

## D. of Pride 231

Chapter 231: The Colossal Known As The Adventurer's Guild.

As for his potential that was set at low, it was a prank by her. There was no way the potential of a Demon Viscount could be compared to a human with low potential.

Even if he did not have the help of [Main Mneu] just with his Demon Viscount bloodline alone his potential would be at medium. Simon could only sigh looking at the victorious smile of hers who had succeeded in pulling a prank.

After a few moments, the old man walked over with two small marble the size of a peanut in his palm. The marble looked transparent at a glance but if one looked carefully, they could see a small white light at the centre.

"This is the Status Marble that the Adventurers guild uses to check on the level and condition of its adventurers. It will be inserted inside a template and can be used as a identity card when travelling across cities".

"It may even help you avail some of the benefits once you become a high levelled and renowned adventurers. I shall hand you your provisional adventurers card once I insert it in a plate. You can come and collect it tomorrow" The old man said while placing the status marble on a shelf that had numerous boxes to hold such marbles.

After they were done with the tests, the guild manager led them towards the hall below.

While on their way, Simon could hear bustling noises coming from the hall below. It appeared that the people that had been knocked unconscious by Adalinda, had finally woken up. They scratched their heads, looked around their surrounding in confusion and at their comrades who were similarly getting up after falling down.

By the time the three of them came down, he could see the guild's staff repeatedly bowing their head due to the unknown cause of disturbance and hurriedly making repairs here and there.

When the staff saw that the guild manager coming down, they hurriedly greeted him and informed him about the disturbance.

Simon who was following behind him, could distinctly see the old man eyes stopping at them before he waved his hands and dismissed the issue with the cause being an earthquake.

Of course, most of the adventurers didn't believe him but given the old man's prestige and power, they could only drop the issue.

Simon shrugged his shoulders at that and looked at Adalinda, the latter wore a carefree attitude as if all of this had nothing to do with her.

Even after dispersing the crowd, many of them still lingered around, not to mention some of them even started drinking again without a care.

After addressing the issue, the old man led them towards one of the corner of the hall where a huge notice board was located. Crowds of adventurers in different gears swarmed around the area, their eyes plastered onto the board repeatedly scanning it.

When the adventurers saw the guild manager personally lead two people here, they couldn't help but throw a curious glance at them as they made way for the old man.

Many conversations and private discussions immediately started sounding from the adventurers as they glanced at them trying to figure out their identity.

From their outfit which comprised of only casual clothes, many of them were immediately able to tell that the two were no adventurers or newbies that have been newly registered. Most of the onlookers immediately lost interest.

Obviously, such conversation wouldn't be able to go unnoticed by someone on the level of a Demon Viscount. However, Simon paid no such attention to their conversation and fixed his gaze on the large notice board that had many parchments of varying size pinned on it.

Stopping just in front of the enormous board, Gill nodded his head "This is the Quest Board of our adventurer's guild that we use to issue commissions and jobs. From monster hunting, to searching and exploration everything that provides money, are put up in it".

"Unlike the private guilds, the adventurer's guild does not restrain their adventurers from moving out or opening their own guild. We are just there to regulate and monitor the guilds and all the adventurers within it".

"Every individual that wants to become an adventurer and join a guild, must first come to us the adventurers guild and register themselves. Additionally, those adventurers that did not join any guild, can come to us seeking jobs. You can find us in every big city and every kingdom of this continent".

Gill flashed a wide smile and asked "How is it? Amazing aren't we?" all the while his eyes still scanned every corner of the quest board.

Simon unwittingly nodded his, he had to admit that this adventurer's guild was truly a gigantic organisation, one that was spread all across the continent.

What did it mean to have a branch in every city and kingdom? Doesn't that mean that they have a wide area of network, and have hundreds of millions of adventurers under them? An organisation like that can be truly considered a colossal from his view.

"There it is..." the old man stretched his cane and tapped on a parchment at the top middle corner of the quest board. Right after, the parchment came out and landed in his hand.

He then handed the parchment to the young man and gestured with his hand to follow him.

Simon and Adalinda with Gill leading them in the front, came towards the receptionist desk. The adventurers all around eyed them curious of their origin, some jealous of the favour shown by the guild manager. However, none dared to come in front of them and seek trouble.

"These two are the new provisional adventurers registered by our branch. Their testing and everything is already been done" Gill spoke towards the receptionist who hurriedly greeted him.

The receptionist was the same pretty lady that Simon and Adalinda had previously conversed with when they entered the hall.

"May I know if they will be immediately accepting a job?" the lady inquired.

Gill stroked his beard and nodded his head, he then handed the parchment to her. When the pretty receptionist read what the job written in the parchment was, her eyes immediately became wide.

"This...".

The old man snorted and waved his hand "Fret not, I have personally tested their strength, they maybe provisional but they are no weaklings".

The receptionist hurriedly nodded her head "In that case, I shall allot them for the job".

The old man smiled, satisfied with his answer before turning towards the two behind him "Alright, you two have been registered for the job. Though I guess you are more or less familiar with the task after reading the parchment but I would personally recommend you two to go and meet the client who issued this job and gain more information for them. Also, remember to come and collect your adventurer's card tomorrow".

The old man waved bidding them goodbye.

After tying up the problematic work, Simon did not hesitate to leave the hall and swiftly exited.

A man in a black robe walked on the busy street accompanied by a little girl. The handsome and striking feature of the man attracted many glances from the ladies who came out to shop or for some other work.

Similarly, the cute face and the swaying two ponytails of the little girl who followed behind the man, garnered adoration and smiles all around the people. Little did they know that the little girl who they thought looked just like a doll was a monster among monsters whose power was enough to flatten the whole city in an instant.

Who could the two be other than Simon and Adalinda?

"The place of the client mentioned in this parchment should be in this street" Simon muttered looking at the brown piece of paper in his hand.

"Hey we have exited the adventurer's hall and walked for quite some distance... shouldn't you finally tell me what this job is all about" Adalinda grumbled.

The black robed young man smiled helplessly before summarising the content of the job to her "The client is a merchant company who has recently come here to do some transactions. Their objective

is to reach the capital after their work here is done while our job is to secure and guard the people and the goods inside the caravan that they are travelling in. It would take about a month to travel with a caravan from here to capital and we are to secure their safety during this time".

Adalinda pretty eyebrows twitched and her pupils became vertical due to the uncontrolled anger that had welled up within her after listening to the content of the job.

"Who do they think this lady is? The nerve of them to order me to guard some small caravan for a month! It seems that they are tired of their life, very well then, I shall free them of their misery".

Adalinda stomped and was just about to rush back to the adventurers guild when Simon hurriedly stopped her.

"Wait... you will make the situation even worse like that and haven't we already discussed about it? Or do you not want to find your disciple?".

He hurriedly reasoned, although the job seemed a little lacklustre and beneath her from her point of view, it at least allowed them to reach the capital before the tournament there started.

Adalinda made a discontent noise and could only suppress her frustration once again.. If only she was not worried about leaving a trace while tearing through space that her disciple could catch, she would have immediately travelled to the capital and not bothered with these ordinary humans.

## Chapter 232: Serene Palace Merchant Guild

Simon wiped the sweat off his forehead as he felt an increasing amount of headache dealing with her. Most importantly, he had to do something about the pent up frustration of this little girl before she ends up blowing this entire city into oblivion.

While it was true that the life of the inhabitants and the city had nothing to do with him, this city was still a precious source of income for him.

He had already met an adventurer that had previously dived inside his dungeon back at the adventurers guild and due to this city being close to the Ghastly Winding forest, who knew this city might even become filled with adventurers who are looking to dive inside his dungeon.

Simon couldn't bear to see such a huge gold mine disappearing from the surface of the planet.

He looked around before suddenly a delicious scent that stimulated his appetite, came from one corner of the street. There he could see multiple stalls lined up and selling various food products.

With his glance, he could instantly see various meat, fish, vegetables being grilled and a delicious smell wafted from there. An idea suddenly struck him and he stored the parchment in his hand.

"Let's go... since we are out here, we might as well try some dishes from this city" Simon pointed towards the food corner and led the little girl.

When the conversation headed towards food, her former somewhat cold eyes, immediately started shining with an unknown splendour. Her delicate nose sniffed the delicious aroma that came wafting towards her, controlling her movement.

After her mood brightened from the mention of food, the gloomy atmosphere around her suddenly disappeared. Although at the level which she was, she could go around without food and rest even for a year, this and that was two different things.

Simon smiled helplessly, he felt like an idiot for trying to think of various ways to calm the mood of the little girl, when in reality it was easily solved by bribing her with food.

He sighed before coming in front of a stall. The owner of the stall gave them a business like smile before pointing out the food of his recommendation.

"This good sir and young lady, you must try this meat skewer. The flavour is my home made secret and the meat is none other than from a high level 60 monster. There is also the stew cooked with various meats and vegetables".

