

D. of Pride 31

Chapter 31: Subordinates of the Seven & the Demon of Envy (2)

Many [C] and [B] rank items and artifacts came up in the auction but were quickly hoarded by the Demon Dukes and Demon Marquess. There were even items such as the [B] rank eye of perception that could see through the status of someone higher level than them. There were many other [B] rank items that came up in the auction, but none could catch the eyes of the Demon Archdukes as they silently sat on their seats enjoying the show. To them, unless it was an [A] rank artifact, it wouldn't catch their interest.

The auction was starting to heat up when suddenly a voice sounded "Ahahaha it seems the auction is going quite well." The voice was not loud but could be heard clearly across the hall. At that moment, the very hall became silent and even those lofty Demon Archdukes who were cozily seating wore stunned faces.

Four people, three men, and one woman appeared out of thin air in front of the hall. The man that just spoke out had a butler's attire and wore an unusual half-red half-black tailcoat. His face was half visible and the other half was covered by a sad face mask. He was releasing no aura and his presence was so feeble that he would just disappear if they didn't pay any attention to it.

"Ah! Sir Amon, I'm grateful to Lady Lilith for sending you." Gareth said as he gave a slight bow towards Amon.

"Gareth I hope we aren't late?" a stunningly beautiful lady with pointed elf ears and an icy cold face called out. She had mesmerizing curves that could instantly ensnare one's soul, skin as white as the early snow of a winter night. Her indescribably magnificent eyes seemed as if they could even outshine the moon itself. Looking from afar her physique was so perfect that she instantly caught the attention of all the demons present inside the hall.

"Not at all lady Zelda, you are just in time. Please send my regards to Lord Baal after all this is over" he said as he hurriedly averted his eyes from the woman named Zelda whose presence had enough charm to mesmerize all the demons present in the hall.

"Sir Stellar I'm grateful to Lord Astaroth for sending you in these difficult times," Gareth said as he looked towards an old man with white hair and a long beard wearing a grey robe. Stellar nodded and lightly thumped his long staff into the ground. Similar to Amon, the old man had no presence and appeared to be an ordinary person.

“Gareth it’s been a long time.” A man in heavy warrior armor that seemed to be made of some mysterious material greeted. His face had many scars which added to his already scary face and he carried himself with an air of haughtiness. He was the only person among the four who was releasing some of his aura and his presence seemed as strong as the Demon Archdukes “Indeed Deimos it’s been a while. Is Lord Procell doing well?” Gareth replied as he shook Deimos’ hand as if they were good friends.

After the greetings were finished, the four of them nonchalantly took their seats and sat down. All the demons present in the hall had a reverent gaze as they looked towards the seats where the four were seated. Looking at this scene a smile bloomed on Gareth’s face as he looked at the crowd.

Simon who was at the back of the hall was also staring at the four people that made their entrance. He had a vague idea of the position of the four as he looked at the reverent gaze of the demons around.

“Mann I was hoping to see Lady Lilith who is rumored to be one of the most beautiful women in this world alongside Goddess Vanessa, one of the Seven Seraphims,” Oswald said as he gave a sigh and looked very disappointed. The demihuman girl behind him shook her head and had an exasperated look that said she was already used to his antics.

Chapter 32: Subordinates of the Seven & the Demon of Envy (3)

Simon looked at the new entrants perplexed by their identity. Since he was a demon birthed by the ample manas of this world, he had an impure bloodline and the memories of the world that he inherited were also incomplete. Hence, he didn’t know why even those mighty and imposing Demon Archdukes were respectful towards these four people that had just arrived.

Oswald looked at Simon’s pondering expression and explained “Those three called Amon, Zelda, and Stellar are the subordinates of the three Primordial Demon Lords. Out of the seven primordial Demon Lords, only three are alive namely the Demon Lord of Lust Lady Lilith, Demon Lord of Wrath Lord Baal, and the Demon Lord Sloth Lord Astaroth. The remaining four died during ancient times, throughout these thousands of years many demons filled their positions. But ultimately they were all weaker than their predecessor and ended up dying in these past wars.”

