

## D. of Pride 261

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He could tell that the Brigand Master was not going all out yet. While the two bandit leader were having their own thoughts, the Human Golem that Chuck had assimilated with, also stopped its attack and observed the battle going on not far away.

His eyes which were always clear, at this moment, had a cloud of doubt covering them as they looked at the weapons on the provisional adventurer's hands. Those blades for some reason felt oddly familiar to him and he had a faint doubt that he had seen it somewhere.

If not for the urgency of the situation that did not allow him to think deeper, Chuck might have been able to recognise the weapon. The two bandit leaders after a momentary pause started attacking him together once again.

When everything seemed like it was progressing favourably for the convoy's side, a loud beastly roar one that was extremely feral sounded out from one side of the battlefield.

When everyone turned their eyes to see where the commotion had erupted from, a battered figure of a woman who had cuts and wounds all across her body came crashing down after skidding onto the ground.

The alluring figure of the woman whose clothes was now dyed with blood, was none other than the guard commander who had been fighting the butler.

"Hehaha, this is it, thIs feeling is the best" a voice that contained some beastly growl in between rang out. The figure of Jeeves walking towards the fallen Alavra came in sight.

At this moment, half of his clothes were cut and sword wounds could be seen all around his body. But what attracted the onlooker gazes were the peculiar glowing marks that could be found covering his hands, chest and back.

A threatening amount of energy fluctuations could be felt coming from them. Jeeves threw the half-torn tailcoat away and slowly walked toward the guard commander who was having difficulty standing back on her feet.

The moment she stood up, the butler charged in a full sprint and threw multitudes of wild attacks that had no patterns, at her.

Alvara dodged the attacks and skilfully attacked him whenever she found any openings. Compared to her, the old butler should be the one heavily injured as each and every attack of her landed on him squarely.

However, for some reason since a few moments ago, most of her attacks failed to deal much damage and was unable to penetrate deep within his skin. It was like his skin had become like steel. The feeling he was giving her was like she was fighting a monster not a human.

It could be seen from the mindless way he was attacking her, his attacks had no skill and only had raw power imbued within them. However, even then one couldn't take an opponent like that easily, the condition of her body was the proof.

Though she had dodged most of his attacks, even the air that grazed her skin, was able to cut quite deeply. A grim expression descended onto her face, she tightened her hands which was numb and bleeding, before taking her stance once again.

<br/>She who was a [Skyguard Warrior] a rare class that focused more on Agility and Magic, should be able to contend with a person whose stats seemed to be focused around Endurance and Defence. But for some reason, most of her attacks that were previously able to deal significant damage previously, was unable to bring out the same effect again.

If she had to take a guess, she would associate the strange behaviour of the butler with the appearance of the glowing marks on his body. Those strange marks seemed to hold a power that she was powerless against.

Nonetheless, Alvara did not back down. Concentrating all her strength, she focused her mana on her sword. If random attacks were not working, she had to condense all her power to create an attack that could penetrate through even that steel-like hide.

Taking a deep breath, she aligned her sword vertically and allowed her mastery over gale magic to engulf it. The [C] tier Sword, Twisted Vines did not provide any mastery over magic like the scorching hammer or the Twin blades and simply provided raw buffs and augmenting skills that could strengthen the user.

Along with the sturdy material with which it was created, the sword of Twisted Vines could absorb an immense amount of magic without being destroyed.

After the gale magic engulfed the sword, the blade became a shade of green and if one observed carefully, invisible winds so sharp and fast that they could easily pierce through any defence were rotating around it.

The air around the sword seemed to distort at this moment and the very aura around Alvara had changed. A sharp and incisive sensation permeated every corner around the surrounding making it harder for anyone to breathe.

The only exception to this was Jeeves whose entire presence very much resembled a monster. Seeing him charge at her, she did not hesitate to put all of her strength on her sword and thrust it forward.

SHIIINGGG...

CHII...

A sharp cry of a sword penetrating through the air and striking something rang out.

Aaaarggghhh... a miserable shriek followed next. The sword of twisted vines managed to penetrate the steel-like skin of the butler and come out from the other end.

The power within the sword was so concentrated that even after penetrating through the butler's body, the power within it was still able to drill holes on the many trees and boulders behind the man.

The butler screamed painfully, although he had managed to avoid getting hit on his vital areas, the sword had still managed to penetrate through him making a small gaping hole on his body.

The extreme pain that he had never suffered before, made him almost lose his mind and his eyes started resembling a beast's.

It was at this moment when Alvara tried to pull her sword back and recover some of her strength, she noticed that she couldn't pull the sword out and before she could even react, a hand had suddenly grabbed her neck.

"I'll Kill Youuu" grabbing Alvara by her neck, Jeeves roared out loud. At some point, his skinny body had started becoming increasingly brawny and those peculiar glowing marks, finally came into everyone's view.

The markings on his body were drawn in a way that it resembled something... looking carefully it looked very much like an ape monster. Those same markings were not only on his back, but also on his elbows, chest and legs.

The abrupt situation of the guard commander suddenly becoming the one being suppressed, attracted everyone's attention. it was only a few seconds ago everybody thought that she was the victor of her bout when the butler had suddenly started acting weird.

His skinny body had become so buffed that he looked like a completely different person and the way he spoke, was grating to one's ears.

"Kugh" Alvara tried her best to shake off the hand that clawed at her neck but her struggles were futile. The strength that the butler had erupted out with was in a completely different realm and wasn't something that she could match.

"So it was like that huh. Tch, that's why I think humans are so foolish, they would stop at nothing to strengthen themselves. To think that detestable method is still being used and researched upon to this day" Adalinda muttered in a disgusted tone.

This was the first time, Simon had seen the little girl display such intense negative emotions to something.

"Oi.. do you think that you have enough room to pay attention to someone else fight?" the Brigand Master commented in between his attacks, displeased by the way how the young man was not paying full attention to their fight.

Simon did not bother entertaining him and simply deflected all of the attacks aiming at his vitals, his attention was on the fight between Alvara and the butler. With his experience, he could naturally tell that those sudden power buffs of the butler, was due to those glowing monster patterns.

Lightly stepping onto the ground, he opened a distance from his enemy and asked Adalinda who was similarly intensely gazing at those patterns on the butler's body.

"Can you tell me what those patterns are?".

The little girl looked disgusted nonetheless, she opened her mouth to utter some surprising words "It's not like I can't tell you... but you should hurry up and stop hiding your strength or else that girl will die".

Simon arched his brows, it was a shock for him to realise that the little girl was aware of their circumstances. Although she pretended to be indifferent, her words were enough to give him the idea that she did not wish to see the whole convoy get wiped out.

Simon was surprised no less, though at the same time he was annoyed that Adalinda had put all of the problems on his shoulders. 'Do your own share of work dammit' he cursed internally.

After being repeatedly ignored, the Brigand Master finally had enough. Since when was it that he had been looked down upon like that? The young man's attitude to not bother much about their fight, made him incessantly pissed and when he saw the latter finding the time to converse with someone else, his patience had snapped.

A dangerous glint flashed over his eyes and he activated all the augmenting skills he had and also the ones bestowed by his weapon. The burst of power that he had erupted out with, naturally attracted the surrounding gazes.

Needless to say, Simon who was keeping an eye on him, was naturally aware of the thought process of his opponent, a wicked smile crept on his face and he used the [Lightning Magic Mastery] bestowed by the weapon to conjure a huge column of lightning shaped into a crude arrow in merely a few seconds and threw it towards the unprepared bandit.

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He at this moment had finally stopped holding back and used the rare [Mana Lines] skill he had to dish out a swift attack.

The Brigand Master did not expect a magic attack to be conjured so fast and hence was caught unprepared. He was hit squarely by the Lightning arrow and carried along as it flew towards the distant forest.

The power behind the lightning arrow was so powerful that it gorged a straight line on the ground and crashed onto the distant trees with a thunderous noise. RUMBLE... dozens of trees fell onto the ground and ignited in a fire, smoke rose up in the air and obscured everyone's vision.

No one whether the convoy or the bandits expected the Brigand Master to be the one suffering such a devastating blow. Their minds which should have been numbed from the repeated surprises, became baffled even more when they saw such a scene.

This was especially so for the bandits who had suffered a moral damage. They were just recovering from this shock, when another astounding event occurred. The young man who had just sent the Brigand Master flying after one of his attacks, changed his direction and charged towards the butler who was about to crush the guard commander's neck.

With a whistling sound of the wind, a foot came smashing towards the wide open butler sending him backwards in the process.

"Kugh.. hah..haa... thanks" Alvara who was now free from the clutch, took hurried breaths of air. She did not forget to thank the person who had helped her at her dire moment.

"Alvara" Cynthia face which was pale with worry, called out. She was just about to rush forward when she was suddenly stopped by the latter.

"Don't worry Miss, I'm fine. I was just a bit careless that's all".

ROAARR... a deep beastly voice that made one cover their ears, sounded out. The butler who was sent flying by a kick from Simon, stood up once again and glared at its assailant. His bulky body which was now more than two meters big, enlarged even more after the rush of power from those beast marks on his body.

Alvara narrowed her eyes and straightened her sword, she was just about to engage with the enemy when Simon stopped her.

"His powers are on another level, you are no match for the current him".