Gulp... Adalinda immediately swallowed a mouthful of saliva when the lid cover was opened and the delicious smell wafted out.

"Everything, serve everything that you have" she curtly replied.

The owner looked at the young man who nodded his head and he immediately started preparing. Buy everything, how often does one come across a customer like that, he could only thank his lucky star.

Maybe it was because the food was delicious or because she had built up quite a bit of frustration, but the appetite of the little girl was also monstrous. Even the owner of the stall looked at the little girl in a daze who emptied bowls of food like they were nothing.

Looking at the swiftness with which she was devouring the food, one had to wonder where she was storing all that food in.

Simon couldn't control his curiosity and ordered one plate of food too.

One man and one little girl could be seen on one corner of the food street gulping down one food after another and before long, they had almost tried out everything that the various stall around here offered.

After finishing their meal, the two departed from the place with a delighted mood leaving the various onlooker amazed.

After returning to the busy main street, Simon and Adalinda followed the path mentioned on the parchment and after a while of walking, a huge mansion that gave off an ambience of luxury came into view.

The building had a large yard and various passer-by that walked from here, gave it a look at least once. That's how grand the mansion in this corner was.

"So the client stays here huh" he was not mistaken, the direction in the parchment pointed at this building.

Taking a step, Simon walked towards the entrance of the mansion. The place besides being a beautiful landmark, also served as a shop with various objects and items inside for trade.

The moment he entered the yard, he could feel various hidden presence all around the area who were working as guards. At a glance, Simon could tell that each of their levels was no less than 150 and there were even some with levels over 200 inside.

The tight security of the place made Simon marvel internally as he slowly stepped inside. One had to say that the interior of the mansion was no less posh than its exterior. If one accounted the

various artifacts and items showcased all around the room, the place seemed to be filled with riches that could make any ordinary person eyes fill with greed.

Of course, if there are any idiots around with such thoughts, they would be met with an iron fist of the guards that were placed around carefully.

When Simon and Adalinda entered the building, a staff immediately came to greet them.

"May I know for what purpose this esteemed sir has visited us?" from the way he gave a practised smile, one could see that he viewed the two of them as customers.

"Its about this..." he handed the staff the parchment of paper he got from the adventurer's guild.

The staff read the parchment before giving Simon and Adalinda quite a bizarre stare. The staff couldn't be blamed after all, given the garb of the two of them, they do not like adventurers at all.

The staff mused for a while then brought the parchment of paper with him and walked through the hallway before disappearing. After what felt like a few minutes, another person came out through the hallway along with the staff that Simon had seen first.

"Greeting I'm Alvara the person in charge here, may I inquire if the two of you are adventurers?" The person that greeted them was a charming woman that could immediately cause the surrounding gazes to focus on her.

She had a well-built body, and a poise that gave others a feeling of an unsheathed blade. Her short black hair reached till her neck and she wore leather clothes that tightly actuated her curves. Her figure was so shapely that it could make one gulp unwittingly.

At this moment, the sharp eyes of the woman was thrown in their direction as she scrutinised them.

Simon nodded his head in affirmation and answered "Indeed, we are sent here by none other than the guild manager of the adventurers guild".

Hearing the reply of the black-robed man, there was a momentary shock that quietly flashed in her eyes before she quickly hid it.



Alvara handed them the parchment back before turning around and nodding towards the staff beside her. At that moment, the multiple gazes that Simon had felt locked onto them, silently disappeared.

Next, the woman addressed them before leading them towards the interior of the hallway.

Simon who was following behind, inadvertently gaze at those wonderful curves of her buttocks whose shape couldn't be hidden even with the help of her clothes. He laughed dryly before immediately shifting his gaze, he had to admit those long legs of her were quite alluring.

At the end of the well lit hallway, was a flight of stairs that led to the floor above and in front of the stairs, were multiple guards decked with armours and weapons.

The moment they spotted Alvara coming towards them, they performed a salute in unison by clanging their weapons which were silver lances onto the ground. Just this performance of theirs, was enough to tell others that they were no ordinary guards and were highly trained.

All of these guards did not move from their position and only spared a few glances at the two new faces behind the woman.

Their entourage of three people swiftly climbed the stairs before being greeted by another hallway. There were multiple rooms with hidden presences, the three of them passed by multiple rooms before stopping in front of one such door.

Knock..Knock....Knock...

The woman leading them knocked on one of the doors in a somewhat unusual rhythm.

It didn't take long for a soft voice of that of a female to come from inside "Come in".

Alvara turned towards the two of them before saying sternly "Wait here". She then opened the door and disappeared inside.

Simon and Adalinda patiently waited outside for a while before the door was opened from the inside and Alvara gestured with her eyes for them to come inside.

The inside of this room was even more lavishly decorated than any other place of this mansion, the room had no window and only a single entrance at first glance. There were multiple hidden presences tightly surrounding this room.

At the centre was a set of sofa, sitting on it was a woman with a beauty that could easily overshadow Alvara next to her.

Her body had beguiling curves that made it hard for one to remove their gaze from it, violet hair that gracefully stuck to her back and reached her buttocks. Her eyes were like a cat mischievous and temping, red lips and snow-white skin.

She wore a dark purple dress that tightly stuck to her exquisite body and emphasized her beauty even further.. From the bottom of the dress came a straight cut that ran all the way upwards to her thigh, revealing and hiding those dazzling legs beneath.

#### Chapter 233: Serene Palace Merchant Guild (2)

After Simon and Adalinda entered the room, the woman seated on the sofa, closed the book that she was reading and got up from her seat to reveal a smile.

"So you two are the adventurers that old man Gill sent here to aid us? Nice to meet you I'm the client Cynthia". The woman who introduced herself as Cynthia looked at the two them.

Simon matched her gaze and greeted back "I'm Simon and she is Adalinda".

The little girl beside him rolled her eyes but did not comment, her eyes kept on staring at the ample chest of the woman in front of her before clicking her tongue in annoyance.

What was she frustrated about? He thought internally.

Cynthia did not mind the behaviour of the two people and calmly nodded her head. Although she did not mind, Alvara who quietly stood beside her, knit her brows and her gaze became cold.

"If I'm not wrong, you two are here to inquire more information about your upcoming job right?" Cynthia asked, her gaze had yet to left the two of them.

Seeing the man nod, she invited them to sit on the sofa opposite her.

Simon naturally did not bother with any etiquette and unceremoniously accepted her invite before sitting on the sofa, Adalinda sat beside him.

Alvara seemed a little discontent with his unmannerly conduct, but nonetheless, she did not voice it out. Cynthia too sat herself down, she patted at the seat beside her and looked at Alvara, the gesture was obvious.

However, Alvara simply shook her head and stated "I must be ready to guard you at all times. If I sit beside you, it'll slow me down and it will be too late before I act".

Alvara did not hide her hostility and the hidden meaning behind her words was extremely clear. It was obvious that she did not trust the two and was on her guard.

Cynthia helpless shook her head before telling the two of them not to mind. She poured tea and prepared some snacks for them and passed one to the hesitant Alvara.

"Right mister... although I'm sure that the old man back at the guild had already told you, but the trip this time could be quite risky and that is why I have commissioned aid from the adventurers guild. At first, I thought nobody would accept it since there is too much of an uncertainty on the job even with high rewards. It is fortunate that mister and this young lady have accepted the commission from my Serene Palace Merchant Guild" Cynthia explained with a little bit of surprise in her voice.

Simon arched his brows at those words, it was his first time hearing something like that. When the crafty face of the old man that had swindled him to become a provisional adventurer he couldn't but clench his hand.

Didn't it mean that nobody at the adventurer's guild was willing to accept this job because of it being too risky instead of them being short-handed?

Simon had a sudden urge to beat up the old man until he could no longer swindle anyone.

He smiled bitterly in his heart, the job had already been accepted, there was no way he could reject it anymore. If not for the mysterious feeling that they would be able to find the disciple of the little girl in the capital, he wouldn't have accepted the job in the first place.

Since he wanted to catch this runaway disciple as soon as possible, he even rejected the quickest possible route from Adalinda and had undertaken as much caution as he could.

Sighing internally in his heart, Simon steeled himself for whatever might come. And as for the risk, other than few high levelled adventurers, he didn't think that anybody could see through this façade of his.

Taking their silence as their approval, the woman went on further to explain their task. She crossed her legs and from those slight opening of her dress, her jade white legs that had endless allure intermittently flashed.

"Your mission would be to guard the caravan that will travel from here to the capital. You are to secure the route and deal with any trouble that may arise on the way. The trip might take a month depending on the situation".

"While the job might be risky, there are ample rewards too. Furthermore, you would also be refunded for any loss that you incur during the trip. The commission is issued by my Serene Palace Merchant Guild so there is no need to doubt its authenticity".

Cynthia smiled leisurely "If you have anything you want to ask, please do so..".