Looking at Simon who was listening intently he added “Do you understand what I’m trying to say? ... Those three seating right there, are people who fought and survived the Apex War from the ancient times till now. Naturally, their position is the highest among all the demons present in the hall.”

Simon finally understood the reason behind the strange behavior of the demons and said “Yeah thanks I understand now... so that means the one that came along with them...”

Oswell as if understanding what he meant followed “Yes that man called Deimos his master is the current Demon Lord of Greed Procell. The demon Lord of Greed Procell had only lived for around three thousand years, how can he be compared to the other three.”

While Simon and Oswald were having such a conversation, the three people seated in front were discussing their own matters.

“As expected the fragments have born again and have found new masters. There are two of them this time, hehe...but there is one strange...” Amon said but before he could complete his sentence, Zelda’s ice-cold voice sounded out “That demon is indeed quite strange.”

“When I thumped my staff into the ground earlier, his was the only status I couldn’t see...very interesting” Stellar said as he stroked his long beard and smiled.

“Leaving aside that strange demon the two that appeared are...” Amon looked at the other two as if confirming something. “Indeed it is the Envy and Gluttony fragments... it’s quite rare for two of the fragments to appear at the same time.” Stellar said as he mused.

Zelda who was keeping her eyelids shut the whole time finally opened them as two silvery crystal eyes came into view. She said, “Times are starting to change again, two new Demon Lords are going to appear soon and those angels aren’t going to sit still”. Both Amon and Stellar nodded their heads in agreement. “Well since the treaty is still in effect they won’t make any obvious movement” Amon surmised.

The commotion erupted by the appearance of four Subordinates of the Demon Lords haven’t ended when Gareth decided to go up the stage and drop another bombshell “Everyone since all the participants are present I want to address the issue for hosting this Walpurgis. The reason is none other than to celebrate the birth of a new Demon Lord, a Joyful event for us all demon folk. I’m pleased to say that my son Belial has been chosen by the fragment of Envy.”

WHOOOOOAAAAAA

Another commotion bigger than the last erupted as soon as his voice fell.

All the demons present inside the hall were stunned as they heard Gareth's statement. Some immediately erupted in joy others were still shocked about the information they just received, and some felt jealous over not being the one to be chosen by the fragment.

Various emotions coagulated into one as the cries of the demons were deafening as they rang out across the hall. The birth of a new demon lord was a joyous moment for all demonkind and the new Demon Lord is none other than the son of an already famous Demon Archduke Lord Gareth.

A handsome man sitting amongst the Demon Archdukes stood up and came in front of the hall, behind him followed the Four Demon Archdukes Boros, Agares, Orca, and Goliath. Even an idiot could now figure out that they belonged to the same faction and supported the new Demon Lord of Envy Belial.

The man that appeared had hair as white as snow and a pair of violet eyes stared at the crowd below. Two ram horns adorned his head and his wide smile added a devilish beauty to his handsome face. He was wearing luxurious white clothes with golden linings that matched his snow-white hair and suited him perfectly.

A regal aura was being emanated from him as he declared in a loud voice "I'm the new Demon Lord of Envy Belial. Though I'm still weak compared to my other Demon Lord Peers, I shall work hard to not disappoint the previous holders of the fragment and bring a new world of glory for the demonkind."

The crowd was still silent when a loud applause along with thundering laughter rang out "Your ideology is truly worthy of the fragment, Lord Belial. I'm sure the predecessor of the fragment of Envy would be quite pleased to know that you hold such ideals" Deimos clapped his hands as he congratulated the new Demon Lord.

Immediately after loud clamor started erupting from the crowd and hordes of demons started surrounding and congratulating Belial trying to curry favor and reap some benefits.

Chapter 33: Armory

The Demon Archdukes also made their congratulations known and just when the clamor was starting to die down, the three subordinates of the primordial demons who were quietly watching the scene walked up towards the new Demon Lord. as soon as they moved, the entire hall became silent as the gazes of all demons were taut on the three of them.