Those cold words from the young man made her unable to accept it, nonetheless, the reality was so. Even after using all of her strength, she wasn't even able to fatally injure him. However, as the guard commander of all the silver guards and the one responsible to secure the safety of her miss, how could she back down?

She was just about to press forward ignoring those words, when Simon suddenly made his move. His body was like a rocket as it fiercely engaged with the butler who had increasingly started attacking like a beast.

Some might even find it difficult to associate him with a human after seeing him clawing and trying to bite.

After exchanging a few blows with the butler named Jeeves, was Simon able to truly feel the dreadfulness of those glowing beast marks. Every time Jeeves attacked those marks would glow with a brilliant light making his strength multiply manifold.

<br/>Even with the stats of a Demon Viscount, Simon had to be careful, those attacks were enough to even overcome his defence stats.

BANG... BANG...

Punches and kicks flew around and landed onto the body of Jeeves who was full of openings. Nevertheless, the butler seemed unfazed even after suffering those damage. After another heavy attack from a flame spear, Simon sent the person flying back only for the latter to spring back up.

The young man's clash with the butler naturally attracted many gazes onto them, even those at the frontlines, were keeping an eye on this battle. They wanted to see if the black-robed young man who had repeatedly shown them many surprises, would be able to defeat the enemy in front of him.

"AHH... Kill, Kill...I'll kill you" Jeeves started charging towards him after throwing those words in between his snarls. The beast marks on him glowed even brighter and his energy level had reached a point where it even threatened Simon.

BANG... his body had become so heavy and bulky that with just a step, he caused the ground to shatter and cracks to appear.

WHOOSH.. with a speed that was unimaginable for such a heavy body, Jeeves appeared in front of Simon in a lightning-like fashion and furiously swept a claw towards the former.

Simon widened his eyes in surprise, nonetheless, he shifted his body backwards just in time to dodge the attack. Although the butler had enough strength to overpower all the others in this campsite, he did not have enough battle experience or sanity to utilise his strength skilfully.

Hence Simon who was used to fighting strong monsters and adventurers over and over had quite the edge over him. That being said, if he wanted to defeat the butler, he had to go all out.

Obviously, if he did something like that, his façade as a human would fade away. But if he still held back, Simon was not sure if he could defeat him before the person becomes even more powerful. His thoughts showed how much he was wary of the peculiar glowing beast marks on the butler's body.

Taking out the twin blades, he exploited his advantage and dished out lightning-fast attacks to stall the enemy before kicking him backwards again. While it was a problem that his enemy was ignoring the pain, the damage was still being done.

ROAARR... a despairing voice like that of an anguished beast, came from the throat of the butler. The noise made ripples around the air and dissipated the lightning arrow that Simon had just created into nothing but particles of mana.

"W-what?!" the absurdity of the situation stupefied the young man who was unable to react in time when a fist came smashing towards him.

BANG... the fist was about to land on his chest when he hurriedly crossed his arm in front of him. the moment from the punch sent him airborne quite a few distance away.

While the damage was not much, the berserk energy from the fist still made the blood flow within him erratic. Simon swiftly got back on his feet, his eyes clouded by the matter previously. He was about to send a few more lightning magic attacks to better understand the situation when suddenly his instincts flared up and sounded alarms.

He turned his back just in time to see the Brigand Master come rushing at him with an extremely glaring crimson hammer. The heat released by the scorching hammer was so high and packed with power that even with the [Fire Magic Resistance] skill, he was sure that he would be burned quite badly if that attack hit.



Determining his resolve to deal with two powerful enemies while still limiting himself, Simon was just about to show some of his powerful cards like the Amalgamation magic when suddenly he felt a rush of wind and the sexy figure of Alvara jump in between to engage with the Brigand Master.

CLANG... the wide body of the hammer collided with the sleek and elegant long sword, erupting in an intense spark. Wind that dissipated the heat, blew around the surroundings and instantly cooled the area.

Both parties disengaged after that attack and glared at each other.

"We are even now" Alvara declared turning her head a little. After that she ceased talking and started attacking the Brigand Master who had previously been wounded by Simon.

Simon simply shook his head and laughed helplessly, it seemed that the prideful girl didn't want to owe and thus helped out even though she was not fully healed yet. He glanced at her adamantly fighting the Brigand master before tearing his eyes away.

Though she was exhausted and had suffered minor wounds, the Brigand Master was similarly not completely unharmed. The previous Lightning arrow Simon had dealt quite a bit of damage to him who was caught unprepared. His skin was scorched quite badly and half of his body was somewhat numb.

The level difference between them was not that high and unlike the butler who had some unknown source of power, the Brigand Master had no such thing. Hence, Alvara should be able to contend against the latter.

"Don't get in my way woman. I must kill that man myself" the bandit roared aggrieved with shame and humiliation after being dealt such a sneaky blow.

"Snort, your opponent is me" the guard commander snorted coldly and stopped any sort of conversation with him.

She knew how important achieving victory against Jeeves who was the strongest amongst all the enemies was for their convoy. Therefore even if she had to put her battered body at the enemy, she must stop anyone from disturbing their battle.

A fierce clash between the Master of Bandits and the commander of the convoy started. Meanwhile, on the frontlines, Chuck was fighting two bandit leaders with all his might. This way, the battle raging across the campsite, could be said to be divided into three main parts.

The fight continued to progress for a while before some changes started to occur once again, two of the bandit leaders who could no longer keep up with Chuck's relentless attack were finally injured trying to suppress his attacks.

The bandit leader named Grime was lying down on the floor with blood spewing out of his mouth. His armour were in tatters and his skin black due to receiving the impact from the adventurer. While Osbin was relatively healthy compared to Grime, his powers had clearly declined showing signs of fatigue.

They would occasionally glance at the area where two other fights were currently occurring and click their tongue in frustration.

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The two bandit leaders never imagined that it would take this much time and effort for them to swallow the remaining members of the convoy. With the Brigand Master locked down in a fight with the guard commander, it was up to them to lead the bandits.

However, at this moment their morale was all-time low while the members of the convoy were still dearly hanging on using all their strength. Those adventurers that had deserted their comrades were sitting still and doing nothing.

Osbin wanted to shout out commands, but his roars were drowned out by deafening sounds of battle occurring all across.

BOOOM... a thunderous noise accompanied by an intense shockwave came from the place where the young man was engaged in battle with the butler.

"Stop holding back... the [Beast Inheritance] isn't something that you can defeat while keeping most of your powers hidden" even though the person herself wasn't present, her voice sounded near Simon's ears.

"[Beast Inheritance]?" it was the first time Simon had heard something like that which naturally caused him to be confused.

As if expecting this kind of reply, Adalinda's voice sounded once again "Hmph, it's not surprising that you are not aware of it. [Beast Inheritance] are a form of what can be considered ancient symbols and are used by some extremely strong clans of monsters and beasts. Those clans passed down the culmination of the strength and skills in the form of [Beast Inheritance] from generation to generation. This method is being used since the primaeval times".

"The existence of the [Beast Inheritance] was what made the beast clans so formidable. After the second Apex war, it was later revealed that some people and races that coveted the ancient symbols secretly researched on it only to end up in disaster".

"The ancient symbols are extremely powerful, how could it be easily researched, naturally there were uncountable deaths and pandemonium everywhere. Later on, it was declared as a taboo subject and researching it was strictly prohibited everywhere".

Simon nodded his head at the unexpected big revelation. At the same time, it all made sense now, no wonder the enemy he was facing was getting stronger and stronger every moment.

However, what he couldn't understand was how come a human came into possession of [Beast Inheritance] and how powerful it was?

Adalinda seemed to be aware of what he was thinking and hence answered his question once again.

"The [Beast Inheritance] that man has, is incomplete and a cheap copy that does one more harm than benefit. I didn't expect something like that to pop up in such a remote corner of the continent. To answer your question, [Beast Inheritance] although exclusive only to beast clans, can be attained from a beast that had reached over level 700 and can humanise".

"One can get their hands on the [beast Inheritance ] in two ways. First, the beast willingly acknowledges the person as its inheritor and passes down its power. The second method is more crude and brutal in that one has to kill a powerful beast that has cultivated its own [Beast Inheritance] and scavenge the core stone from their body. If they are lucky the core stone might contain the [Beast Inheritance] of that powerful beast".

<br/>"In the case of the former, the inheritor receives the full and complete power of the [Beast Inheritance] and can also be called as the true inheritor. Whereas, in the latter option the [Beast Inheritance] that is forcibly received from the core stone, contains only a tiny fraction of the power of the original [Beast Inheritance] and are called false inheritor".

"That incomplete copy of a [Beast Inheritance] seemed to be from a Warhammer Demonic Ape that had died a long time and its [Beast Inheritance] was extracted to research. Long story short, if you continue to dilly dally, your opponent will become so strong that you won't even be its match anymore".

Simon's expression immediately became ugly when he heard those words. Currently, he was in no situation to reveal his true self. His brain went into overdrive before suddenly a thought struck him.

When he saw Jeeves rushing towards like a furious beast, he prepared himself mentally. The butler swung its large bulky hands with all his strength in attempt to smash his opponent apart.

BANG... a loud sound like a sonic wave travelled every corner of the campsite and everyone could hear the slight noise of the bone creaking. After preparing himself to get struck, Simon tasted blood within his mouth and felt pain from the area he was struck.