Simon closed his eyes and digested the information that he just got. A few moments ago, he sneakily used [Analysis] on the woman only to get his prying attempts blocked.

What did it mean? It could only mean that woman named Cynthia had some skills on her that blocked all attempts of [Analysis] on her. A skill that could do something like that was quite rare and other than a few powerful people that he knew, he had never come across other people possessing such skill.

The woman in front of him was an exception. He was no fool, given the appearance of the place and the fame and wealth of the Serene Palace Merchant guild, he could already predict that the trip wouldn't be a peaceful one. There would be many trouble seekers on the way who would have their eyes blinded by greed.

He slowly opened his eyes and gazed at the cat like eyes of the woman which held enough charm to tug at one's heart until they lost all reasoning.

"In the case that some trouble arise, am I free to deal with them as I wish?" a crimson glow flashed in his otherwise dull grey eyes and made him look quite fierce.

The woman knit her brows before looking at Alvara beside her.

She who had kept her silence all this while, finally decided to speak at this time "If it's an ordinary person, you may deal with him as you see fit but if it's someone who cannot be easily offended, please wait for the p... ahem Miss Cynthia to make a decision".

Simon nodded his head at those words before getting up from his seat and turning to leave.

"The time of the departure is early morning as soon as the sun rises two days from now. The caravan will exit from the eastern gate" Alvara reminded gazing at the laidback figure of the man.

After a while when they sensed that the two had exited the mansion, Alvara who was standing beside the woman all this time, couldn't help but comment in an aggrieved manner.

"Is the old man from the adventurer's guild trying to make fun of us? How could he send such careless adventurers not to mention that they lack even an iota of manner? Does the guild manager not know how risky this journey will be for you? From what I could see, those adventurers don't even look strong to me. How will they be able to secure your life when they can't even guard theirs".

Alvara tightly locked her brows and stared at the seat where the two had sat a few moments ago. She had been observing them for a while and could clearly see that they were not on their guard, had she made her move right then, it was likely that the two would have lost their lives.

How could she not complain during this crucial time when what they needed the most was powerful guards and instead they got two people with extremely negligent auras.

The woman named Cynthia on the contrary smiled and did not look fazed at all by the events. She looked at her dear subordinate and softly said:

"Clam down Alvara, the situation might not be as bad as we think it is. If those people think that my life is that easy to take, then they are clearly mistaken. Besides I feel like old man Gill was not mistaken. The eyes of that old man are even sharper than ours, he must have seen something in those two adventurers to have sent them to us".

She then revealed a helpless smile as she added "Also is it not quite good already that somebody had accepted our commission when most of the other adventurers have rejected? I did not expect that the influence of that person would reach till here".

When Alvara heard Cynthia mentioning that person, she had a smear of killing intent flash on her eyes, her expression showed clear signs of extreme hatred.

A sigh sounded in the room and the woman in purple dress got up from her seat. Although the situation looked dire for her, nonetheless, not even a trace of fear or anxiety could be seen on her face.

She gently tapped on a particular book on the bookshelf near a wall, and a secret passage was immediately revealed in front of her. The two quietly disappeared inside it.

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"You have been quiet for a while... what are you so intensely thinking about?" as the two walked on the streets of Mountmend, Adalinda asked turning her head. Her mood was quite good after having eaten so many good things.

"Nothing... it's just that we might have involved ourselves in troublesome matter. That woman back there, her position doesn't seem to be something ordinary. I just hope that we don't get tangled into something we don't want to be involved into in the future" Simon shook his head and mused.

When he saw that Adalinda was staring at her chest and pressing with her hands, he couldn't help but curl his mouth "Are you even listening?"...

## Chapter 234: Class System

"Are you even listening?" Simon called out.

As if she suddenly got startled, her body jolted and she hurriedly removed her hands "W... wha... o-of course I'm listening... ahahaha, what are you afraid about? I'll just smash anyone that comes in between my objective of finding my disciple. It's only a small kingdom at the extreme north-western corner of the Central Continent".

Her boastful words sounded out and her tone was full of arrogance but Simon did not doubt it since he was aware of how powerful this abnormal monster that has the form of a doll like little girl was.

"Hehe, now that we don't have anything to do, why don't we go and roam around this city a little more... I want to see what other delicacies they have here" Adalinda gulped as she looked around at her surroundings with stars in her eyes. She did not even try to hide her objective which was to try out various foods.

Simon followed behind, his eyes were awkward, this girl sometimes behaves very maturely and sometimes acts just like a girl of her age should.

The way she acted like everything near her, was brand new to her made Simon wonder the reason behind her disciple running out of her home. Was it not because she was bored of being holed up somewhere? This Master and disciple clearly had a similar fun-seeking disposition.

Nevertheless, Simon who had been spent most of his in the Ghastly winding forest after reincarnating, was also quite interested in this city that was so close to his dungeon.

He tagged along with Adalinda and explored every place the city had to offer. This way, he was also able to learn bits and pieces of information from the average inhabitants of this place.

He was quite surprised when he heard the talk of the town was mostly about the dungeon that had suddenly occurred at the eastern region of the forest. Even the ores and herbs that were flowing in the market, Simon recalled that they were something that had grown inside his dungeon.

He flashed a satisfied smile when some adventurers were praising so highly about his dungeon. From these pieces of information, he also became aware of the guilds that were currently focusing on tackling his dungeon.

Among them, the Blinding Arrow Guild was viewed as the most well-known and top guild around here. Simon wasn't particularly worried about this guild conquering his dungeon since the information that he got from the informant, told him that the guild was a newly created one and its guild master has only gone through 3 class changes.

Similar to the rank system of the demon nobles, human too have their structure through which their strength is classified.

A person gains their first-ever class when they reach a certain level and depending on how they have lived their life or the distribution of their stats or based on their constitution, they receive an appropriate class.

This class can be further upgraded or changed when the person reaches a higher level and depending on their bloodline, can gain a rare or powerful class.

After reaching level 50, the class can be changed again once one reaches level 100 and can gain new classes after every successive 100 levels. Therefore, the more class changes that you go through, the powerful you are likely to be.

While this trend is mostly common, it only applies to normal classes. Rare classes have their own trend and depending on the rarity of the class, the class change could come after successive 100 levels, 150 or even later.

Although a rare class is hard to level up, the power and strength they provide are incomparable to a normal class. For comparison, a level 250 person who has a rare class can fight with some who has a common class multiple levels above him. That is especially so when one gains powerful skills thanks to their rare class.

In the society of the humans, those who acquire a rare class, are respected and seen favourably by the world. Hence all the people greatly covet and envy those that acquire rare classes.

While it is true that a rare class is highly regarded, it is also equally hard to acquire one unless one has a strong bloodline passed down through their ancestry. Those people that are able to acquire a rare class are one in thousands of people.

Although having a rare class is an indicator of strength, it is not always necessarily true. If one does not put sufficient effort to level their class, it is more likely for these people to forever remain in the same class without ever going through a class change in their lives.



Additionally, rare class is just a broad term that incorporates all the powerful classes. It is likely that some classes are more powerful than other rare classes even when they all fall in the same rare category.

For example, the informant that told him about the rare class, also told him about the [Phantom Night Assassin] class held by one of the top adventurers of this kingdom, Raven.

According to him, the [Phantom Night Assassin] is much stronger than its identical [Rogue Night Assassin] class even though they are classified in the same level category in the rare class.

This information was not a secret in this kingdom as it made a huge commotion in the capital and all the surrounding regions when this news was revealed. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the adventurer named Raven had become quite the idol amongst the adventurers and citizens of this kingdom and a strong deterrent for any foe.

From this information Simon more or less understood how powerful the class systems of the humans were. He could deduct that the guild leader of the Blinding Arrow guild who had only gone three class changes, was around the same level as Chuck more or less.

Even if they successfully manage to conquer upper floors, it is likely that even this guild would have a tough time clearing the lower floors. That was especially so when it came to floors below 25th floor.

The lower floors were not only immensely big, but also had numerous strong monsters roaming around.

Well, even in the likely case that some strong adventurers do arrive in his dungeon, there is still Irene the Guardian appointed by the dungeon and the Lightning Draconic Serpent, one of the three overlords of the north.

Time flowed quickly and before long two days had already passed. During these two days, Simon gathered as much information about the kingdom and his surroundings as he could.

From the information he got, the Kingdom bordering the Ghastly Winding Forest was called the Kingdom of Ellesmere. It was located at the far north-western corner of the central continent that borders with the demon continent.

At one point in time in history, it was the battleground where the human and demon nobles had waged many wars but after the peace treaty that was signed thousands of years ago, the land began to flourish and many kingdoms were built.

During this period of two days, Simon was also led all around the city of Mountmend in search of delicious food.

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The time was early in the morning, thick mist lingered around the city obscuring vision to some extent. The sky was clouded and the sun was yet to rise. Cold wind blew across the empty street and only a few people could be seen intermittently walking down the path.