"I give my regards on behalf of Lady Lilith. Demon Lord of Envy, Lord Belial. It's a pleasure meeting you" the first one to speak was Amon as he smiled. Since his face was half-covered with a sad face mask, it made it look quite contrasting.

“Ahaha what is Sir Amon saying the pleasure is mine. Please give my regards to Lady Lilith.” Belial replied courteously as he smiled towards Zelda and Stellar and said “Please send my greetings to Lord Baal and Lord Astaroth.”

The two of them nodded and also made their greetings. With the main event over the three of them soon left the hall disappearing in the same way as they entered.

Simon who watched this scene from the start till the end was just about to leave when three familiar figures seemingly blocked his path. They were the Gelgar trio.

Gelgar looked at Simon with contempt and flashed a cruel smile “Why are you in such a hurry lowborn demon?. As I said earlier don’t think ill spare you, I don’t know where you have hidden your dungeon but ill soon find it and...” he made a clenching gesture with his hand and smirked.

Simon seemingly unaffected by those words simply walked past him and stopped after taking a few steps. He replied without looking behind “Yeah I welcome you inside my dungeon. But once you enter, don’t ever think about leaving it alive” a malevolent look on his crimson eyes.

Without further ado, he leaped onto his Warhorse and was just about to reach the portal when Oswell’s voice sounded. “Hey, Simon you are really something. If destiny allows we shall meet again....Friend.” leaving behind those words he left along with the demi-human subordinate of his.

“Does little Oswell want to befriend that demon?” the demihuman girl behind Oswell said as they were walking towards their own teleportation portal. Hearing her call him little Oswell, he immediately flared up and said in an outburst “How many times do I have to tell you not to call me little Oswell; Briana”

The woman named Briana was an [S] ranked subordinate that Oswell summoned. She was a World Encompassing Divine Wolf and right now, she was using her skills to mask her appearance so as to not stand out. if she had revealed her true appearance, all the eyes of the demons present inside the hall would be on her as it was on Zelda. Before coming here, Oswell told her that she would gather too much attention with her absolutely stunning figure and hence told her to stay behind.

But she was all too familiar with Oswell’s peculiar antics which invited trouble all around him, therefore she used her skill to mask her appearance and attended the banquet. Looking at little Oswell who was throwing a tantrum, she simply smiled.

“Look here Briana you can’t call me little Oswald. It is not cool at all and would make the other demons laugh at me. you should never ever ever ever call me that” Oswald explained how he didn’t like the way she called him along their way to the portal.

“Alright, alright I get it, you don’t want me to call you little Oswald. But little Oswald you didn’t tell me why you wanted to befriend that Demon Baron” Hurriedly changing the subject she asked.

Letting out an exasperated sigh, Oswald explained making a serious expression that was out of character for him. The impression that he made now was totally different from the one he was making a few moments ago as he explained “That’s where you are wrong Briana... He is no ordinary Demon Baron. When I conversed with him, I didn’t even feel the slightest presence of his aura nor was I able to see through his status. It was like his entire being was a peculiarity and everything was strange about him... it was like something that didn’t belong to this world”

“Hohh” Briana made a pondering expression. She didn’t converse with Simon and mostly kept to herself during the banquet thus she didn’t detect any peculiarities on that demon. But if Oswald was asserting that then it might be true. “Alright let’s go back” just when they were about to delve inside their teleportation portal, Briana suddenly glanced up into the sky for a fraction of a second before shifting them away.

Seeing that she was glancing towards the sky, Oswald couldn’t help but ask “Is there something wrong?”. “Nope, there is no one up in the sky not even the subordinates of the demon lords” Briana said nonchalantly as she went inside the portal.

High above in the sky, three figures appeared like a ghost. Below them was a faint outline of a castle, this castle was precisely the Castle of Avernus and the three figures were Amon, Zelda, and Stellar. “The new holder of Gluttony appears quite tactful compared to the holder of Envy. What do you guys think?” Stellar mused while stroking his beard. “Snort” Zelda just snorted in return and disappeared. Amon kept staring at the castle below and replied with a faint smile after a while “Only time can tell if they can ride the waves that are about to stir in all of the continents or sink on them”. Saying that he too disappeared into nothingness as if he was never there.