Nonetheless, he was still able to endure it thanks to his powerful body, he then grabbed his opponent and flung him towards the distant forest with all of his strength.

"[Super Enhanced Endurance], [Body Enhancement]" after activating two of his skills to stabilise himself, he gave chase and soon disappeared in the darkness of the forest and from everyone's line of sight.

A petite little girl excitedly hoped and followed behind unwilling to miss the scene that would unfold soon.

Cynthia's gaze lingered around the departing back of the young man, a white light shrouding her eyes.

Simon jumped from one tree branch to another in a practiced and agile manner and swiftly covered the distance where the butler was.

Jeeves was flung quite a distance away from the campsite, the inertia of the throw so great that he had to crash into many surrounding trees to come to a stop. Everywhere he looked, there were only the tall trees surrounding him and the intermittent cries of the nearby monsters that were scared away by his aura, could be heard occasionally.

When he felt the sudden presence approaching him, the butler looked at that direction only to find the man responsible for sending him here.

"You... Kill... Blood" his words were started to become increasingly incoherent and more like the howls of a beast.

"Heh~ you finally used your brain. Now you can go all out without worrying about any human spying on you" Adalinda spoke after quietly following behind him.

Simon ignored her, he was more than aware that the little girl simply wanted to see his limits and know more about the skills he was hiding that she couldn't gaze into. How could he just let her see all of his cards?

,m Although he was prepared to engage his enemy with all of his powers, he was not naïve enough to simply display all of his trump cards to her.

Simon wasn't far away from the truth, Adalinda who couldn't see through his status, wanted to know more about him and the peculiarities surrounding him. No matter how she saw it, the man did not appear to be a simple low ranking Demon Viscount. There was more to him than what meets the eye.

Simon took a deep breath before storing back the item, Trinket of Grimlock that was given to him by Adalinda to his inventory. Immediately, his figure started blurring, his height that was about two meters, grew even more, two jagged horns protruded from his head and his eyes turned blood red.

Looking at his appearance, one could associate him with only one race, Demon Noble. Seeing his appearance, some clarity finally returned to the butler's eyes, his facial expression told others that he was in a state of disbelief.

The lucidness was shrouded once again by the [Beast Inheritance] and insanity overwhelmed him once again.

Simon used [Analysis] on the man only to find his level spike up to 391 temporarily. It would be one thing if it was just that, but his level and powers were still continuously spiking.

"Super Strength, Super Agility, Super Defence, Super Magic, High- Speed Flight, Mana Lines" activating all of his skills, Simon burst with an unimaginable amount of strength that was not at all inferior to his opponent.

Using all of the skills at once, exhausted and put a great burden on his body; however, he was in no mood to pay attention to it at this moment.

Jeeves who had started losing most of his rationality, didn't wait any longer and started throwing storms of attacks. His attacks were simple and consisted of mostly punches, claws and kicks with no added skills or consideration.

The intent behind all of his attacks were plainly obvious and had no fakes mixed in between. Whereas, in comparison to the butler, Simon's attack was a mix between magic and physical attacks. His methods consisted of many faints and tricky angles that were harder to dodge and continuously struck his opponent's body.

BOOM... BOOM...BANG...

Two figures crisscrossed around the forest like mad decimating and erasing all life around them. Each shockwave and energy collision from their attacks was enough to brutally change the entire topography of the area.

Land was scorched and gouged out in many places, trees had become burned charcoal, corpses of monsters littered here and there, their howls distant as they ran away from this place.

After exchanging blows with the man for a while, Simon was surprised to find that even when his opponent's body was beaten black and blue, his abnormal endurance would allow him to ignore all of that.

Additionally, his high defence that was even above Simon, made it harder for the latter to deal any significant damage. The magic that was having any effect, was the flame arrows condensed to their limits that were able to pierce the steel-like defence of his enemy.

This battle with the enemy made him recognise how powerful the [beast Inheritance] was even if it was an incomplete copy. As time went on, the battle became increasingly harder because of his enemy getting stronger and stronger.

It was to the point where Simon felt like he was fighting with a zombie that had no sense of pain or exhaustion.

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Simon utilised his only advantage and unfurled his wide bat like wings to open a gap between himself and his enemy. He then bombarded his enemy with a wide variety of magic to buy time to conjure an Amalgamation Magic.

His highest stats were his Magic followed by his agility and others, thus Simon was more confident of his magic than his physical combat. Novice tier magic assaulted his enemy with the only goal of buying him some time, nonetheless, even when they did hit the butler it achieved no effect other than burning or scratching his skin a little.

Jeeves snarled, his behaviour started becoming increasingly agitated when he felt the surrounding mana convulse as if being willed by someone. Even while shrouded with insanity, he could still feel the vast amount of mana that made him threatened.

The pace of his wild attacks started increasing and he was even throwing huge rocks and boulders that were around the surrounding. Nevertheless, Simon would continue to dodge all of them while maintaining their gap and keeping his focus on the slowly forming amalgamation magic.

Amalgamation magic is the branch of magic that fuses two elements of mana together to form a highly powerful and advanced technique. Only a few people in this world have access to this kind of magic.

Even with the help of [Mana Lines] and [Minimal Mana Consumption] skill, it was a struggle for Simon to cut the casting time short. Not to mention what he was trying to achieve was not something as simple as combining two novice tier forms of mana.

He poured his mana and the two intermediate magic immediately answered his call, extreme gales accompanied by a scorching heat, started spreading all around his surroundings.

The sharp winds that carried a scorching heat, started blowing faster and faster and even the colour of the wind started taking a faint crimson. All the moisture around the surrounding dissipated leaving only a kind of desolation behind.

The amalgamation magic started showing signs of nearing completion as the two elements started reaching equilibrium. Blazing heat revolving around a sharp howling gale, collaborated into

forming a kind of crimson storm that sucked and burned everything within it without even leaving the ashes behind.

[Crimson Hurricane] Simon internally roared out the name of the technique before shifting its direction towards the butler.

The [Crimson Hurricane] cast a crimson light across the surrounding and brightened the area for hundreds of meters. In the darkness of the night, the [Crimson Hurricane] that was dozens of meters big, was extremely eye-piercing and could be seen even from a few miles away.

ROAAAR... Jeeves issued an agonising cry as his bulky body was pulled towards the centre of the storm, the blazing crimson winds, continuously cut and burned his skin. Trees and boulders were continuously pulled towards the centre of the [Crimson Hurricane] before disappearing into nothingness.

<br/>Not being able to oppose the suction power of the storm, Jeeves was pulled towards the centre of the storm, his agonising screams was like the melody in the silence of the night.

Meanwhile, Adalinda who was standing not far away from the storm, seemed completely unharmed by the pulling force of the storm, even her clothes didn't rustle from the wind. The way her small and petite body stood in the air without being affected a bit by the scorching wind was at a contrast to everything else around her

"Amalgamation magic of two intermediate tiers of flame and gale. To achieve a harmony between these two elements sounds easier said than done. Even for some Demon Earl, they might not be able to achieve something like that not to mention doing it in between the battle".

"There is also the rare [Mana Lines] and [Minimal Mana consumption] that only a person above level 500 should have. And to top it all, he is still somewhat holding back. Hehe, the more I get to know him, the more interesting he becomes" Adalinda murmured narrowing her eyes that was glowing a brilliant tangerine.

Simon took hurried breaths of air to stabilise his breathing. Combining two different intermediate attributes of man was extremely taxing for the current him who also had to activate most of his skills to fight with the butler.

If not for him increasing his level after defeating groups of bandits continuously, this much exhaustion of mana might even have been fatal for him.



His eyes locked onto the area inside the crimson hurricane where he felt the presence of Jeeves. Right now, the man must be going through a hellish pain of suffering a thousand cuts and burns.

Even if his opponent had abnormal endurance, this kind of slow torment should be able to completely exhaust them. Since he didn't want to take out his [A] tier sword nor did he want to resort to activating the phantasmal tier skill, his only option was to use everything in his arsenal and go even beyond to defeat his enemy.

The amalgamation magic [Crimson Hurricane] was his answer for the abnormal endurance stat of his enemy. The screams of the butler amidst the [Crimson Hurricane] was as loud as ever and the scene went on for a while when suddenly Adalinda decided to approach him.

She looked at Simon deeply before casually commenting "It seems that you are not all talk but if you believe something like that is able to stop a [Beast Inheritance] then you are sorely mistaken".

Right after her words fell down, some changes had started occurring within the storm. A black shadowy figure could be seen at the centre slowly trying to dissipate the storm caging it inside. The gales of the crimson hurricane started swaying and a berserk power was swiftly spreading all around it.

In just a couple of minutes, the dozens of meters huge [Crimson Hurricane] started inflating and becoming bigger before exploding out.

BOOOM... the amalgamation magic that Simon had prepared after exhausting so much of his mana, was broken apart after only a couple of minutes. The repercussions from the [Crimson Hurricane] blowing apart spread around the surrounding scorching the land black and raising the temperature to an unimaginable degree.

Simon hurriedly guarded himself by folding his wide bat-like wings in front of him whereas the little girl simply placed herself behind him using the former as a shield.

The shockwave from the explosion brushed over tingling and scorching the back of his wings. He then focused his eyes and gazed at the area which was previously the eye of the storm.