At this moment, the city was yet to wake, however, the eastern gate of the city was unusually noisy. A convoy of well-crafted wagons could be seen lining up on a corner and the bustling sounds of activity rang out.

At the centre of this wagon was a lavishly built carriage that had an emblem drawn on it which made it easy to identify who it belonged to.

Who else could the luxurious lineup of the wagons belonged to other than the Serene Palace Merchant Guild? Currently, a group of armed soldiers carrying silver pikes, were surrounding the convoy of carriage and standing at guard, their eyes constantly scanning the area.

When they saw the shadow of two people coming over, they hurriedly raised their pike and shouted in warning. "You two there don't come any closer. State your names and the purpose of your visit".

The figures shrouded in the early morning mist, stopped their approach before the tall young man replied in a somewhat indifferent voice.

"We are the adventurers that are hired for this job. We have been told to arrive at the eastern gate early in the morning where the caravans would be".

Hearing the explanation, the guard that seemed to be the leader stepped in front of the two and extended his hand "In that case show me your adventurer's card".

The young man wearing a black robe in the front, swiftly took out a card passed it to the guard wearing silver armour. When the leader of the guard shifted his attention on the card, he couldn't help but frown when he read the three words 'Provisional Adventurer's Card'.

"You two are provisionary adventurers?" he asked looking at the two of them.

"That's right" the young man replied with a smile.

The guard leader's eyes became dark as he sternly shouted "Young man... go back. This mission is not for newbie adventurers to meddle in.. If you want to gain experience and increase your level, seek some other tasks, the one this time is very risky and might even cost you your life".

### Chapter 235: Heading For The Capital

The guard warned, from his view, provisional adventurer's cards are only issued to those newbies who have only just registered and do not have any adventuring experience before. Hence, he couldn't be blamed when he thought that the two in front of him were total greenhorns that have picked this task for its high reward.

After all, there are no shortage of novice adventurers who wanted to make it big in one go. The job this time required powerful and experienced people, even they the Silver Guards of the Serene Palace Merchant Guild weren't certain that they could protect the convey until it reached the capital without incurring any loss.

It did not make sense to involve some newbies in this mission who could potentially become a burden.

The young man knitted his brows at those words; he still appeared to be somewhat fine. Though the same couldn't be said for the little girl beside him. When she heard the guard in silver armour slighting her, a sliver of her aura suddenly leaked out but was quickly restrained by her.

When she thought that this trip to the capital might bring her closer to her search for her disciple, she couldn't help but swallow her anger.

"What is happening there?".

At this moment, a sudden voice interrupted them. From the direction of the caravan, a figure could be seen coming over.

After the person approached closer, the silhouette of theirs came into view. An alluring figure that could make anyone gulp, a poise as sharp as a sword and those well-rounded curves that would evoke intense reaction.

The person that came over was none other than Alvara. When she was dealing with the staffs and preparing everything for the travel, she heard some commotion from the outer perimeter where the guards were and swiftly came over to check.

To her surprise, the ones that were held by the guards were none other than the two new adventurers, Simon and Adalinda that came over to their branch office a few days ago.

"It's you two!" Alvara cried, startled.

"Hehe" Simon smiled and nodded towards the woman who was at this moment wearing a tight fit leather clothes and lightweight armours. Her garb was made in a way so that it made extremely agile movements possible.

While it gave her a warrior's aura, it also made her figure more mesmerising.

"Commander do you know them?" the guard leader asked in a somewhat perplexed manner.

Alvara nodded before telling the guard to move back to his position. "It's good that you have arrived early. Follow me, miss has been expecting you" throwing her words, she turned around and started walking towards the line of wagons.

Simon and Adalinda quietly followed behind and arrived near the wagons, all of which had the emblem of Serene Palace Merchant Guild carved on them. While on the way, he let his gaze roam and swiftly detected that there were more than thirty soldiers currently making a perimeter around this place.

There were also a few groups of adventurers that have been hired by the merchant guild donning various armours and weapons. Other than them, there were approximately fifteen or so staff on the wagon not including the woman he had met two days ago who was also their client and Alvara.

Simon's gaze scanned every corner of this place before stopping on some few individuals with certain high levels. His eyes just finished roaming through the staff when suddenly his instincts flared some signals.

When he tried focusing on where this feeling came from, a certain voice rang out halting his line of thought.

"Haha, it's you guys. I knew it, that crafty old man planned on roping the two of you into this mission" a burly man wearing a somewhat greyish armour giving off a slight gold tinge walked over.

When Simon gazed at him, he immediately recognised the man as this wasn't their first time meeting. He had met the man twice, the first time was when the man was surrounded by enemies in a mountainous gorge near his dungeon and the second time was inside the Adventurer's guild.

The man that walked over was none other than Chuck the adventurer. At this moment, he was decked out in a full plate armour and releasing a warrior's aura. Following behind were two people whose strengths were all above level 300.

Looking at their outfit, it was clear to Simon that one was a mage and the other an assassin. Both had a unique set donned on that highlighted their classes.

Simon nodded towards the man coming over and greeted back. Although it couldn't be said that they were acquaintances, he at least had a favourable opinion of the man who had stood strong even while facing numerous enemies he knew he couldn't defeat with his wound ridden body.

While he kept a composed face externally, Simon was panicking internally since he never expected a familiar face to pop up during this mission. Since Chuck was here, didn't that also mean that woman who was the user of the light attribute was also here?

Though he had changed his appearance somewhat with the help of the item Adalinda had given him, his face remained the same. If that woman was here, she would be immediately able to recognise him.

Out of all of the people that has seen his true appearance, that light user woman was one of them. Chuck had fallen unconscious at that time and hence did not see his face.

Simon's eyes roamed around his surroundings without letting the other party know his inner thoughts. Only when he couldn't find any other presence nearby that matched with the light attribute of that woman, he sighed in relief.

"It seems that you two have become adventurers huh. Well knowing that old man, he wouldn't leave you guys alone until he squeezed as much from you as he can" Chuck revealed a bitter smile when he remembered what happened back at the adventurer's guild.

"Ah, that's right... these two are my party members, Ken and Brim. You guessed it, our guild has also accepted the mission on requested by the old man" Chuck introduced, the two people nodded their heads in greeting.

While their eyes seemed unfazed when they saw him, they immediately frowned when they saw a little girl who looked no more than fourteen years old tagging along beside.

Adalinda noticed their sudden stare, but did not spare them a glance.

"Are these all your party members?" Simon inquired, it would be quite troublesome if that woman were to join them on this mission later on.

Unknowingly, these words of his poked at their wounds and the mood of the three immediately became gloomy.

"It seems that you are not aware but... this is all the strength our guild has currently got to offer" Chuck shifted his gaze and clenched his hands while talking with much difficulty. He did not blame Simon since he knew that the latter was new to this town and might not have heard about the events relating to his guild.

Although this did not answer his question, Simon did not probe further, he understood that the topic was a delicate matter for them. Especially when he was aware of what had happened to their guild.

He could only hope that light user woman would not be participating during this mission. Seeing the atmosphere surrounding them had become stifling, Chuck laughed and broke the silence.

"It seems that you going there to meet with the client, it just so happens that the three of us are also heading there. Why not go together then?" the adventurer proposed.

Since there was no reason to deny, Simon simply nodded his head and approached the biggest wagon in the middle of the convoy that was surrounded by silver armoured guards.

At this moment, the early morning mist was starting to dissipate and the sun was beginning to rise as its gentle rays fell onto the place.

When Simon and the other approached near the centre, they could see a beautiful woman dressed in purple dress busily commanding the people around her. Every move that she made, had a feminine charm and the slightest movement of her cloth accentuated her breathtaking curves.

Her violet hair at this moment was tied with a silk ribbon and gave her an otherworldly look. After the staff left and she finally had a moment of respite, Alvara who was quietly standing beside her chose this moment to speak.

"P.. ahem Miss the adventurers are all here". Hearing the words of her closest aide, Cynthia arched her brows and gazed in the direction where she was pointing before seeing a couple of adventurers coming over.

She nodded towards Alvara who matched her pace and strode towards them.

"Adventurers I thank you on behalf of my Serene Palace Merchant Guild for accepting this mission. The travel might be full of peril this time but like the commission mentioned, all your losses will be fully compensated and rewarded adequately, so I hope that you will guard the convoy with all your strength".

Being requested so politely by a beautiful woman, how could these barbaric adventurers that mostly only know how to utilise their strength, be unaffected? The surrounding adventurers roared intently as their blood boiled and they suddenly felt a strong intention to protect this beauty with their life.

Simon narrowed his eyes and curled his mouth at this display. Only a short few words from her mouth was enough to make the blood of these adventurers boil.. He had to admit that the woman knew how to encourage and win over the hearts of these people.

Seeing the intense fighting spirit of the people in front, Alvara was not amazed, she knew that her Miss was an ethereal beauty and given her charms, no men could stay unaffected.

