surprised when Irene suddenly took action when Adalinda finished putting her words. If it was the Irene from when he summoned, an obvious taunt such as that wouldn't even be able to faze her.

Her previous self would never act out like that especially when it was not even directed at her. It seemed that staying with Simon for the past few months have changed her drastically and she herself wasn't aware of that.

While Irene's haphazard action surprised him a bit, strangely there was a delight silently budding in his heart.

Simon did not know the depths of Irene's power and from what he knew, most.. No, it would be appropriate to say all of her powers were currently sealed for some reason.

Even if she had confidence that she wouldn't lose, he didn't want to put her at risk. There was no way as a man he would allow that, his pride wouldn't allow. Also, it was entirely his fault that they were in this disaster hence he should be the one to fix it.

As the Dungeon Master and also as a man there was no way he was going to shy away from his responsibility?

## Chapter 217: Unreasonable

'A sky above a sky, a power above a power' in truth, Simon was already aware of that since the moment he had reincarnated in this world. The encounters he had in this forest repeatedly told him that his powers were still far too weak and nowhere near enough to be considered strong.

His question earlier was just to test the water and see if he could find a way out of this.

"You are absolutely right; I'm in no position to reject your request. You are also right in that I met that disciple of yours back during one of the trips of mine to the deep regions of the Ghastly Winding Forest. At that time, she willingly imparted this technique to me and with it, I was able to achieve one of my objectives and since you are the creator of the Ancient Draconic Compel, that makes me owe you one".

Adalinda's smile widened a little when she heard his affable reply "Is that so?".

"However, before I agree to your request, can I ask what this aide is all about? What I mean is since you are all that powerful, why would you need the help of someone as weak as me. There is no way I can aide in something that even you are unable of".

He wasn't spouting nonsense, Simon was more or less aware of how powerful the little girl in front of him was. In terms of strength, she was a monster above all other monsters.

If there was something that even she couldn't achieve with her powers, how was he to aide her.

Crossing her arms over her non-existent chest, Adalinda declared "You don't have to worry about that, just your presence will be plenty helpful in finding that bratty disciple of mine".

Simon was stunned by her words. The help she was talking about was to search for her disciple who had run away from her home? If so then why was he needed?

There is no way he knew where that mysterious woman had gone after imparting him with this technique.

"Wait a minute... how am I supposed to help you when I don't know where that disciple of yours had gone to?" Simon couldn't help but voice out his doubts.

"As I said you don't have to worry about that. Your task is just to accompany me as for the rest I can handle it myself. That lass thinks that she can evade her master? Hmph, she is still too wet behind the ears".

Simon couldn't help but drop his hand in dejection, this little grandaunt was not willing to listen to him at all.

"Ah right since you will come along with me, pack your belongings and tasks that you need to complete. I'm willing to give you few hours of time for that... but don't make me wait for long" saying everything that she needed to say, she sat herself back on the chair cosily.

Too much, the little girl was just too much. She was unwilling to listen to others and just kept rambling herself.

What did she say about giving him some time to prepare? Does she think that a job of a Dungeon master was something so easy that it could be done in just a few hours?

How was he supposed to finish all of his tasks in the span of just a few hours? Simon felt a severe headache just by conversing with the girl. He exited the hall and left the little girl all alone.

There was no way he was willing to entertain her anymore especially when he only had a few hours to prepare. His first priority was to make sure that the last two floors of the dungeon would be absolutely safe even in his absence.

"What are you planning to do?" Irene who had exited the dining hall alongside him, asked.

Simon simply shook his head and replied "It's as she said, in this world only strength recognises strength. Without adequate power, I don't even have the right to decide. For now, I can only go along with her. Take care of the dungeon and the Forest Spring Spirits for me".

Irene locked her brows at his resolute words "There might be other ways. You do not have to deliberately put yourself in danger...".

"There is no other way... I know that you are concerned but believe me I will not let myself get killed so easily" Simon said flashing a gentle smile at Irene.

Her composure faltered for a second and she stopped in her tracks. Finally snorting in a cold and distant manner, she turned around leaving a few words of her own "Who said I'm concerned about you? Also you should keep your words and return alive after this".

"Haha" Simon chuckled before a serious expression dawned on his face as he opened the [Main Menu].