A black figure covered in fur and packed with explosive muscles, came into view. Its height was more than five meters, bipedal body and a huge horn on its head. The creature had blue eyes and sharp incisive fangs and claws that could give chills to anyone looking at them.\

A threatening amount of berserk energy was pouring out of the bead at the centre of its chest that was guarded by some kind of exoskeleton. Simon was bewildered by the scene that lay in front of him, the entity that appeared from within the explosion wasn't a human but a monster.

"So it has finally reached the [Beast Possession] stage huh! Looking at its appearance, I'm sure now... " Adalinda mentioned observing the creature with a stern eye.

"What?" Simon asked noticing the direness in her voice.

"That incomplete [Beast Inheritance] is from the Warhammer Demonic Ape. A beast with the power to crumble mountains and flatten kingdoms in just a few minutes. But that is not the least of your worries, from what I can tell, that imitation of an ancient symbol, still has more power within it. That is to say, that transformation isn't the last one".

She said observing the beast mark on the body of the beast that was once the butler.

Simon bit his lips and made a grave expression, he had already used Analysis on his opponent only to find their level skyrocketing to level 409. If this still wasn't the limit of the [Beast Inheritance] then didn't it mean that he has no chance?

How can one call this an incomplete copy when it was already so powerful?

Adalinda read his thoughts and replied mysteriously.

"If it was the genuine one, forget about contending against it, it would be a miracle if you could last a second or two given the powers of the Warhammer Demonic Ape. You don't have to brood too much over my words, although there is still much power in that beast mark, how can it be so easy for a human to use [Beast Inheritance].

"In the first place, he cannot even be called a false inheritor since he had to at least get the [Beast Inheritance] from the core stone. However, the one this idiot has is an imitation of which was deemed as a failure thousands of years ago".

"Trying to utilise the powers of ancient Symbols, how can it be that easy? though it is an initiation, one has to pay appropriate price. That human there had unknowingly burned all or most of his lifespan trying to grasp a power that was never supposed to be his. If you wait this out long enough, you might win this match but I suppose you don't want a victory like that".

His current facial expression told her everything that she needed to know. Adalinda gazed at the distant campsite and threw some final words in a fed up and exasperated manner.

"Stop trying to hold back your impulses and desires. Let it go wild, you are a Demon Noble not a human, a race that could be said to be the avatar of desires".

The petite figure of the little girl disappeared leaving only a few words that shook the very core of Simon. He couldn't find a single word to refute her.

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Since before his reincarnation he was a human, consciously or subconsciously, he was trying to suppress the demonic side of him. However, doing so he was also suppressing his desires along with his strength.

One's desires and cravings were directly related to how strong one was or could become. this was especially true for the demon noble race who followed and abided with their desires closer than any other race.

Since Simon was suppressing his emotions along with his desires, he found himself somewhat lacking and unable to show the true potential of his race. Taking a deep breath, he cleared his mind of all thoughts and allowed that which was deeply suppressed in his heart, to flow and rage out.

The feeling at first started out as a small ember before flaring out to become a huge wildfire that prickled every nerve of his body. His blood felt like it was boiling and an innate urge to destroy his enemy flooded him.

There was no way he was going to lose to an enemy who has lost his rationality and life to a mere skill. Heck, he even felt a tingling sensation of excitement to fight against an opponent multiple levels higher than him.

This was his chance to fight someone above level 400 and increase his strength even further.

A notification sounded out in his mind, this was the first time that Simon had consciously activated the pride fragment. All the other times it was the fragment that had ruled his desires; however, after he stopped reigning in his emotions, he was able to activate it willingly.

With glaring crimson eyes, Simon glanced at the beast charging towards him.

ROARR... with a deafening cry, Jeeves who had now turned completely into a beast ruled by instinct, came punching towards Simon. His speed and strength were on a whole different realm and whenever he stepped, he would immediately leave a deep imprint on the ground.

A punch came towards the demon breaking the speed of sound.

BOOM... a force equalling that one was met by another force and the air was immediately burst apart near that area. Two fists, one huge and small collided with each other neither showing any signs of backing away.

A muffled creaking noise sounded and Simon felt his shoulders displacing, he took a vial from his inventory and immediately gulped it down.

[Elixir of Healing X1 had been used].

Storms of punches and kicks started pouring out like a wave as the combatants engaged themselves in a fierce battle.

At a glance, it seemed that the two were on par but if one looked carefully, one of them seemed to be at a disadvantage every time a punch or kick landed on him. He would then take something out from somewhere and instantly gulp down on it.

[Elixir of Healing X1 had been used]

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<br/>The process repeated itself again and again before the flow of the fight was broken apart when one party suffered a devastating blow. The beast was blown back by a fist that was covered by crimson and golden flames and crashed into dozens of trees snapping them in half.

Most of its furs were burned and there was a deep fist indent on its exoskeleton that protected the bead at the centre of its chest.

Compared to the butler, Simon was not better off, most of his clothes were torn and his skin was black and blue in some areas revealing the damage he had incurred from the exchange. Nonetheless, those injuries visibly and swiftly healed themselves after he drank the contents of the vial.

"I finally understand it now" Simon murmured something...

RUMBLE, a muffled thunderous noise echoed out and blue lightning promptly started gathering on his left hand. ZzzSSTt... sparks emitted out of his hands and quickly shot out to target a nearby tree.

BANG... the tree was instantly zapped and erupted into a fire.

Simon's gaze next landed onto his opponent who was for some reason starting to struggle. The numerous pain and damage that he had dealt, was finally catching up to it.

"It seems that even when one turns into a mindless beast, one still understands the concept of pain. Then let me make it easier for you" Simon said before closing his eyes.

The flames on his right hand instantly disappeared, replaced by the blue lightning. At this moment, he fell into a state of deep concentration where he only felt the presence of himself and his enemy.

CHIIII... slowly, the lightning covering his hands, started taking the shape of a bow. Although at first it was unstable and crumbled very fast, the bow was able to take shape after repeated tries.

At this moment, Simon opened his eyes, straightened his hands and pulled on the bowstring. An arrow made of lightning was swiftly conjured and strung on the bowstring. He then next pointed the arrowhead towards the beast ape and released it.

RUMBLE... the speed of the arrow was shocking to say no less and far surpassed any attacks that Simon knew in terms of speed. After transforming into a partial beast, Jeeve's sense of rationality was completely gone, all that he obeyed was his instinct that at this moment told him to dodge the attack no matter what.

The beast ape thumped its injured body and used its powerful hind legs to jump high up. The moment its figure moved from the place an arrow half a meter big came piercing at the now empty ground.

CRACKLE... a high pitched crackling noise echoed out, the arrow quickly bore through the ground and disappeared. Small pieces of rubble scattered everywhere after being blown away by the arrow.

From this attack, one could see how concentrated and devastating each lightning arrows were. Simon turned his gaze away only to see the beast land a few distance away. The attack earlier seemed unable to daunt it as it charged towards him, unfazed.

Simon pulled the bowstring and conjured one lightning arrow after another when suddenly the beast opened its wide mouth and howled in a wild and rampant manner. the ripples spread from its roar, dispersed the mana powering his lightning bow and arrow.

It was the same mysterious attack that it had used against him not so long ago. However, unlike the previous time, he was prepared for such an event. When the beast charged at him and swung its wide hands in an attempt to pummel him to the ground, Simon instead of backing away, closed the distance between him and his enemy.

He exploited the difference in their body frames, aimed for the gap between his enemy's elbows and body to pierce him with his horns.

STAB... his horns that were as sturdy as his bones, swiftly pierced through his opponent's coat of fur and exoskeleton to pierce the bead at its centre.

The force from using a method of attack he was not used to, made his neck almost unable to bear the force. Nonetheless, this unexpected attack of his was able to do the trick and catch his enemy off guard who was only cautious of his magic attacks.

CRICK... CRACK... small cracks appeared on the bead and made the beast ape cry in agony. From this Simon was able to tell that his opponent's weakness was the bead on its chest. The effect was

extremely palpable, after that attack on its bead earlier, the attack of the beast had noticeably slowed down.

Even when it attacked, it would spare some of its strength to guard the bead which had now lost the protection of its exoskeleton.

How could such an obvious action go unnoticed by Simon? He immediately conjured multiple flame spears and a lightning bow to give it no time to counterattack. The beast howled and utilised its peculiar skill to disrupt his magic, nonetheless, with his swiftly increasing mastery in lightning magic, he was able to conjure them faster and faster.

At this moment, the sky was clearing up and the horizon was starting to brighten up little by little indicating that the daybreak was soon. Two particular part of the forest was especially busy and had not even seen a second of rest.

In one part of the forest, a large patch of land could be seen burnt black with charcoals littering everywhere. Thick clouds of smoke shrouded the area released by the object that was seared by the remnant flames and lightning.

BANG... with a noise like the muffled thunder, an arrow pierced through the shoulders of the beast and exited out of it. A small gaping hole dripping with blood, was opened up in its already scorched and battered body.

The beast ape emitted a painful howl before succumbing to its death, its figure was riddled with small burnt holes, evident of the innumerable attacks it had suffered.

THUD... with a dull sound, Simon's body kissed the ground, his breathing ragged and he was covered in wounds and bruises. Nevertheless, the shine in his eyes showed that he had achieved something that should have been an inconceivable notion to him before today.