Cynthia nodded her head from the expected reaction before stating in a stern and serious manner.

"All of you get ready, the convoy is about to leave. I would like the adventurers to stride forwards and become the Vanguard's".

Although telling the adventurers to become the front liners a little callous, nobody displayed any unhappiness at that command since they knew that after all of this was over, a large reward was waiting them.

NIEEGHH... the sound of dozens of horses neighing could be heard during this time and when Simon glanced over, he was astounded to see that the horses used to pull the carts, were as big and tall as a camel. Their appearance was just like reindeers and they had a thick coat of fur around their neck.

"Haha, is this your first time looking at a Bane Moose? These are what we used around the north-western part of our kingdom. They are a kind of species bred with monsters and horses; the offspring is what we call a Bane Moose. They are an excellent steed and more powerful than any ordinary monsters".

"However, they are quite rare and expensive to have. Other than in the possession of a few rich people and nobles, I'm afraid that you wouldn't see them anywhere else in this remote corner" Chuck who was walking beside him, saw him throwing a curious glance and explained.

Simon nodded his head and pulled his gaze away from the couple dozens of Bane Moose. With just a glance, he could see that they were multiple times more powerful than any ordinary horse, even some low-level monsters would be no match for them.

An offspring between a monster and a horse, it would be no exaggeration to say that the cost of even having one would be quite high. From this one could see how deep the pockets of the Serene Palace Merchant Guild was to enlist multiple of these Bane Moose into their midst.

Well no matter how powerful they were, Simon's interest wasn't piqued at all. That was because no matter how excellent a steed they were, could they even come close to the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse? The answer was obvious to his eyes.



Simon and Adalinda walked forward and was just about to board the wagon in the front when Chuck who had boarded the second wagon, called out to them.

"Hey, the both of you why don't you come and sit with us?" to these words that suddenly sounded out from behind, Simon did not reject it and unceremoniously boarded the second wagon. Naturally, Adalinda sat along with him.

The rest of the adventurers either decided to board the first or the third wagon. There were more than ten wagons plus soldiers riding Bane Moose so there was no need to worry about not having ample space to sit.

The first few wagons at the front were unlike the ones behind which were fully covered and focused more on comfort. The ones at the front that adventurers boarded, had ample space to look at the scenery outside and was wide enough to enable the adventurers to immediately hop into action. Apart from that, the wagon only had a few other necessities.

While the adventurers boarded the wagons at the front, soldiers that were not riding the Bane Moose, boarded those wagons at the back. Although it couldn't be said that their wagons were like the ones at the middle, it was much more comfortable than the wagons the adventurers were riding.

This way, the line-up of the wagons was like: adventurers on the front, the client, the staff and the non-combatants in the middle and the many guards wearing silver armour on the back.

One could say that the line-up was quite good keeping the safety of the client in mind.

With the neigh of the Bane Moose in front, the convoy of wagons started moving and soon exited from the eastern gate.

When they passed through the gate, Simon could see how high the rampart that fortified the entire city was. At a glance, it was more than ten meters high and was made of thick pillars of stones layered together.

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The noise of the wheels turning and the galloping sounds could be heard in the background, quite a while had passed since the convoy left the city of Mountmend and departed for the capital.

The road they were currently travelling on was a flatland that has been in use for travel for quite a while and hence became smooth with the flow of time.

Simon leaned back on his seat and observed his surroundings. It had been an hour or so since they departed, by now the radiant light of the sun brightened the surroundings and signs of life could be seen springing to action.

Birds chirped as they flew around, and the fresh wind blew across brushing the petals of the flower covered in morning dew. Currently, they were in the intersection between two cities that were near the city of Mountmend.

Guards from these cities would sometimes petrol the area and pass by them on their way. Thus there was no need for the adventurers and guards of the Serene Palace Merchant Guild to be overly guarded.

It was only after they passed through this intersection would they need to survey their surroundings.

Chuck who was seated at the front, directed the driver who was unsure of the route before coming over.

"Haha, the journey has only just started and will take a long while. Fellow adventurers, this might be our first time meeting for some of us, so why don't we have a chat in the meantime and introduce ourselves?".

He smiled and tried to deepen the bond between the many adventurers seated at the wagon. His charisma as a leader and his friendliness to adapt to his surrounding was laid bare.

Simon couldn't help but admit that Chuck was a very experienced leader and immediately saw through the weakness of this group.

While these people might be individually strong, they were divided into groups and segmented. During the journey when they needed to hold frontlines, they would have to leave their backs to these very allies who they do not know or are meeting for the first time.

When the moment for them to take action came and they couldn't trust their allies, their strength would be more than halved.

Chuck who had a rich experience of leading a guild, swiftly saw through this and hence initiated a conversation to smoothen out the relationship.

The adventurers seated unanimously approved of his decision and thus started introducing themselves one at a time.

Chuck had a big reputation among the adventurers of the city of Mountmend and quite a few adventurers knew about him, the guild that he belonged to was also famous kingdom wide.

Although his reputation after the incident back at the Ghastly Winding Forest had taken a hit and dwindled quite a lot, who among these adventurers had the guts to challenge the authority and power he had built through these years.

The adventurers after being instigated, started telling their names, the guild that they belonged to and some of their exploits which garner awe and praises from the surrounding adventurers.

These people were all adventurers and loved to hear the stories and battles of their fellow comrades sharing the same profession. The atmosphere inside the wagon soon became a warm one as adventurers mingled with one another and shared stories of their great feats.

"Haha, mark my word.. this sword of mine is made from the bones of the Anemodactyl that I hunted myself alone when exploring the Ghastly Winding Forest" a man with quite a long nose said caressing the sword buckled to his waist gently.

"Brother Bignosio is quite brave to have hunted an Anemodactyl alone. You must be quite powerful, I heard that they are pack hunters and even a youngling anemodactyl that is recently born, is at the least above level 100" an adventurer beside him, praised.

"Hahaha, is that so... that must be the case then" Bignosio laughed while scratching the back of his hair.

The other remaining adventurers soon introduced themselves and shared some of their exploits which similarly received many praises and acknowledgement from the crowd. Although they did not reveal their classes, based on the outfit that they were donned on, it was not hard to guess what their general class was.

Soon it was the turn of Simon and Adalinda who were quietly sitting in their seats in a corner with their eyes closed.

When Simon felt that the adventurers had suddenly become silent, he immediately understood that it was their turn. He opened his mouth to speak while still leaning back on his seat lazily.

"Simon, provisional adventurer, this here is Adalinda, similarly a provisional adventurer". After saying what he needed to say, he closed his eyes and went back to his previous dozing state.

SILENCE~

Quite a lot of adventurers knitted their brows at this display of attitude which showed no intention of blending with the others. When the mood around the wagon was about to turn sour, a loud snicker could be heard coming from one adventurer as he commented.

"Ke ke... they are just newbies with no prior adventures to speak off. There is no need to spoil our mood because of some unknown provisional adventurers".

The man who just spoke was none other than Bignosio who up until now was the centre of limelight.

## Chapter 237: Northern Outlaw Forest

All the other adventurers nodded their heads at those words, everybody was doing their best to smoothen their relationship so that when the time comes, they could rely on each other and strengthen their powers even further. After all, they could only do so much with their power and that is why they needed different classes working together to overcome any obstacles.

It was precisely because they knew the strategy of strength in numbers, that they were able to become veteran adventurers.

These people saw no need to bother with some adventurers that have been newly appointed. This journey was going to be fairly a risky one, if they couldn't make a group before the time for them to act came, their life would be in jeopardy.

It was an obvious choice for them to ally themselves with already established adventurers with some exploits to speak off rather than minding the words of some newbie who did not know what's best for him.

Additionally, the casual black clothes of the young man told these experienced adventurers that he was just a poor beginner who couldn't even afford to buy a set of armour for himself.

"Hehe, you are rather unpopular despite your looks" Adalinda who seated beside him gloatingly remarked. She was getting bored a few moments ago but now she had a fun time seeing Simon being roasted and looked down upon by these bunch of unaware adventurers.

"Leave them be" he indifferently said not bothering to mix his words. There was no reason for them to mix with a bunch of adventurers when their goals were different.

Unlike these people who had acted in groups ever since they became adventurers, Simon was used to acting alone. He had no one to depend on inside the extremely dangerous Ghastly Winding Forest and could only rely on himself.

During many occasions, he had narrowly brushed past death and stood victorious. He had an unshakable confidence in himself and knew that no matter what happens, he could always rely on his powers and body that he had built over the time.

The words of Simon, naturally didn't go unheard by these adventurers seated at the closed space of this wagon. They couldn't help but click their tongues at this annoyance of a guy who had too much attitude even though he was just a novice.

While there were those that found him a bother, there was also those who couldn't help laugh at his stupidity. They clearly knew how crucial a time it was for them to form groups now so that later on they could rely on each other should any contingency occur.