The [Archive] option of the [Main Menu] allows him to see each and every entity currently inside the dungeon no matter which floor they are. However, no matter how carefully he looked, there was denying the fact that the little girl called Adalinda who had barged inside his dungeon was nowhere to be spotted.

Even though the girl was currently sitting cosily on the chair inside the dining hall, the dungeon still failed to detect her.

What was going on? How can one elude the detection of the dungeon and appear so close to the dungeon core? If everybody could do it then was there even a point to make multiple floors for his dungeon to guard the dungeon core?

Simon did not have an answer but what he was sure of was that this kind of ability shouldn't be in the hands of many people and probably accessible to a handful of strong ones.

What sore his mood even further was the fact that even when such a strong entity had currently intruded his dungeon, he was not getting any Dungeon Points from it. He could only imagine how abnormal the numbers would be if only it was possible to get DP from that little monster.

What wasn't possible wasn't possible. Clearing his mind, Simon focused on the progress of the adventurers currently inside the dungeon.

He observed that the group which had managed to previously clear floor twelve were successful in clearing floor fourteen. However, they weren't in hurry to proceed to the next floor and seemed to be retreating for now. It was a rational choice considering that the difficulty of the floor increases the deeper they went.

Simon had to admit that this group of ten adventurers were quite balanced and perfect for dungeon diving. They look after each other's blind spot and overcome each other's shortcomings together.

Additionally, their clothes seemed to have an insignia embroidered which indicated that they are from the same guild. A bow and an arrow lit in fire was the logo of their guild.

Simon did not know where this guild was situated or what was it called but seeing their teamwork and the trust they had in each other, he knew that it would be quite the reputed guild.

This group of ten adventurers weren't the only one from their guild, there appear to be many other adventurers on the upper floors currently slowly making their way to the bottom floors.

Apart from the adventurers, there were also a team of miners, collectors who collected the slain monsters by the adventurers, merchants and caravans waiting outside of the dungeon who were from the same guild.

From what Simon could observe, it appeared that the guild traded in diverse goods.

"Hmm, the 15th floor huh... from the looks of it the Direwolves and the Stormwolves have recovered fairly well from the menace created by the Fire Eating Rats and the Fire Fanged Mouse" Simon commented looking at the 15th floor.



A couple of weeks ago, the place was turned upside down by just one Scarlet Mutation Crystal that he had placed on this floor. His initial intention was for the Storm or the Direwolves to consume the crystal; however, the Stormwolf that ate it succumbed to its death and its corpse was then eaten by the Fanged Mouse who should have been the prey of the wolves.

While the result was astounding and something he couldn't have asked for, it still cost him the lives of multiple wolves residing on this floor. Thanks to that, their populace was spread thin across the floor and was still recovering.

"Although their reproduction rate is not the highest, I should still spawn a few more of them just in case" Simon deliberated.

Now that he had to leave the dungeon and he did not know when he would be able to come back, he couldn't leave any stone unturned with the defence of the dungeon.

The adventurers might suddenly feel the difficulty of the deeper floor rising all of a sudden, but that wasn't Simon's concern. As a Dungeon Master, his job was to safeguard the dungeon to the best of his abilities.

The sudden rise in the difficulty of exploring the floors might cause many deaths among the adventurers and even lead to a drop in their motivation. But to tackle that, Simon also increased the number of treasures and chests, minerals/ores spawned across the floors.

That being said, his dungeon was still a low tier [D] rank dungeon and no matter how many monsters and trap he set, it still wouldn't be a problem for strong adventurers who are used to exploring medium rank dungeons.

Even after spending an hour and tinkering with the floors, Simon was still not satisfied with the defensive mechanism of the dungeon.

#### Chapter 218: Preparing For All Contingency

Even after spending an hour and tinkering with the floors, Simon was still not satisfied with the defensive mechanism of the dungeon.

"Sigh, what else can I do so that my dungeon is still safe even if a strong adventurer does show up all of a sudden" It might be him being overly pessimistic but he couldn't be assured leaving his dungeon wide open.

"Something that can even stop those that are trying to capture the dungeon...Ah!" suddenly as if he was hit by an idea, Simon's body jolted and a wicked smile crept up on his face.

Why didn't he think of that? There was still an option of that guy. Although it would require the little girl's help, there was no other option.

While he was distracted by his thoughts, Adalinda's petite figure appeared in front of him as if cutting through the space.