Lying face first opposite him, was the body of the being above level 400. Although it was just power borrowed from an incomplete imitation of some ancient symbol known as the [Beast Inheritance] it was still a power to reckon with.

He flashed a smile of content thinking about the progress he was making and his attempt on bridging the gap between him and the truly strong was slowly shortening.

Simon opened his [Main Menu] and swiftly purchased a vial containing a liquid from the shop and gulped it down.

[Elixir of Healing used X1].

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The Elixir of Healing is an item that he had listed in the shop while making the game. It stimulated the growth cells of the body allowing it to heal any wounds faster.

Unlike the Restoration Elixir, which slowly and gradually heals the wounds without straining the body much, the Elixir of healing puts a great strain and induces extreme pain on the body to swiftly close the wounds.

Due to this, the item was only meant to be used during extreme moments that concerned one's life and death. Even its cost was much higher than the Restoration Elixir which was the better option if one had adequate time to heal.

During his fight with the transformed Jeeves, he had to repeatedly rely on this elixir to heal any injuries he had suffered to continue fighting. The number of healing elixirs he drank during this period of time was higher than counting together all of the other times he had to drink it.

The healing allowed him to continue fighting but at the same time, it also put a great burden on his already strained body. One could imagine the amount of pain and backlashes that his body is going through after activating numerous skills and gulping down elixirs like that.

Simon felt his body was a wooden log, heavy and with no sensation. The only part of the body that he could move was his eyes that scanned his surroundings. Becoming the prey of a stray monster was the last thing he wanted to be.

After resting for an hour or two, the [High-Speed Regeneration] ability of his finally kicked in and restored some of his strength.

Simon propped himself up with much difficulty, the first thing he did was take the Trinket of Grimlock out of inventory and wear it. His appearance as a Demon Noble was swiftly covered and masked to become more human-like.



Of course, he did not forget to collect his spoils of war, the corpse of the butler who had turned into a beast ape with him. Although the [Inventory] didn't allow him to store living things, a corpse of a beast or a person wasn't a problem.

The more than five meters body of the beast was swiftly stored in his [Inventory].

With that, he commanded his tattered body towards the campsite where the noise of battle had started to die out by now. It would be a lie if he said that he was not worried about the situation of the convoy back at the campsite.

He cannot allow them to die since they were his ticket to the capital. And since Adalinda couldn't use her spatial magic lest it is detected by her disciple, it would take them a long and winding time to manually navigate their way. Thus Simon had to prioritise at least the client's life.

The little girl's presence there did not help a bit to soothe his worry and instead gave him a big headache especially so when he was aware that the little girl viewed all of this as a source of her entertainment.

Straightening his ragged body, he rushed towards the campsite where only a few presences that he could sense were left alive. The first thing that greeted his eyes as soon as he entered the campsite, was the human golem crumbling down.

<br/>Beneath the rubbles were dozens of bandits and two bandit leaders that have been turned into a meaty paste after suffering devastating blows from Chuck. The adventurer was seated on top of the rubble breathing disorderly, his two teammates were similarly in not a very good shape.

Corpses of bandits littered everywhere mixed with those adventurers and silver guards who had fought till their last breath. From what Simon could see, the vanguard had completely collapsed after being besieged by numerous adventurers.

Some of the non-combatants at the backlines had died and those that had survived were severely injured. Simon's eyes scanned the surrounding trying to find the little girl and that purple dress woman. When he spotted them, he saw them sitting near the campfire, a figure covered in blood was lying on the ground.

The figure was none other than Alvara who had suffered grave injuries that her healing was unable to keep up. Her head was tightly held by Cynthia whose eyes were currently glossed with tears.

Without a mage with mastery in Light magic, there was no way she would be able to recover from those serious injuries.

Alvara opened and closed her mouth in an attempt to say something however, every time she did, she would cough out a mouthful of blood. One could see that her injury was not only external, but also internal.

Adalinda was next to these two intensely brooding over something. At this moment, the three of them heard the sounds of approaching footsteps and shifted their gazes up.

The one that came near was none other the provisional adventurer who was fighting against the butler. Simon arched his brows and looked at the scene in front of him.

"What happened here?" he asked confounded, no matter how he thought, the Brigand Master shouldn't have this much strength to push someone on the calibre of the guard commander to the brink of death.

"After seeing that his end was near, that bandit bastard activated the [Self-Destruction] orb he got from who knows where. This girl here was seriously injured trying to save those non-combatants who were caught up in the vicinity of the attack" Adalinda said while sighing.

Simon nodded his head in understanding, it was finally clear to him as to what had actually happened. It was not that the Brigand Master was too much for the guard commander to handle and instead it was because she tried to help the innocent non-combatants that she was gravely injured in the process.

"Miss... these ordinary healing potions won't help me. Just leave me here, with my current state... I'll just be a hindrance to this journey. Huff..huff.. take the guards... and adventurers that are alive and... quickly get out of the forest. You will be relatively safe after you reach the territory of duke Montford. Huff.. huff.. even that person wouldn't dare to start something there".

Alvara pleaded with a pale face, she was losing blood very fast and her eyes were starting to lose their faint lustre. If her wound was not closed soon, there was no doubt that she would die.

Simon looked at the heartbroken figure of Cynthia who was doing her best to stop the wound of her by giving some first aid. However, her first aid was amateurish at best and didn't stop the blood from flowing out.

Simon sighed and took out a couple of elixirs of healing and passed it onto Cynthia. The woman looked at him with surprise in her eyes.

"These are not your ordinary healing potions. Make her drink it if you want her wounds to close" after leaving those instructions, he turned around and left the scene. While observing the battlefield on his way, he was surprised to find that the casualty rate of their convoy was quite low compared to the bandits most of whom were wiped out.

Given the strength of the convoy, a scene like that would be utterly inconceivable even to Simon. However, he knew that the campsite had a certain abnormality that could easily flip such logic upside down.

Locking his brows, he threw a random remark to the girl who was following beside him. "It seems that you finally decided to interfere".

Adalinda retorted back in an aggrieved manner.

"Did you really think I would let them die before they guide us to this capital? Hmph, no matter who it is that wants to kill them, they must first ask permission from me. I would have saved that girl even if you didn't interfere... just that her body was too weak and my powers were much too strong for her".

Her two twin tails danced like snakes displaying her mood that was a little sour.

"So you managed to defeat the one with the imitation of a [Beast Inheritance] huh? I'm surprised that you can walk so soon. Ah, you must have used those elixirs on yourself too".

Adalinda quickly inferred how the demon was so lively even after going through a fight against the [Beast Inheritance]. Her eyes lingered on him for a while, a light of surprise flashed on them. She was more than aware of how powerful the [Beast Inheritance] or rather the ancient symbols within it was.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that in this world, only the strong ones possess the right to have it. Even if the [Beast Inheritance] on that person was an imitation and a failed copy, it was a copy of ancient symbols that one cannot look down upon.

"No wonder that woman is together with you" Adalinda silently murmured thinking about Irene in her head. That woman whose powers even she couldn't fathom was together with this demon in his dungeon. If there wasn't anything strange or special about this man, she wouldn't believe it.

"Did you collect the corpse of that beast? The core stone on its chest is something that might be useful to you" she reminded before drawing some peculiar markings on the air.

Simon nodded his head while consecutively asking her what she was doing.

"Hm? Ah! Raising a protective barrier that will repel anyone coming over here with bloodlust. With all the blood here, it would be surprising if no monsters shows up. Do you think the convoy is in any condition to fight monsters in their current state?"

Adalinda replied without stopping the movements of her hands.

After a while, an invisible fluctuation spread from the centre of her palm and swiftly covered the entire campsite.

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'Is it done?' Simon wondered, he used his [Detect Presence] skill and spread it all around to search for any monster that was coming near. His eyes widened when he saw multiple monsters like the direwolves and warring mandrills which were initially heading towards their direction, suddenly stop their charge and look around the surrounding in confusion.

They tried to utilise their strong nose and sense to sniff the blood in the air but the moment, the barrier was raised, all the scent and presence drifting off from the campsite was cut off leaving the monster bewildered.

With no signs of prey or food, these monsters naturally dispersed off to different directions. Seeing the amazed look in his eyes, Adalinda lightly commented.

"Hmph, you don't have to be surprised, with the barrier I have raised, even if it's a monster above level 700, it won't be able to detect it. Though there aren't any in this Northern Outlaw Forest".

While they were having their own conversation, Cynthia intensely scrutinised the vials in her hand. At this moment, she had forced back her tears and was trying her best to heal her friend who had lost her consciousness due to her wounds being too severe.

"I have checked the contents of these elixirs, it is indeed much more potent than those healing potions on you. There is no need to be cautious, quickly feed it to her".

The majestic voice of King Leo sounded beside her ears.

Cynthia nodded and gently opened the small mouth of her friend, pouring the contents of the elixirs little by little.

Gulp... after drinking a small mouthful of it, to her surprise some visible changes had started occurring on Alvara's wounded body. Her wounds swiftly started to close and some rosiness started to appear on her previously pale face.

Seeing the effectiveness of the elixir, Cynthia couldn't help but widened her eyes in surprise, her cherry red lips opened and closed in contemplation.

"The effectiveness of these elixirs are even better than some of the healing potions available at the capital. I wonder where that man got these kinds of elixirs".