The manner of Simon pushing everybody aside, was seen as something stupid, after all, the client herself had said that the travel would be laden with risk.

The way these adventurers looked at Simon, was as if he was already a dead man.

Chuck shook his head and sighed when he observed that all of the adventurers seemed to look down on the black-robed young man. With his eyes, how was it possible for him to not see the inner thoughts of these few people, with just a glance, he immediately knew what they were thinking.

However, Chuck knew better than to underestimate the fellow who was recommended for this mission by none other than that old man from the adventurer's guild.

Additionally, that unknown skill of his that was able to block all prying attempts of [Analysis] and the mysterious commotion of all the people getting knocked unconscious back at the adventurer's guild told Chuck that the young man was anything but simple.

Leaving aside all those, just the fact that the old man had recommended the two for this task spoke volumes of highly he viewed them.

Since the adventurers were aware of the unusualness surrounding the black robed young man, he couldn't blame them for looking down on him.

He quietly walked towards the row where the two were seating and quietly placed himself on the row opposite them. His two companions also followed his lead and crowded around the two.

Naturally, this action of Chuck who was a renowned adventurer around these parts, didn't go unnoticed by them. Many of them frowned over this act and some couldn't help but become curious about the identity of the two adventurers they thought were newbies.

However, when they related Chuck's action as him taking care of the newbies and winning over them to recruit in his guild, these adventurers came to terms with themselves.

Bignosio, who had formed quite a big group of more than seven people, glared at Simon in irritation. Initially, he thought that recounting the tale of his exploits will win over many adventurers and even possibly allow him to group up with Chuck's team, but who would have thought that Chuck wouldn't even spare their group a glance and tag along with someone random adventurers who he saw was unnecessary for this mission.

Bignosio was an adventurer above level 290 and had rather some feats accumulated under his name. Discounting Chuck and his team, he was the highest level adventurer on this wagon.

His self-esteem took a hit when the highest level team did not even look at him.

"Tch... you are after all, a failure who couldn't even save his party members to return back alive from the expedition inside the Ghastly Winding Forest. Don't think just because you are the highest level adventurer around here, you still hold the same prestige as before".

"The era of your guild is long gone and if not for the main guild still supporting you and the mayor of the city taking pity, currently with your little remaining numbers, you wouldn't even have the rights to call yourselves a guild".

Bignosio cursed the man internally in his heart and his ugly face made. Only after cursing the man internally, did he finally feel good. He no longer bothered with other's actions and decided to focus on the members of his group which included adventurers who had mostly come over after being awed by his strength and exploits.

The ill intent behind the gaze of the man, naturally couldn't go unnoticed by Simon who was a Demon Noble in the first place and very sensitive to negative emotions.

His calm brows arced a little when he felt that lingering gaze over him, although he felt a little surprised that he had already incurred someone's ire, but other than that he did not look fazed at all.

Of course, if that man chose to seek trouble and shorten his life span, Simon would gladly help him with that.

"Haha, don't mind that fellow, he is after all one of the most dazzling adventurers currently in the city. It is normal to see other people who might become their competition cautiously" Chuck seemed to also feel the gaze of that big-nosed man and explained. Being a human, he wasn't aware of the smear of ill intent within that gaze.

Simon simply nodded at those words of Chuck before asking in a somewhat uninterested voice "Shouldn't you be making a group too, after all, this was all your idea?".

The adventurer seemed somewhat startled, he revealed a bitter smile as his gaze drifted over the scenery outside.

"I have thought over it and decided not to form a group. It's not that I have absolute confidence in the strength of my group or anything it's just that I'm not ready to take that kind of burden, their lives that they will entrust with me, I'm not ready to shoulder it once again".

His words were deep and melancholic; there was even a faint pain and helplessness within it. His two teammates also showed similar reactions and chose not to say any words at this moment.

Simon's eyes twitched after unintentionally poking at the still fresh wounds of the man once again.

Chuck seemed to realise that he had made the atmosphere a little gloomy and hence he loudly thumped his hands on his thighs and changed the topic.

"That's right, you don't seem to be wearing any armour or some sort, is your class a mage then?" Chuck inquired after looking at the casual black outfit of the young man.

"Something like that" Simon replied neither agreeing nor denying with his words.

Seeing that the young man did not plan on revealing his position, Chuck did not press further. However, it was easy for him to guess from Simon's casual clothes that he was a mage.

When he glanced over at Adalinda who was quietly taking a nap... his thought process stopped there. He couldn't even begin to guess the class of this little girl who seemed to be giving off a bizarre feeling.

Two days passed by quickly and the night of the following day, they finally crossed the intersection between the two cities and neared the borders of the vast forest region.

After they cross the borders, they would be outside the territory of Duke Redcrest who governed the entire north-western region of the Kingdom of Ellesmere. From there, they would have to travel through the vast forest region that lay between the territories of two baronies.

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The time was of night and the three moons hung at the night sky illuminating the area with their beautiful luminance. At the edges of the wildlands, just before entering the vast forest, the convoy of wagons stopped near a brook to take a break.



Roars of wild monsters could be heard intermittently along with the crackling sounds of the fire burning. At this moment, the convoy was setting up camps and preparing dinner for the night.. Fish and meats were being grilled atop a big fireplace before being distributed to every member of this convoy.

## Chapter 238: Comparing Knowledge

Adventurers clanked their glasses with the guards who were at this moment sharing the same meal with them and conversed merrily.

Of course, there were some who were appointed as sentries around the place, to perimeter the area and be on a lookout for any disturbance around them.

At this moment, Cynthia who was wearing a purple dress, was standing prettily beside a large table and giving instruction to a few adventurers and guards of the Serene Palace Merchant Guild alike. A woman wearing leather armour and lightweight gears and releasing an alluring aura, was standing beside her.

There was no need to mention who that woman was, other than Alvara who else had the authority to stand so close to Cynthia.

At this moment, there was another person who appeared to be standing beside her. An aged man with a butler's attire and a head full of white hair, was standing a few steps behind her.

His gait was straight, his bearing and the way he stood like a sword, contrasted with his appearance. His face had many wrinkles that the passage of time had left on him but nonetheless, it couldn't hide that unusual glint in his eyes.

The butler took out a big parchment of paper before spreading it over the table.

Cynthia nodded looking at the large map that was strewn on the table and her delicate hands that had well-maintained nails, pointed at some of the crucial checkpoints marked on the map.

These checkpoints were something that they must pass through before they could reach the capital. At a glance, there were more than six checkpoints marked with different colours.

She pointed at one of the checkpoints that was marked with a glaring red colour.

"Everyone must stay on their guards after we enter the forest. We might not be able to enjoy the quiet that we have been up until now. On top of being full of monsters, the vast forest region is also a den of bandits that have gathered here from the surrounding regions. Many people, caravans and merchant guilds had their luggage stolen and their life taken by these bandits".

"We must stay cautious and it would be in our best interest to not underestimate them. Individually they might be weaker than you adventurers who have years of experience hunting monsters and exploring but you must remember one thing in your mind. That is, this is their den, their territory".

"Their population here easily dwarves the small number of people on our side. So when it comes down to a battle of attrition, we are sure to lose. With that in mind, it does not mean that we should fear them, on the contrary, if we give in to their demands, it might be us soon finding our backs into a corner. Kill them if they are being obstructive, I will leave the decision to deal with them to you all".

Cynthia looked over at the appointed leaders of each group of adventurers and her guard leaders. The way she gave commands and led people told other that the woman was used to being in an important position.

Her otherworldly beauty along with her devilish figure and her disposition made her an extremely desirable woman. However, when these people saw the line-up of guards around her and her position, they could only sigh and give up on those thoughts.

"Hmph, if these adventurers are indeed stronger than those bandits, we will soon find out. I just hope that for the large sum of reward that our merchant guild is paying to them, they would at least fight with all their strength".

The butler commented with a low voice. He had a sour mood and the tone with which he was speaking, was extremely unfriendly towards the adventurers.

While he chose to keep his voice low, how could these adventurers who had gone through years of training and battle, miss it? They displayed offended faces as they glanced at that butler who had a disdainful look plastered on his face.

However, before the situation could turn for the worse, a cold voice devoid of any emotion rang out.

"Be quiet Jeeves, it is not your place here to judge the prowess of the adventurers. I need everybody's unity, not someone who sows discord. If you get it then be quiet".

Cynthia glared at the butler named Jeeves behind her with eyes containing some traces of anger.

The old man was usually not that rude and bold enough to look down on others, it was only a year or two ago that the old man's personality turned at a total 180°. The change even baffled her.

If not for the fact that her father had appointed the old man as her butler and the position he held was not important for their merchant guild, she would have long dismissed the person.

Turning around, she apologised for this unruly display and hurriedly changed the topic. The discussion proceeded without any other passing comment from the butler.

When Cynthia saw that all these people have digested the information, she then pointed at the vast expanse of forest that lay at the edge of this north-western region before commenting.