Looking at his devious expression, she remarked "It seemed that you have finally found a solution for a problem that you have been brooding over for so long".

Simon's eyebrows twitched at her sudden voice theless, he wasn't in the mood to answer her.

'My biggest problem is you' thinking internally, he opened the [Teleport] function of the [Main Menu] and swiftly teleported outside of his dungeon. His destination... one of the three peaks of the northern region of the forest.

Meanwhile, Adalinda decided to silently follow behind Simon. It was not that she was afraid that he would get away but because she was honestly very curious about the demon whose very being was a peculiarity through and through.

"Hehh~ interesting. Did Lucine find him amusing or was she able to see some of his potential to have revealed her presence to him despite risking the fact that once she does her presence can be sensed by me?" Adalinda laughed as she followed Simon's figure with her eyes.

"Hehe, truly I can see why she did that. That Demon Viscount is very unusual, not only can I not see his status but there is also something deep and vast hidden within him that makes even me curious" squinting her eyes, she licked her lips.

Simon zipped through the sky utilising the might of his [High-Speed Flight] skill and in a span of short time arrived in front of a peak which he was very familiar with.

Why wouldn't he be? After all, this was the exact place where a furious fight had taken not so long ago. Yes, this was the very same place where the Lightning draconic Serpent resided and also where the orc general and it had a serious clash.

After the fight, both of the parties was seriously injured leaving Simon the fisherman to reap all of the benefits. Well, most of the credit goes to the mysterious woman who had imparted him this technique that he was able to subdue the Lightning Draconic serpent.

However, considering that she was the disciple of that little girl who had currently intruded his dungeon, all his appreciation for her went up in smokes.

Now that he thought about it, it was all an elaborate plan of the mysterious woman to make him fall into such a predicament.

What's done was done, there was no going back. At least he could utilise the technique he was imparted to gain as much benefit he could get from it.

The moment he entered the territory of the Lightning Draconic Serpent, it issued a warning roar that echoed out across the forest scaring many monsters.

Wild winds ensued and before long the gigantic body of the Lightning Draconic Serpent came out from its peak. Shiny black scales with a tinge of purple flashed all across its awe-inspiring body. Its slithers and elongated fins pulsed with lightning capable of devastating anything and its large draconic eyes held an inborn sense of pride.

It's scanned the surrounding with its large draconic eyes before spotting the figure of Simon.

BOOOM... with a simple thought, its huge quickly went airborne and charged towards Simon. One could imagine the speed and power behind the charge of Lightning Draconic Serpent which is heralded as one of the three overlords of the north.

Although the changes were not that apparent, but its body was even bigger than before and even its scales looked more sturdier and a deeper shade of purple. It was not just its body but even its level which had increased by a total of three reaching level 494.

The Lightning draconic serpent approached Simon at a crazy speed but instead of barrelling towards him, it quickly came to a stop in front of him and bowed its head. The way it positioned its body

and lowered its head in front of Simon, seemed to display a subservient attitude, one which is shown by a subordinate towards its master.

Simon was stunned by this display of the Lightning Draconic Serpent to say no less. Its 180° turn of attitude made him completely gobsmacked.

For a while, Simon couldn't believe his eyes... Who was this guy who was currently bowing its head towards him? Was it the same mighty and prideful Lightning draconic Serpent that had previously refused to bow down its head to anyone?

While he was confounded by its change, the answer came from other than Adalinda who had followed behind him.

"So this little fellow is the one you used my technique on huh. Well, it does seem to have a fair bit of dragon bloodline within it. Hmm? You seemed to be confused about the change in its attitude. Don't be, the technique I have created is very special in that it forcefully creates positive emotions for the master it is subdued to you see hehe" she said puffing her chest.

However, unlike her Simon had a dreadful look on his face.

What did it mean to have your emotions forcefully altered? Could it even be said that the Lightning draconic Serpent was truly free? Truly a devious technique.

Although Simon was aware that the technique would gradually make the Lightning Draconic Serpent more loyal to him, he didn't expect the effect to be this drastic.

He couldn't help but feel a little compassion for the Lightning Draconic Serpent whose emotions was also not in its control. This also reminded him once again how important strength was in this world; even the strong Lightning draconic Serpent had no control over its fate.

"I see so you plan on bringing this guy back to your dungeon. Well, I can't say it's strong but things might work in your case. However, how do you plan on bringing it to your dungeon?" Adalinda said while tilting her head.