"Urgh" a pained groan came out from the guard commander's throat and her body started moving a little, her eyelids fluttered and it seemed that she would awaken soon.

Cynthia smiled in relief when she saw that the condition of her friend was better now. When her eyes turned towards the distant figure of the man, a peculiar glint flashed on her otherwise violet eyes.

"What do you think of that man Leo?" she muttered in a voice that only she could hear.

The voice within her was silent for a while before replying "What do you mean? I have already told who that man actually is".

Cynthia did not comment any further, she silently sat beside the exhausted figure of her friend near the fireplace. The morning rays of the sun shone down on the place, devastated by the big battle that had undergone under the darkness of the night.

<br/>Those people that could move around, checked the condition of the wagons and the Bane Moose under the order of their mistress. Some of the wagons have been destroyed in the aftermath of the battle and were no longer usable; fortunately, even the bandits were sensible enough not to hurt the Bane Moose as they were incredibly useful no matter whose hands they landed on.

A bane Moose was already rare around these parts of the land not to mention there were so many of them. Perhaps the bandits thought that the bane moose would become their property sooner or later that they did not hurt them.

Now that the wagons and Bane moose were unharmed, the convoy could continue their journey; however, the campsite was currently covered in an atmosphere of gloominess and solemnity.

Those adventurers and guards who were in a relatively better condition, burned the corpses before the smell could bring the monsters towards them. At the dawn break, there was finally some activities around the campsite and Simon who had slumped himself on top of a seat on a wagon, opened his eyes sensing the approaching presence of a person near him.

After that tiring battle with that butler, his body was screaming with pain from the numerous injuries and healing elixirs that he had consumed. His eyes opened only to be greeted by the beautiful figure of Alvara who at this moment was having difficulty looking straight at him.

"Is there anything the guard commander wants from me?" he asked initiating the conversation.

The warrior who always acted headstrong and noble, was surprisingly acting like a lady for the first time and was having difficulty framing her words.

"That is... I heard from miss that you were the one who gave me those healing potions. I wanted to... thank you. If there is any request that I am able to accomplish for you, please don't hesitate to ask" her voice became a little mellow at the end of her sentence.

Simon smiled, to him a few elixirs of healing were nothing. Just when he was about to disperse the issue, the guard commander clenched her hands and reported.

"Our Miss would like to meet you to discuss over some urgent matters. Will you please come with me to meet her?".

Simon arched his brows and pondered, while he was not sure what these urgent matters are, he had some idea about what it could be. Springing up from his seat, he dusted his clothes before nodding his head towards the guard commander.

Alvara eyed the man who had fought and won against the berserk Jeeves who even she was unable to beat and led him towards the wagon where her mistress was waiting for him.

Feeling the respectful gaze of this female warrior, Simon couldn't help but laugh dryly. After coming near the largest wagon with the mark of the Serene Palace Merchant Guild, a voice that told him to come in rang out.

Alvara nodded and invited him in, the interior of the wagon was much more comfortable compared to any other wagons of this convoy, even the space inside was ample to move around. A feminine scent lingered around the air and the interior was decorated according to the taste of the owner.

At one corner of the wagon, was a set of chairs facing each other and seated on one was the client of this job, the mistress of the convoy.

Cynthia was dressed in her mesmerising purple dress, got up from her seat and greeted Simon when their eyes met. She then pointed at the seat opposite her and invited him to sit down.

Simon did not stand on ceremony, he sat down on the seat and made himself comfortable. Contrary to their first meeting, the guard commander this time did not choose to stand at guard and relaxed herself on a seat beside her Miss.

Before starting the conversation, Cynthia brewed some tea. After pouring it on the teacups, she passed it over to them. The trio sipped on their tea for a while before the woman in purple dress nodded and asked a random question.

"How is the tea?".

"Hm? It's quite good" Simon lightly commented.

Cynthia smiled, a graceful aura emitted from her every movement "I'm glad it is to your taste. Before we start, I wanted to thank you for saving my friend and my closest aide".

She bowed her head, her soft violet hair flowed down her shoulders revealing those delicate and smooth neckline.

"Now then, about the reason I called you here, is to discuss something with you," Cynthia said taking out an empty vial from the corner.

Simon arched his brows at the object that was none other than the empty bottle of the elixirs that he had given her at that moment. With that, he finally came to an understanding as to what this discussion was all about. Though he had already guessed it, he still maintained a poker face.

"This is the potion mister adventurer had given us, thanks to that it saved my guard commander's life. It might be pretentious to ask of me after everything you have done for us but could you tell me where you got your hands on something like this?".

Feeling the two pairs of expectant eyes gaze at him, Simon laughed dryly. Even if he wanted to explain it to them, how was he to tell them that this was just an item he had designed back when he was creating a game on earth.

He simply shook his head, keeping the origins of his elixirs secret.

"Can I ask why the Mistress of the prestigious Serene Palace Merchant Guild is interested in it?" Simon asked tilting his head a little. From what he knew about this world, Healing elixirs wasn't something that was rare amongst the ordinary populace, even adventurers kept a few stock with them in case of emergency.

Cynthia's eyelid's blinked, in the first place, she did not hold high hopes to get the information so easily. She explained:

"Healing potions are not that rare after all, there are quite a lot of shops that sells them back at the capital. However, among potions there are grades and even the best alchemists back at the capital, could only make High grades potions. Ordinary healing potions wouldn't have interested me but the elixirs that mister had provided me back then, was at least a master grade, to say the least".

Hearing those words, Alvara's eyes widened to their limit, even she did not expect that the elixirs used on her was of such a grade.



How could she not be surprised, after all, an alchemist can create elixirs of six varying grades starting from Basic, Intermediate, High, Master, King and Supreme. The best alchemists in their capital could only create elixirs up to High grade.

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To take out Master grade elixirs to heal someone he barely knows, naturally, it would come as a surprise to her.

on the other hand, although Simon kept a composed exterior, even he was surprised internally.

After explaining till here, Cynthia looked at the provisional adventurer once again and beseeched.

"The number of people injured or have suffered grave injury after the last battle are quite a lot. They would inevitably lose their life if they are not healed. As the client for this job and also the mistress of the Serene Palace Merchant guild, I'm obligated to help those that have fought for me. That is why I ask if there is any chance that you can sell those elixirs to me. Of course, I will give you the best price for each of them".

From the gravity of her words, it was clear that she felt responsible for all the deaths and injuries that their convoy had suffered. Alvara too bowed her head, they knew that after the favour that Simon had shown them earlier, it was asking too much from him to sell his elixirs to them.

Nonetheless, they had no other choice. They cannot possibly discard these brave warriors who stood with their convoy even when the odds were against them. If they did not heal them, they cannot continue their journey.

Simon knew what they were thinking after the topic about his elixirs came; however, he still shook his head. His denial disheartened the two but before they could become any more depressed, the next words that came out from Simon's mouth, gave them a new hope.

"How about we do it like this... I'm willing to give you my elixirs but I am not simply selling it to you".

Cynthia made a serious expression and matched the adventurer's gaze "You mean to say that you want to do a transaction with my guild?".

Simon smiled, he knew that the woman in front of him was a cunning businesswoman, just a few words from him was enough for her to interpret his intention.

"That's correct, I will sell my elixirs to your Serene Palace Merchant Guild in return for a satisfiable sum of money and a promise" he added.

Alvara kept her quiet and observed the two parties, her mistress who she knew was a calculating woman when it came to business and the black-robed young man who had saved them multiple times and had enough prowess to even contend against Jeeves who she had lost to.

After pondering over it, Cynthia exhaled a deep breath of air and said "Since you are a benefactor of ours, my Serene Palace Merchant Guild will not argue with you, however, can I know what this promise is beforehand. If it is something beyond my reach, I would have to reject..".

"Don't worry about it, the condition isn't something beyond your reach. It's just that I want you to promise me that you will help me in the future no matter what when the time comes and I ask for your aid".

His expression was replaced by a stern and firm gaze. Since he was not a human, he did not have much attraction to these denominations of money that they use for transactions. Instead, Simon thought that it would be much for useful for him if he can make the mistress of the Serene palace Merchant guild owe him a promise.

<br/>He was a cautious person by nature and this would be his first time going to the capital of a human kingdom, a place filled with powerful people. There is no way to tell if his preparation would be enough at that time and hence he wanted additional assurance.

Since he was already entangled with the Serene Palace Merchant Guild, why not make use of them? Simon could tell that they held quite a bit of power back at the capital, it would not be bad to have such a backer behind him when he entered the capital.

Cynthia bit her lips and contemplated over her options, with her years of experience of doing business with a variety of traders and people, it is not impossible to guess the real intention behind the man's words but the problem was that...

"Alright, my Serene palace merchant guild promises you. You will be rewarded adequately for the contribution on top of the reward we already promised to give you" Her slender body made a graceful arc after she was done putting her words.

Simon nodded his head and without further ado, purchased thirty elixirs from the shop and brought it out on the table in front of the two shocked gazes.

"These are all the elixirs I'm currently willing to sell to your merchant guild please have a look" Simon smiled, he wanted to increase his value to them even more so that when the time ever comes when he asks their aid in return, they wouldn't be able to reject.