"Once we cross the vast forest land also known as Northern Outlaw Woodlands, we would be entering the northern territory governed by Duke Montford. There we could take a moment of respite but until then, I am counting on you all to lend me your strength".

"Especially you adventurers who know about the monsters and their tendencies than any other people present here. I'll be seeking your advice on how best to avoid the monsters when the time comes, I hope that you would share your knowledge with us".

Cynthia bowed her head and her violet hair gently slid over her shoulders, her action immediately evoked many gasps of surprise from the people especially her guard leaders and Alvara.

After they saw their Miss bowing their head, they stopped struggling internally and similarly bowed their heads. The butler that was called Jeeves, had an ugly face when he saw that the miss had bowed her head towards the adventurers.

Although he felt greatly reluctant to bow his head to these adventurers, seeing that everybody from the merchant guild did the same, he couldn't help but do the same.

These ruffians like adventurers who weren't used to being asked something so politely, couldn't help but feel giddy.

Nevertheless, the effects of their actions were clear and their sentiments got conveyed, these adventurer leaders nodded their heads one after the other and thumped their armours saying leave it to us.

They have been promised a hefty reward, of course, they need to show their worth. The various leaders of the adventurer's group started discussing amongst each other.

Obviously, Simon was amongst the group and so was Chuck and that big nose guy. It seemed that he was still not over the fact that Chuck chose to befriend the black-robed young man instead of him and so when it came to the point where they were allocating which group would handle what task, Simon's group was given the task of being the sentry.

The job of a sentry was very tiring and the position was directly in the frontline where it wouldn't be surprising if they were suddenly attacked by monsters and bandits.

Of course, there was no need to ask who had suggested this during the discussion. Bignosio was feeling pleased after taking out the frustration he felt in his heart. Because of him being a well-known adventurer and a seven-man group, he had quite the say during the discussion.

The other adventurers were tactful enough to not voice any complaints. Who would speak for a newbie adventurer and dare offend someone who was already a powerful and established adventurer?

Simon was naturally unbothered by this childish display of the big nose man. He even felt like laughing at the man who thought he could suppress him with such simple tactics.

Right now, his eyes were particularly focused on a person beside the purple dress woman without them realising. That old butler with white hair, for some reason, was flaring alarm bells from his instincts.

Simon could see that the old man despite his age was not simple as he looked. Even if the man was good at hiding his aura, it couldn't evade Simon's senses that was sharpened after many battles.

He did not use [Analysis] on that butler since it risked him becoming alert. However, even without that, it was easy for a Demon Noble like him to sense the chaotic negative emotions within the man.

Simon made a wicked smile as he thought how the trip this time would not be boring at all.

While Simon was lost in his thoughts, the discussion amongst the adventurers had already proceeded forwards.

Seeing that the situation looked bad for the two new provisional adventurers, Chuck decided to speak up and distribute the task that Simon's group had been allotted with his. His actions made the surrounding adventurer's face awkward and their gaze was somewhat helpless.

They turned their eyes and saw that the man named Bignosio had an ugly expression at this moment and one could faintly sense the tension in the air.

Cynthia who was presiding over this discussion naturally did not think much of it and dismissed the adventurers. She sighed in exhaustion patted her well-endowed chest and went back to her wagon along with Alvara the commander of the guards.

The butler had a dark and cold expression in his eyes when he glanced at the adventurers, nobody knew what he was thinking.. He moved his feet and swiftly disappeared inside his wagon.

## Chapter 239: Comparing Knowledge (2)

The adventurers dispersed and each went to do their own task leaving a few of them.

"There was no need for you to step up, this level of handicap is nothing" Simon said vaguely as he contemplated the objective of this man who was trying to get on his good side.

"You don't have to mind it, I just spoke up since I didn't like how these adventurers were piling most of the dangerous tasks on your shoulder" Chuck said while walking towards the wagon.

"Is that so" Simon narrowed his eyes at those words, did the latter think that he was some naïve young man to have believed those words.

"Ahaha, well besides that there is also another reason. You might not know but I am... I was a guild leader not long back. With my actions, I at least wanted to show you a provisional adventurer that not all adventurers are like that. I do apologise if I was being nosy".

Since the man was not looking in his direction, he couldn't see what the expression of the adventurer was nor what he was thinking. However, from his words, Simon couldn't perceive any negative emotions. Which led him to think that Chuck was doing all of this as a way of atoning for those guild members of his that he couldn't save.

The adventurer went to his teammates and Simon was approached by Adalinda who was by now extremely bored.

"What took you so long? I was dying from boredom over here" she complained crossing her arms.

He laughed dryly at this haughty act and explained her the situation. Adalinda listened intently; her eyes glowed strangely when she heard about the various dangers associated with this vast forest land. Simon could even see some excitement in those eyes of hers.

Her mood was like a swing as it fluctuated up and down, when she heard that some adventurer was trying to make things difficult for them, she couldn't help but display some killing intent.

"Hehh... that man is digging his own grave. Don't tell me you will just leave things like that?" Adalinda asked with a smile that was not a smile.

A ferocious glint appeared on his eyes and for an instant, Simon's eyes turned to their previous crimson colour.

"No way... if that man wants to play, of course I'll play along".

Two pairs of wicked laugh rang out as some devious plans were being cooked. The concerned man of their topic was unaware of it.

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NEEIGHH... the Bane Moose roared and the convoy of wagons started moving at the first sign of sun coming out. The wagons marched with the adventurers taking the lead to scout out their surroundings as they delved inside the vast forest land.

At a glance, the area spanned for thousands of kilometres with no sight of it ending. Tall trees and thick vines shrouded the area and covered most of the sunlight from entering in.

There would be intermittent cries of distant monsters coming from unknown directions sometimes, nonetheless, the convoy stuck to the rough route and proceeded forwards. A coarse road went between the tall trees and thickets and disappeared deep inside the valley.

To cross the northern outlaw forest, one must stick to this route so as to not get lost and risk diving into monsters or bandit's territory.

The adventurers and guards surrounded the wagon as it silently marched on. At the front, a group of people could be seen riding on Bane Moose as they scouted the place ahead.

Of course, Simon and Adalinda were amongst the group. Their task was simple and that was to monitor for any monster or unusual activities occurring at the front and signal the other behind them.

Simon looked around his surroundings and narrowed his eyes, although this was his first time coming to these parts of the land, he didn't feel any discomfort since he was adapted to exploring lands that were multiple times more dangerous than this.

Spreading his senses all around him and activating the skill [Detect Presence], he could perceive any unusual movements occurring around them.

The adventurers were spread apart as they searched for any traces of monsters or bandits around them. Once in a while, they would gather in a spot and exchange information before passing it to the convoy following behind.

Of course, since they all sided with the big nose man, nobody paid much attention to the detail that the two new provisional adventurers had provided since they thought that whatever information their little ability had allowed them to gather was useless in their eyes.

Compared to the information of the newbie adventurers, it was much more reliable to base their decisions on the veteran and experienced adventurers.

Simon shrugged his shoulders and didn't think much of the adventurers showing him cold shoulders.

Time flowed by and the sun was beginning to set. The faint light of sunrays that the adventurers were relying on to travel, soon began to disappear leaving the forest dark and gloomy.

With the arrival of the night, the nocturnal denizens of the forest began to wake up. The howl and cries of the monsters were more apparent now and there was a faint trace of uneasiness seeping within everyone's heart.

Adventurers and guards carried torches of fire moved forwards for a while before coming to a stop in front of a large clearance.

"Alright everyone we will stop here for the time being. Moving at night will be more dangerous since not many of us possess skills like [Night Vision]" Alvara the guard commander declared from the top of the Bane Moose she was riding.

The clearance that they decided to use as their temporary campground was big enough to easily hold the lineup of wagons and still have plenty of space to spare.

The faint moonlight seeped out from the clouds looming over the sky and brightened the area. Everybody except those acting as sentries, immediately started setting up temporary camps and fireplaces to cook.

Over at the large table, a beautiful woman wearing a purple dress and having a violet hair, could be seen looking at the map strewn on the table and pondering something. The woman was none other than the Mistress of the Serene Palace Merchant guild Cynthia.

At this moment Alvara, Jeeves, adventurers leaders and guards crowded around the table and were discussing something intensely.

A guard hurriedly came over and passed Alvara some object that looked like fur at a glance. She inspected it before showing it to the adventurers.



"This was found around here. It looks like fur of some monster that has been shed. Are you guys certain that this ground has been deserted?"

Her question was directed at the group of adventurers.

"Miss commander need not worry, my team have searched the place thoroughly and have found some traces of monsters once inhabiting this area; however, they have deserted this ground a long time ago and are unlikely to come back here".

The man who reported this was none other than Bignosio who had quite the smug face at this moment. With his years of experience, it was easy for him to tell some of the habits and tendencies of the monsters.