Simon did not reply and instead kept his gaze on her.

Finally realising what he was planning, Adalinda showed a rare surprised smile.

"Hehe, you are quite something indeed. You haven't even repaid me for the aid of my technique earlier and on top of that, you are looking for another favour from me. I wonder where all this confidence of yours stems from?".

Simon maintained his gaze and answered succinctly "Well, it doesn't matter if I owe you one favour or ten. The way things stands as it is now, I wouldn't even be able to reject any requests you make of me. So I have decided to drop all pretence and ask your help once again".

Both of them maintained their stare for a while trying to gaze at each other's intentions before Adalinda burst out laughing.

"Hahahaha, I was not wrong, you are indeed quite an amusing character. I can see why Lucine would help you. Alright, I'll help you teleport that luggage of yours back to your dungeon. But it wouldn't be for free".

Simon wasn't amazed; he knew that there would be some conditions attached for helping him.

"Good it seems that you are quite tactful. The condition for teleporting that guy will be that thing which you prepared for me along with the meal. That soft, spongy, sweet thing. If you can prepare ten of those for me, I will gladly help you with this small favour" Adalinda stated smiling incessantly.

Simon immediately understood what Adalinda was talking about, the thing that he had prepared for HIMSELF along with his meal was a chocolate flavoured cake.

It came as no surprise to him that Adalinda would like such a delicacy. The culinary of this world was completely different from earth and the foods that he had listed in the Food and Beverage section, was something that couldn't be found in this world.

Of course, a girl like her would be instantly smitten to something as delicious a cake. It cost him around 350 DP and even if she wanted to eat ten of those, it wasn't a problem.

However, Simon couldn't immediately agree with it, he has to show that he was making a very difficult decision, one that was truly hard for him.

"Alright, if you bring that guy back to my dungeon, I will prepare ten of those chocolate cakes that you want" Simon audibly sighed, his expression said that he was losing out in this transaction.

Hearing his words, Adalinda immediately jumped in elation and behaved just like her outer appearance would suggest.

"Really? You are really going to prepare ten of those for me? Hehe, then I shall teleport that serpent to whichever place you want. It is an easy task for me after all. What was it called again cholo...?".

Now that the problem of teleporting this guy was solved, it was time to address the next issue.

Observing the subservient attitude of the Lightning Draconic Serpent, Simon spoke out "Lightning Draconic Serpent, previously I promised that I would only rely on this technique when absolutely needed. That time has come, you shall come with me and protect my dungeon from any invaders in my stead.. Do you have any opinion on that?".

#### Chapter 219: Preparing For All Contingency (2)

The Lightning Draconic Serpent raised its head a little but did not dare to stare towards the direction where Adalinda was.

For some reason, it felt a strong suppression that originated from its bloodline and gave him an impression of being an ant in front of a gigantic mountain whenever it caught the slightest trace of aura leaked by her.

It did not know who that exalted person was but at least he knew better than to pry.

"Not all my lord. This one shall do as my lord says and fight anyone that dare intrudes my lord's territory".

Its voice was reverent and from the tone of his speech, it could be interpreted that it already sees Simon as someone whose position is above him.

To have the ability to forcefully implant positive emotions onto someone, the technique was truly dreadful.

Although from the memories he got along with the technique, Simon knew that the emotion of the Lightning Draconic Serpent would be affected over time, but even he couldn't have predicted that the changes would be this dramatic.

Inwardly resolving to treat the guy better, Simon nodded to himself before turning towards Adalinda.

"Alright I can't wait to eat more of those, so let's giddy up and teleport that luggage of yours," Adalinda said as she quickly made a bizarre movement with one of her hands.

At that moment, space shook all around them for a few dozen meters and quickly encompassed the huge body of the Lightning draconic Serpent before spreading all across.

Her well-maintained nails swiftly drew a wide arc across the air which remained suspended for some time. Like a line drawn on a board except there was no board and the line was drawn on thin air.

That was not all, what was even more astounding was that after some time, the line swiftly spread open displaying the scene within it.

Looking at the scenery that lay within, Simon couldn't help but become absolutely gobsmacked. That was because what lay inside was a white palace, tall mountains with trees that couldn't be any more familiar to him and an area completely shrouded in white mist.