Thirty elixirs whose grade was at least a Master tier, was kept in the table in front of them so casually. Cynthia and Alvara couldn't help but widen their eyes when they saw these many numbers, they had expected the adventurers to take out a dozen or so elixirs but never did they think that the man had this many bottles with him.

It should be known that Master grade elixirs are only available in the market of the capital very rarely and are always hoarded by those rich and influential ones first. Their Serene Palace Merchant guild also had quite a few of them in their inventory but the market for the elixir was always less supply and excessive demand.

Hence there was never a stock left after an auction. It could be seen from how even Cynthia did not have many master grade elixirs with her and the ones she had with her, wasn't for healing.

Although she was taken a bit for a while, she was extremely meticulous when it came to business. Her composure returned to her and she was back to her previous self.

"Alright I will calculate the price and give you an adequate form of remuneration" right after saying that, she handed him a purple card that had the number 1000 on it.

"There are 1000 black gold coins in it, you can use this card to store your black gold coins. As for the remaining sum of money, I would like to pay it after we reach the capital" Cynthia said tucking her violet hair behind her ears.

1000 black gold coins? Simon was shaken internally. From what he understood from Chuck back then, was that black gold coins were quite a bit of money for even the veteran adventurers. 100 gold coins= 1 Black gold coins and he had thousands of them inside this card. Didn't it mean that he had 100,000 gold coins?

Compared to the small amount of money he had plundered from Laris, it was like the difference between a small puddle and a large lake. After collecting his thoughts with the help of recently

evolved [Super thought Processing] skill that increased the processing ability of his brain multiple times, Simon nodded and got up from his seat.

He was not particularly worried about not receiving the remaining sum of money since he didn't have much use for them as of yet anyways. Just when he was about to turn around and leave, the mistress of the Serene Palace Merchant Guild stopped him and handed him another emblem.

"This is?" Simon asked observing the emblem that was made of some unknown material, carving a mighty white palace in between.

"That is the VIP pass which would allow you to go inside in any of our auction houses in the capital without needing to wait in the queue. It also has various other privileges that the average populace of the capital cannot enjoy. Keep it with you".

Alvara answered the question for him as she led him outside. Internally though, even she was surprised to see her mistress give out the VIP emblem to the man. One must know that only a few influential families and noble houses in the entire kingdom had the right to possess a VIP emblem of their Serene Palace Merchant Guild.

After the two of them exited the wagon, a white illusory light drifted off from the jade ring on the woman's hand.

"Why are you trusting him that much? I already told you that man is a Demon noble didn't I?" King Leo's voice came from the white smoke-like substance.

Cynthia nodded her head and replied "I know but I feel like that Demon Noble is quite peculiar and different from the others".

"Huh? What is this naïve little girl saying? A Demon Noble masquerading as a human... what good intentions could they have?" the guardian spirit thundered.

"I know but after all the things that have happened; I just want to see where this development would lead to" she replied with a vague answer. Suddenly she knitted her delicate brows and remembered something.

"You told me you would tell me about the ability Jeeves had later".

King Leo became silent after those words and only opened his mouth after a while "[Beast Inheritance]....".

After Alvara led him outside, they strolled for a while before she thanked him again and went back. When he returned to his wagon, he found Adalinda who was excitedly waiting for him.

"Where did you go?" she asked without missing a beat.

Simon frowned "I should be the one asking you? When did you disappear from the campsite?". Earlier when he was recuperating from his injuries, he felt the presence of the little girl darting off to somewhere.

As if waiting for this question of his, Adalinda started beaming and excitedly told him about the thing that she found in the norther outlaw forest.

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"Hehe, after you dozed off, I sensed a very vague spatial interference that was left a couple of weeks ago, a hundred miles away from here at the edges of this forest. From the turbulence and the faint mana lingering, I interfered that it was my disciple. You were right, my disciple has headed for the capital".

Her excitement was over the top when the topic came to her disciple. Simon also nodded in delight, it was best if they found her disciple in the capital that way he wouldn't have to tag along with her everywhere and he can go back to his dungeon in relief.

"That's right, when is the convoy leaving? We cannot waste our time here in this forest, we should quickly get moving" Adalinda commented. In her enthusiasm, she had forgotten that the convoy was in no shape to move right now.

Simon told her about the injuries of the members of the convoy and how he had sold some of his elixirs to the client. Although not being able to move immediately bothered her, she displayed an unexpected level-headedness and did not pester more about it from him.

Soon, at the command of the guard commander, those silver guards who could relatively move around, started distributing a vial of potion to everyone who was severely injured. Needless, to say the vial of potion was the exact same elixir that he had sold to Cynthia.

The members of the convoy at first were sceptical about the promised over the top effectiveness of the potion when all other low and intermediate-grade potions failed to heal them. However, after the first person who had received a fatal injury in his abdomen experienced the efficiency of the elixirs, he couldn't help but squeal in joy.

After the others saw the healing ability of the potion, they naturally discarded all thoughts of sceptics from their minds and hurriedly drank the potion.

,m It wasn't long before the surviving members of the convoy started erupting in joy and delight of being healed of injuries. They collectively crowded near the wagon where Cynthia was resting and incessantly thanked her.

The calculative woman naturally knew how to draw the favour of others towards her and her Serene Palace Merchant Guild. She then promised these people who were already won over by her compassion to distribute such a potion to them, to diligently follow her and they would not be treated unfairly.

Like this, even these adventurers who have seen many bloodshed, felt a flame of loyalty sprout within their hearts. After the crowd was dispersed by her order, they started digging graves for their fallen comrades and cleaned the area.

Others started preparing food on the fireplace and just like that, the silent and gloomy atmosphere surrounding the campsite, lightened up a little with the activity of the people.

"We checked the area for a few kilometres, there are no signs of any monsters nearby. even the traps we have set, shows no signs of intrusion" A group of adventurers and guards, who went to scout the area around their campsite for any signs of beast reported.

<br/>Alvara who was compiling their report, made a confused face. According to common sense after this much blood had been shed, the smell should be extremely conspicuous. So why weren't the monsters attacking them?

This question was bothering her for a while and no matter how she thought about it she found it extremely strange.

"Did you check the area properly? Could there be any monster that avoided your traps or is just adept in hiding itself?" she confirmed.

The group ardently shook their heads. They have investigated the area many times and even used their skills to check for any monster that has potentially wandered near their camp.

After being told the same by her other subordinates, Alvara could only drop the issue while being cynical a little. Never could she have imagined that, there was a powerful barrier that had been erected by Adalinda, protecting their campsite. Even if it was a powerful monster, it wouldn't be able to sense them.

When the sun was suspended overhead and the time was high noon, all the members of the convoy was gathered near the fireplace to discuss their next move. By now, all the people were familiar with each other and had no qualms talking freely with one another.

"We don't know if there will be another bandit attack or if there are different brigands targeting us. Therefore we need to get out of the forest fast but according to the route charted on this map, it would take us at least three more days to get out of here".

"But that is if we follow this map, there is another route that is less trod upon and might be filled with monsters and unknown dangers. Though it is dangerous, it will only take us a day and a half to get out of the Northern Outlaw Forest".

Cynthia spoke analysing the map strewn over a table. She looked at the different expressions of the members and added "I cannot make this decision alone and that is why I seek all of your opinions. We shall take a vote to decide on our next route".

The vote started and unsurprisingly, there were many people who were in consent to tread the shortest but dangerous path. The people that wanted to continue on the same path were very few.

From the voting, it was clear that they didn't want to go through another bandit attack and hence decided to take the path with many monsters. Although defeating monsters won't be easy, they weren't like bandits who would sneak attack them when their guard was the lowest.

If they took appropriate measures and utilised their years of hunting monsters, it was easier for them to survive if they travelled through the shortest route. After that unanimous vote, the members of the convoy started packing their stuff and bid goodbye to the graves of their friends.

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The route for the convoy was set and with the neigh of the Bane Moose, the wagons started moving. Now that there were more vacant spots for the riders of the Bane Moose, those people that didn't have the chance to ride it before, rode it and surveyed the surrounding.

Simon was on top of one such Bane Moose positioned at the vanguard. Since all the people of the convoy acknowledged his accomplishment and knew how experienced he was, they inadvertently obeyed any movements or orders he made.

Their faith started becoming more and more strong when they successfully evaded entering the territory of more than three groups of strong monsters in the space of a few hours of their travel. This once again reminded everyone how dangerous the uncharted route was.

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In a spacious dark room, there were multiple bookshelves and furniture made of polished wood. Placed at the corner of the room, was a wide desk and a chair with many documents and scroll strewn around. Clearly, this was the study room of some person.

Faint moonlight seeped out from the open windows and illuminated the room and highlighted the figure of the person seated at the chair. Brown hair and decked in a well-defined black suit, the young man emitted the very air of being an important person. He had a charming face and a soft aura that could make one drop their guards around him.

Currently kneeling in front of him was a person donned in grey robes and face hidden with a mask.

Listening to the report of his subordinate, the brown-haired man couldn't help but frown, his fingers tapped on the ring on his hand and a small white conch the size of an egg appeared in his palm.

When the man entered some of his mana, the many complex runes inscribed on its surface, lit up before dying down after a while.

"What? How can this be" as if he couldn't believe it, he tried poring mana onto the conch once again, the process repeated and after a while, the light died down.