While that may be true, everybody was clear of the intention of this man who was trying to garner some attention from their client. They could see a fiery heat on the somewhat boorish face of the man with which he glances at Cynthia.

Bignosio would have made his move on the extremely beguiling woman if not for the order of guards and Alvara the guard commander who he was afraid of.

How could Cynthia not be aware of such nefarious gaze? However, the current situation was so that she couldn't help but ignore it for the time being no matter how disgusted she felt in her heart. The adventurer may be depraved but he had his uses and his experience was what their convoy needed right now.

"The fur that is in Miss Alvara's hand, if I'm not wrong, is from a monster called Mountain Bear, the fur being greyish brown is a proof of that. They are a kind of monster that usually prefer to stay and hunt alone, also they migrate to different hunting grounds during different seasons. Looking at how the scent of the monster is so faint here, this ground has been long deserted by them".

Bignosio described, putting the vast knowledge that he had accumulated over the years of adventuring, in front of everyone. His eyes continued to steal some sneaky glances at Cynthia.

Technically speaking, it was one of the guys from his group that had passed him this information while they were scouting. However, the man named Bignosio was shameful enough to pass it as his own knowledge in front of this crowd.

Awed and surprised sounds came from the various adventurers around the table, it was clear that they were impressed by his resourcefulness. However, the target of his impression did not spare him a single glance and only nodded at those words while still looking over the map.

Simon who was present amongst the adventurers crowding over the table, involuntarily arched his brows at those words from the big nose man.

He looked all around the place and narrowed his eyes, although he did not have [Night Vision] skill, he could still many times better than an ordinary person in the darkness of the night.. Hence, it was easy for him to spot a few traces that could have been otherwise missed.

### Chapter 240: Comparing Knowledge (3)

From his observation, he soon found out that this clearance was not something natural and was created by felling the trees. As if ascertaining that his thoughts were correct, he could see some distinct wide claw marks at the trunks of some trees.

The marks were heavy and gouged deep within the trunk, one could even determine a little bit about the strength of the entity through this. These marks were by no means left behind by Mountain Bears, who are at the lower hierarchy of the food chain.

It would be no exaggeration to say that Simon who was a Dungeon Master and had spent most of his time exploring the dangerous lands of the Ghastly Winding Forest, was the most experienced guy out of all of the people present here when it comes to monsters.

"This place has not been deserted, the inhabitants of this place should soon be coming back. If we camp out here, it would be no different than inviting trouble and causing unnecessary casualties".

Simon said lazily, his tone was sluggish making one believe that he did not pay much attention to whatever he was saying.

His words that contrasted with the arguments that Bignosio had put forward, instantly generated fierce commotion within the crowd present around the table.

Alvara who was still holding the fur, looked at the familiar young face and inquired "What do you mean by those words?".

Simon shrugged his shoulders and said indifferently "I mean what I said, this place has not been deserted. The area we are currently in is the lair of the monsters. I believe that when the inhabitants of this place come back, they wouldn't look at us favourably".

CHATTER... a commotion erupted within the crowd after they heard those confident words.

Alvara who was standing beside Cynthia, discussed something with her, they glanced at Simon and were just about to ask the latter if he could clarify himself, a loud voice erupted from someone from amidst the adventurers.

The laughter contained a mocking tone and the person had difficulty holding it in. The man who had just laughed out loud, was none other than the big-nosed man.

"Hahaha, did you guys hear that? Its been a while since I had such a good laugh... haha. Everyone let's not just believe the random words that he had just spouted without any basis".

"You there... you shouldn't intervene in something you have limited knowledge of. This place was the hunting ground of one or two Mountain Bears but it has been deserted since a long time ago or else there would be quite a strong scent lingering".

Bignosio rubbed his nose arrogantly after putting his piece.

Simon narrowed his eyes, a cold and dark glint flashed in the depth of his eyes after being dismissed like that. The man had been repeatedly looking down on him and had been repeatedly trying to shut him down at every chance he got.

Simon was starting to get a little annoyed by this conceited fellow who had some low self-esteem issues.

When everybody was starting to believe that those were some baseless words spoken by some newbie, the provisional adventurer stated once again.

"You cannot smell their strong scent, because it has been scattered by rain recently".

The provisional adventurer then pointed at the fur in the guard commander's hand and inquired "Do you feel some moisture on that fur in your hands?".

His question immediately startled everyone and they hurriedly shifted their eyes on Alvara.

The guard commander wore a solemn look as she carefully investigated the fur in her hands and nodded her head not long after.

GASP... her answer immediately made the surrounding people widen their eyes and they couldn't help but glance at the young man once again.

"Mountain bears are not the only monsters that have greyish brown fur, the Battle Bears that are a tier above them in the food chain, also have greyish brown on their bodies. Unlike the mountain bears, they are not migratory and only leave their lairs when the prey around has been lessened".

"Strictly speaking, they are quite territorial and aggressive when somebody approaches their territory. If you look around the place carefully, you can see that this clearance in the forest that we are currently using as our campsite, was not naturally made. The trees around here show signs of being clawed and roughed by the monsters quite a bit".

Simon explained sighing internally. He was not bluffing, he had already seen through the identity of this monster that he had fought with many times during his exploration inside the Ghastly Winding Forest.

The power behind that attack that could even chop these huge trees was not something a monster on the level of Mountain Bear could achieve. However, if it was a Battle Bear, it was not unthinkable.

These monsters that had even given him who was a Demon Baron at that stage, a hard time was much stronger than a Mountain Bear.

While the Battle Bear was strong, one or two of these monsters would have been no threat to their group, but looking at the signs all around, it was clear to him that their numbers were not small.

Especially during the night if they camped out here, they risked the chance of getting attacked midnight and incurring quite a heavy casualty. Simon was not a saint, the only reason he was helping them was because he needed them to navigate a way to the capital.

At this moment, the commotion within the crowd gathered near the table became even more loud and intense. After the evidences and arguments provided by the black robed young adventurer, everybody was forced to redouble their thoughts about camping here.

The arguments and the facts that he had provided, were so strong that they had to withdraw their condescending looks and view the provisional adventurer with a new light.

There was no one among the adventurers who was able to refute his arguments and just when it seemed that everybody was about to believe his words, Bignosio who wore an ugly expression on his face spoke out.

"Everybody it appears that all of us has forgotten one thing. No matter how convincing a story he has cooked up, at the end he is just a newbie adventurer with limited to no experience. How is it possible for him to have such knowledge at such age?"

"I implore everyone to not get distracted by his words. The darkness of the night has already spread all over, if we move from here, there is no guarantee that we would find another place like this to camp. Who knows we might even meet some monsters if we travel at night".

After speaking all that he needed, he glanced at Simon and flashed him a disdainful smile. His attitude seemed to say that he has the weakness of the young man in his grasp.

These words from Bignosio immediately woke everybody out from their contemplation. They felt that he was right, it was known to everybody that Simon was just a provisional adventurer and from his looks, he did not appear to be more than twenty years old.

Their feeling of being convinced immediately dispersed with such a notion. Many of them even thought that the young man had just cooked up a story just to impress others. Some felt sorry for him thinking that the young man was just too scared in his first adventure.

An increasing number of people started agreeing with Bignosio. Seeing that no one was taking his words seriously, Simon stopped talking and nonchalantly excused himself from the discussion.

Nobody tried to stop him since most of them thought that there was no point in including a novice adventurer's opinion when making important decisions.

While most people agreed with Bignosio, there were still some people who had a sceptical look on their faces. Those individuals were none other than Cynthia, Alvara and the adventurer Chuck who had not spoken even once during this whole meeting.

"Although I cannot fully eliminate out the possibility that this place may be the territory of the Battle Bears, I think it would best for us to remain vigilant and increase the number of people who are performing the guard duty tonight".

Chuck said, his voice had a rare tone of authority in it.

The moment his voice rang out, all the adventurer leaders became quiet and listened to his input. No matter how his reputation had fallen during this past month, his valour that had once shaken Mountmend and the nearby cities, was still strong till this day.

Though most of them could see that his words inadvertently sided with that young provisional adventurer, nobody dared slight him. That was especially so for Bignosio who still being reluctant, was nodding his head.

Cynthia, her aid and the guard leaders fell into an intense discussion and after a while, decided to take the risk and camp here for the night.

Although it cannot be said that they sided with experienced adventurer, it was also true that they might not find a better place than their current one this late at night.

The words that Simon had said was still present in their mind and thus the Mistress of the Blue Moon Merchant guild decided to increase the number of night guards.

Cynthia who was done commanding her people, looked at the distant back of the black-robed young man, her cat-like eyes that tugged at one's heart and sanity, was at this moment curiously staring at him.

Meanwhile, in two different corners, Bignosio and the butler named Jeeves silently narrowed their eyes, a dark and solemn look flashed deep within them.

Simon who was unaware that he had involuntarily attracted the attention of three different people, was quietly standing beside a tree not far from the campsite.