What else could be the place other than the main floor of his dungeon?

Simon took hurried breaths of air as he marvelled at the absurdity of the scene that lay in front of him, he could now finally believe the words of the little girl when the example was so meticulously laid in front of him.

They were currently in the northern region of the Ghastly Winding Forest which was quite some distance away from the eastern region where his dungeon was located for god's sake.

Additionally, the dungeon should be a special sub dimensional space with its own space laws.

To be able to do something like that so effortlessly, the term monster would sound rather cute when compared to her.

"Alright let's go... I can't wait to eat more of those cakes" Adalinda commented licking her lips and immediately dived inside.

Simon shook his head before following suit, the huge body of the Lightning Draconic Serpent also easily passed through the dimensional tear and arrived on the main floor of the dungeon Laplace. Its huge body was clearly in contrast with everything on this floor and made it stand out a lot.

[Lightning Draconic Serpent {Unnamed} has been registered to the dungeon]

As soon as the Lightning Draconic serpent entered through the tear, it was registered by the dungeon.

Partly because it was under his control thanks to the Ancient Draconic Compel, but it was shown as one of his subordinates. This meant that the Lightning draconic serpent just like the other spawned monsters of his dungeon, wouldn't be offering him any DP.

Simon turned around to address it "Wait here for some time, I will create a floor suitable for you to stay in".

The Lightning Draconic Serpent couldn't stay here as that would run against the purpose of bringing it here in the first place. A being of its level was more suitable to be a Floor boss which guarded the important floors below.

Simon believed that even if some strong group of adventurers managed to find his dungeon, they would have quite the difficult time defeating the Lightning Draconic Serpent. Not to mention there was still Irene whose strength even he couldn't fathom guarding the main floor.

With this much security, Simon felt at ease leaving his dungeon.

Just as he was going to set about creating a new floor, he was pulled by his clothes and brought to the dining hall by Adalinda. Seating on one of the seats in the most natural way, she looked at Simon and demanded her ten chocolate cakes.



Well that was what they agreed on so Simon did not have any qualms about her demand. He went to the kitchen and started busying himself in it.

Of course, all of this was for show, he couldn't reveal the existence of the [Main Menu] to her so his only option was to pretend that he had cooked it himself. Although it would waste some of his precious remaining time, it was better than revealing his greatest secret to her.

One thing that Simon had learned from his experience from living inside the Ghastly Winding Forest is that the more the trump card he had in his hands, the greater the possibility of him surviving any trials that came his way.

"Hmmm~ is it not done yet?" Adalinda started complaining after half an hour had passed and the dish was not served to her yet.

"You need to wait a little longer... how much time do you think it needs to prepare something as delicious as the chocolate cake. Be patient if you want to eat ten of those delicious cakes" Simon said pretending to be out of breath.

"Uhhnn~" Adalinda pouted but stopped her complaining immediately.

Truth to be said, there was no need for Simon to make her wait for so long since he could immediately bring forth ten chocolate cakes from the [shop] with just the push of his button.

But doing so would make it suspicious and that was why Simon was simply wasting time. No, it would be right to say that Simon was currently diverting his attention on creating a new floor for the Lightning Draconic Serpent rather than preparing any cake.

After a few more minutes when he felt that the patience of the little girl waiting in the dining hall would run out soon, Simon stopped what he was doing and quickly purchased ten of the chocolate cakes from the [shop] and brought it out.

"Waaaa~ it's finally here... the delicious cakes," Adalinda said with stars flashing in her eyes and drool on her mouth.

Simon pretended to release a sigh of exhaustion before exiting the room. Now that he was done repaying one debt he owed her, it was time he finished with the incomplete floor.

The new floor was positioned above the Main Floor, Forest Spring Spirit Floor and the Floor designated to the new Guardian Wisp (Null Elemental).

The new floor was designed as a vast wilderness with a tall ceiling lit by big Phosphorescence crystals and spanned for more than fifty kilometres. The trees here were extremely gigantic and tall mountains could be seen spread everywhere.

The floor was designed keeping in mind the earlier residence of the Lightning draconic serpent and also to make it so that it can display its full power while in a battle.

The main purpose of this floor was to stop any and all intruders from proceeding any forward and be the wall that made his dungeon impenetrable.