"I speak the truth Your Highness, Jeeves is dead," the grey-robed said in an anonymous voice.



THUD... the dull noise of the conch hitting the ground rang out and the brown-haired man addressed as his highness took heavy breaths. It appeared that the man had thrown the transmission shell in his anger.

"How can this be? After all the careful preparations and even with the aid of the [Beast Inheritance] skill, he still couldn't take her out? That useless dog does he not know how much I had to spend to get him that skill? That incompetent mongrel".

Seeing the man throw a fit, the grey-robed man called out "Your Highness please calm down".

These nonchalant words caused the former to rage out even more "How can I calm down? He had only one job and for that, I even provided him with the [Beast Inheritance]. Now not only had he died and failed his mission, but he even wasted the skill".

"Ypu were called Eight right? Didn't you say that it is an extremely powerful skill? Then why even after selling you that artefact in exchange, the mission had still failed?".

The grey-robed subordinate who was called Eight, internally snickered, he knew that the man was trying to put the blame for the inadequacy of his subordinate on him. Nonetheless, he did not show it in his behaviour.

"Your Highness the [Beast Inheritance] cannot be blamed, it is still a skill after all and depends on how the user uses it. Jeeves dying could only mean that he had not assimilated with it properly or had not activated it in time. But that is not something your highness should be worrying about right now and instead think about how to clean the mess that butler of yours might have created".

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"Hmph, you don't have to worry about it. Although he turned out to be a useless dog, he was nonetheless extremely loyal. There is no possibility of him revealing any information about us" the man snorted at those words of Eight.

"I hope that is the case your highness, the fewer people that know about the existence of the [Beast Inheritance], the better" after reporting everything he had to, the grey-robed man excused himself.

A grey smoke drifted from him and his body quickly turned into a gaseous form and unobtrusively flew out of the window.

"Tch these people do they think that they are important? They are just merely lackeys of those Cerberus" His Highness spat his frustration out after he was the only one remaining in the room. He then walked in front of the mirror and practised his soft and comforting smile before walking out of the room.

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After travelling for a day, the thick foliage of the forest started thinning out and the presence of the monsters had also decreased noticeably, indicating that they were at the edges of the forest. And finally, after another day of journey, the path led out of the forest.

A vast field lay in front of them, devoid of any presence of monsters or bandits. The convoy rejoiced after escaping the hellhole that was the northern outlaw forest alive.

The wagons stopped for a while to navigate their way, after rerouting their course they had to find their way back to the main road.

"This should have been the path we had to travel from that connects with the main highway. However, we had to change our course halfway through because of the bandits. Because of it, we are quite far from the main road that leads straight towards the dukedom of Montford" Cynthia opened the map and showed it to everyone present.

Next, she pointed with her hands on a small crisscrossing line across a vast patch of green.

"We should be currently here. To travel to the main road, we have to pass through multiple villages and ridges. Although the path cannot be said completely risk-free, it should be relatively safer than the forest. I want everyone to not let their guard down until we reach the Castledor city".

The members of the convoy immediately nodded and set forth. The Castledor city was the biggest city in the Dukedom of Montford, and also the city where his grand caste was located hence the name Castledor city.

The city was bigger than one could imagine and its grandeur could only be outshined by the capital. The populace here lived with a smile on their face, and merriness overflowed from the walls of the city.

Although the wealth difference was evident here too, but even the poor citizens got plenty of opportunities to earn their bread.

After passing through the gates and paying the toll fees, the convoy finally entered the Castledor city and sighed a heavy breath of relief. These few days of constantly being on guard had taken a strain on them and they couldn't help erupt in joy after finally entering the safe confines of the city.

<br/>After the line-up of wagons entered the city, they attracted quite a lot of attention and when they stopped near a high-class inn, it even garnered some awes from the passer-by. The hotel that the convoy had stopped onto was one of the most luxurious hotels in all of Castledor city called the Centre Point.

After the guard commander went to check-in, the entire hotel was booked by them showcasing the enormous wealth of their guild. The staff of the hotel took care of their wagons and the Bane Moose before leading them in.

Simon and the others got off from the wagons and entered the hotel to rest their tired bodies. The Mistress of the Serene Palace Merchant Guild made sure that everybody got a personal room or a room spacious enough to easily accommodate a group of them.

According to her, they would be resting here for a day or two before continuing their journey. They would be leaving the wagons here and continue through a different means.

After Cynthia passed a few relevant information, everyone dispersed. Simon entered his room and flumped himself on top of his bed. He was a Demon Viscount and hence his constitution was much stronger than an average human, even his wounds had long been healed.

Unlike the others, he did not need to rest but since he was travelling with them, he had to go with the consensus of the mass. Closing his eyes, he concentrated his attention on his body that was brimming with energy.

He had to admit that after the battles he had gone through in the Northern Outlaw Forest, his level had spiked quite a lot. His level was now 347, he had gone through a total of 22 level-ups after departing from his dungeon.

Even some of his skills had evolved after that intense fight against the person with the beast inheritance. He had also gained new skills and was able to increase the tier of his electro magic to intermediate tier.

All in all, the trip was quite beneficial for Simon since he was able to improve a lot. After analysing his body, he got off his bed and took a bath. The High-class inn lived up to its reputation; each individual room had its own separate bath and toilet. Although it cannot be compared to the luxury of modern day hotels of earth, the inn was still very good.

The fire attribute magic stones inserted around the bathtub heated the water and made the bath all the more enjoyable. Simon was curious as to what Adalinda was doing right now. Since they both had achieved quite a lot of achievements from the previous battles, they had received individual rooms.

He was quite sure that the little girl would be bugging him to hasten their journey to the capital. However, to his surprise, this little grand aunt showed an unexpected level-headedness.

'Has she calmed down after finding traces of her disciple?' Simon wondered feeling the warm water sweep away his fatigue. After changing his clothes, he came down to the hall below only to meet Adalinda who had similarly taken a bath and was now gulping down the food provided on her table.

The bill would be added to the accounts of Serene Palace Merchant Guild and thus the little girl was ravenously eating any delicious food she could find.

'Ah so that was why' looking at his sight, Simon immediately found his answer, it was not like the girl was keeping her composure or anything, she was just busy enjoying herself. He was increasingly starting to believe that the master and disciple were of similar nature with how flippantly they behaved.

When Adalinda spotted Simon, she beckoned with her hands for him to come and join her. Walking towards the table, he pulled out a chair opposite her and ordered something from the menu.

Soon, the previously empty hall started becoming boisterous when the other members of the convoy started coming down. Noticing the familiar figure of the two of them, they sat around the table beside him and merrily initiated conversation.

The topic of discussion was of course the battle with the bandits that they had recently gone through and the people who had shown their remarkable powers. When they started increasingly praising him and showing bootlicking smiles, Simon couldn't take it anymore and headed back towards his room.

CLACK... closing the door, he sighed a breath of relief. After lying down on his bed doing seemingly nothing, he took out the azure bead that Irene had given him back then from his inventory. He wanted to check the contents of it before but Adalinda barred him by telling him it would attract too much attention.

Thus he had no choice but to keep it back in his inventory. Now that he was all alone in his room, he could see what the item actually did without worrying about causing a commotion.

Cutting his index finger a little, a droplet of blood seeped out and dropped on the item. At that moment, a brilliant azure light overflowed from the bead covering the entire room. Along with the light, came a bone-chilling cold that swiftly encompassed the entire place.

The light was so bright that Simon had to instinctively close his eyes, when he opened them back, a seemingly infinite blue space came in his view. A gasp of breath inadvertently leaked out from his mouth as he marvelled at the absurdity of the bead.

To affect his surrounding to such a degree, it was indeed not an ordinary item. After looking all around him, Simon found three objects suspended in the air not far from him. Looking at the things, he immediately understood that they were prepared by Irene for him.

A warm feeling washed over him when he thought about the ice cold beauty back at his dungeon. Simon beckoned with his hands and the thing was immediately pulled towards him.

Out of the three objects, one was a scarlet orb the size of a fist, the other was an emblem in the shape of a beautiful phoenix shining with a brilliant light. The last object was quite peculiar in that various complex arrays encircled the object making it next to impossible to guess what it is.

Even [Analysis] was unable to recognise the item.

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Name:- Simon

,m Race:- Demon Viscount

Titles:- Demon of Pride [Incomplete Fragment 1/5]

Stats:-

Level:- 347

HP:- 45,241

MP:- 63,220

Strength:- 2941

Defence:- 3141

Agility:- 3635

Magic:- 4035

Endurance:- 3288

Luck:- 2194

Skills:- Language Comprehension, Analysis, Flame Magic Mastery, Gale Magic Mastery, Lightning Magic Mastery, High-Speed Thought Processing, High-Speed Regeneration, High-Speed Flight, Super Enhanced Strength, Body Enhancement, Fire Resistance, Wind Resistance, Electro resistance Pain Resistance, Blunt Damage Resistance, Sense Presence, Hide Presence, Demonic Eyes, Super Enhanced Agility, Super Enhanced Endurance, Super Enhanced Magic, Super Enhanced Defence, Minimal Mana Consumption, Sharpened Senses, Mana Lines

Amalgamation Skills:- [Flame-Gale Mastery], [Electro-Flame Mastery]

Inherent Skills:- Dungeon Creation, Main Menu, Ancestral Symbol Ignition