Simon spawned multiple monsters of varying races like the Chimera Bears, Storm wolves, Savage Warrior Monkeys to inhabit the floor. Although their levels were around 200-230 their objective was just to become the meat wall for the intruders to waste their energy on.

As for the Lightning Draconic Serpent, it would indisputably become the ruler of this floor.

While it is true that spawning multiple monsters of varying races might invite scuffles every now and then, it couldn't be helped. On the contrary, it might even strengthen the surviving ones making their level even higher.

Simon did not have to worry about these monsters baring their fangs on the Lightning draconic serpent as even they who were ruled by their instincts knew better than to scuffle with it.

Creating all of this took a marginal chunk of his DP; however, this did not stop Simon from installing all of them. The safety of his dungeon and its residents was more important to him than DP which he could easily earn back in a span of few days.

After he was done modelling the floor, Simon purchased more than thirty seeds of Trees of Mana and called the [Helpers] using the special link that had been established through this role.

He always felt that the role function was not something as simple as delegating some of his authority to them. There was much more to it than what meets the eye.

For now, Simon left it alone since he didn't have the time to ponder over it and also because he believed that with time he would naturally come to understand it; After all, it was his dungeon.

Focusing on this link that had been created between him and the [Helpers] Simon was able to get in contact with them.. It didn't take them long for these five [Helpers] to assemble on the Main Floor as they were able to access the teleport function of the [Main Menu].

## Chapter 220: City Of Mountmend

It didn't take long for these five [Helpers] to assemble on the Main Floor as they were able to access the teleport function of the [Main Menu].

He handed the thirty seeds of Trees of Mana to the [Helpers] and ordered them to plant the seeds all across the new floor.

One of the keys to quickly increasing the rank of the dungeon was to increase the density of mana on all of the floors. The higher the concentration of mana within the dungeon, the more likely it is to rank up.

And what better way to accomplish it than having the Forest Spring Spirit who had the closest affinity to nature do it. Their role as the [Helpers] also made it so that their authority extended over the monsters and made them the most ideal person for the task.

With every preparation finished, Simon finally sighed in relief.

With the addition of the new floor, there was a total of thirty-nine floors in his dungeon. The maximum floor limit for an [E] rank dungeon was fifty floors and could only be increased further when the rank of the dungeon goes up.

The same goes with the functions that could be installed, level of the monsters and traps. Once the rank of the dungeon increases, so does all of these.

As of now, the toughest floors of his dungeon would be the 34th and 35th floor occupied by the Fire Eater Rats and the Fire fanged Mouse followed by the 31st to 33rd floor inhabited by poisonous Cactopus and Great Purple Scorpion.

Combat wise, they were not that powerful from the Chimera bears or the Savage warrior Monkeys but what made them a threat was their deadly poison which would be lethal to anyone not having any resistance or life-saving elixirs.

While it was not necessary that the upper floors would be breached anytime soon, in the off chance that they did and he was away, he could only count on Irene and the Lightning Draconic Serpent.

Simon couldn't count on the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse as it was on a mysterious phase of undergoing some changes.

"It seems that you have prepared quite a bit. You can leave the rest to me, be assured that as one of its Guardians I shall not allow anyone harm the dungeon core or the Forest Spring Spirits living in it" Irene's voice sounded out from beside him.

Unbeknownst to him, Irene had appeared near without even him noticing.

Simon simply nodded his head and stared blankly at her. Maybe it was because of the realisation that he wouldn't be able to see her for a while, he kept on gazing at her figure.

Irene was a peerless beauty through and through and accompanied by her noble and cold temperament, it gave her a unique charm that was hard to define.

A silent atmosphere descended as both the party kept on staring at each other without any word or perhaps there was no need for any.

Time flowed by for a while before "Ahem... sorry to disturb your intimate time but I think it's time we head out".

All of a sudden, Adalinda's voice sounded from one corner of the space breaking the silent atmosphere that the two had built.

Realising her own actions and hearing Adalinda's words, Irene finally snapped out from her daze and quickly removed her gaze away. Her full chest heaved up and down as her heartbeat pounded crazily and a red flush quickly appeared on her face.

She did not know what kind of face she was making, but one thing was clear was that her state of mind along with her thoughts was no longer calm. However, all of that lasted only for a while before her cold and icy composure once again returned to her face.

She hurriedly condensed something with her mysterious powers before sealing it with her ice seal and pushed it towards Simon.

Irene gave one last stare towards Adalinda before silently flying towards the direction of the pond.

Simon did not check the content of the item that was passed onto him and he simply kept it on his inventory. He stared at the departing figure of Irene before collecting his thoughts "Alright let's go and find that disciple of yours".

Adalinda who up until now had a lackadaisical attitude, finally wore a serious expression on her face as she cut through space once again and quickly dived inside it.

Simon glanced at the main floor of his dungeon one last time before swiftly following suit.

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High up in the sky of the eastern region of the Ghastly Winding Forest, a huge black arc silently appeared in the sky out of the vision of the average person.

The huge arc was shaped like a balloon ship and spanned for more than five hundred meters. It had more than fifty windows and three galleries on the front that gave the passengers riding on it a magnificent view of the outside.

The way it appeared in the sky was as if it had pierced through the space and went completely unnoticed by anything on the ground. There was a constant combusting noise as the huge arc operated and a distortion in space whenever it moved.

In one of the galleries of the black arc, a man completely decked out in a suit of magnificent armour that glinted a tinge of green, was at this moment looking below at the ground.

Even though the altitude he was in was very high which made it nigh impossible to make out anything down below, his eyes that were like the hawk refused to tear away from it.

"What are you looking at Godwin?" another man called out to him from behind as he also made his way on the gallery.

Godwin who was called out, did not respond and kept on silently staring at the thing on the ground with a frown on his face.

The other man was accustomed to this and hence did not press forward and instead matched the gaze of Godwin and stared at the thing he was looking at.

"Hmm? a dungeon? Isn't that the one where the incident with Chuck and the other member of our branch guild occurred? It has become quite the sensation back in the city. Look at all those adventurers gathering around it, if my memories serve right, the name of the dungeon should be..."

"Laplace".

Before the man could complete his words, Godwin who had kept his silence finally decided to speak.

"Right... Laplace. From the looks of it, it seems Chuck was right the dungeon doesn't seem to be an [E] rank one indeed. But the rumours say that the dungeon hasn't even been there for long so how come its rank has increased so fast? Do you want to stop here and investigate Godwin?" the man asked.

Godwin simply shook his head but still continued to stare at the dungeon below "No need Raven, our destination is not a low rank dungeon but a [B] rank one located at the farthest reach of the Great Dasha Desert on the Demon Continent. There is no need for us to waste our time on a [D] rank one".

Raven nonchalantly shrugged his shoulders before confirming once again "Are you sure? Chuck was one of your favourite ones among the guild members and you had completely flipped when you heard his team was met with an unfortunate event. Do you not want to examine the place where all of it had occurred?".

Godwin did not answer and simply walked inside the arc.

"Well if you say so" getting the meaning behind his actions, Raven left it there before fixing his gaze towards their destination.

The dungeon they were going to explore was one of the famous ones even amongst the surrounding kingdoms and only those adventurers visited it who are confident of their strength or are looking to increase their levels even further.

You can even find some strong adventurers diving inside to conquer it while others were there to simply seek new challenges and riches.

This dungeon had been there for more than 2000 years and according to legends and some sources, is the lair of a Demon Duke.

Conquering such a dungeon was easier said than done. Also one could imagine how difficult it would be to explore said dungeon.

Although [B] rank dungeon was by no means the highest, it is still considered as a high-rank dungeon along with [A] rank for its insane level of difficulty to explore.

The [C] tier dungeons are considered intermediate rank dungeons, [D] and [E] low-rank dungeons.

There are only a few [S] tier dungeons in the whole world and are considered Peak rank dungeons whereas [SS] rank dungeons of which only three of them existed is considered as the Great dungeons.

The dungeon they were going was by no means for weak adventurers, even the weakest monster in there was above level 200.

Not to mention the difficulty and level of the monsters goes up the deeper the floors they dived in, even the lethality of the traps there was enough to easily kill a low-level adventurer instantly.

Death lingered everywhere in a high-rank dungeon and your only hope of surviving it was your own strength.

It was not only about the difficulty, but even the concentration of mystical energy was so dense that it made it possible for precious treasures and ores to be discovered there.

Precisely because it was such a place, it was lucrative for those adventurers looking to increase their levels as well as earn riches at the same time.. Their guild Sea God's trident was the same as it too sought high ranking dungeon to tackle as well as seek profit from.