Chapter 34: Armory (2)

After passing through the warp gate Simon found himself back on the ninth floor of his dungeon. “This warp gate is very useful and if I’m correct it should be a form of space magic,” he said as he looked at the slowly disappearing warp gate.

The warp gate was able to traverse a huge amount of distance and was able to bring him from his dungeon to the castle of Avernus located at the far end of the Demon continent. The magic was definitely a top-tier magic and Simon could only hope to achieve the magic of this caliber someday.

He wondered what kind of power and wealth one needed to create the many warp portals for all the demons to attend the banquet.

‘Demon Archduke what kind of a realm was it... not to mention the Demon Lords that are above them’ Simon wondered as he blankly stared at the ceiling of his dungeon. This trip to the Walpurgis had clearly shown him his current position in the demon hierarchy and re-ignited his convictions to get stronger. Other than a sense of urgency to get stronger, he also felt ecstasy that originated from his bloodline whenever he thought about increasing his rank. If he wanted to survive he has no other choice but to rank up so that demons like Gelgar can’t step all over him.

Thinking about the conversation back then brought the rage he suppressed back then. He was aware that an egotistical man like Gelgar would not leave things be like that and would retaliate sooner or later.

Simon was not afraid of fighting Gelgar but the same could not be said for his dungeon. If on the off chance the dungeon core got destroyed it was the same as him dying. After the dungeon is created, it can never be moved. For that reason, he and his dungeon must grow and rank up alongside. After pondering for a while Simon finally thought of a way of increasing his strength without leveling up. The method he came up with was none other than to use weapons. Weapons can temporarily boost his strength and the various skills that it bestows would allow him to fight opponents many times stronger than him and having such weapons would be useful in crucial moments.

Right now he had lots of [C] rank weapons that he had drawn from the [Gacha]. He had seen how uncommon a [C] rank weapon was during the auction, where even the high-ranking demons like demon earl were frantically bidding for it. Unlike those demons, Simon had a ton of those items stored in his inventory. But what he wanted was not a mere [C] rank weapon that is sold in the auction instead, he wanted something even higher. Now that he knows how strong a [B] rank subordinate can be, he wanted nothing less than a [B] rank weapon. His appetite had increased but since he knew that his future path would be full of peril he couldn’t be satisfied with anything less than that.

However, getting a [B] or a higher rank weapon was not easy. It could be seen from the results of his gacha, even after continuously drawing it every day other than the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse he had not gotten a single [B] rank. Forget about getting something higher, even getting a [B] rank was a tall order unless he had more DP than can he spend on the gacha. But Simon was not disappointed because he did get something that would help him get a higher rank weapon. He quickly opened his [Main Menu] and pressed on the [Armory] option.

When he was developing the game in his previous life, he was aware of the rarity of getting a high-rank weapon from the [Gacha]. For that reason, Simon added another feature called [Armory] that players could use to refine their lower rank weapons into something stronger and possibly even upgrade their ranks in the process. After reincarnating into this world, today would be his first time using this option to refine a weapon of his choice.

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Main Menu

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Armory

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Hero's Altar

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Armory had two options [Refine] and [Upgrade]. Refinement uses a material called Amegdite crystals to increase the strength of the weapon, thus increasing its refinement level. The Weapons can be refined a total of 5 times but after each successful refinement, the amount of material that is Amegdite crystals required increases. Amegdite crystals weren't a rare item and can easily be drawn

from [Gacha]. The crystal looked just like an ordinary ash grey crystal with no other features to speak of. It had no other uses other than refining weapons and as of now, Simon had accumulated quite a bit of it after drawing gacha for more than a month.

A refined weapon is stronger than a weapon of the same class and can even output attacks a tier above its actual class. If a [C] tier weapon is refined till its max refinement, it would be able to match a [B] tier weapon.

However, a [C] tier weapon no matter how many times it is refined, will always remain a [C] tier weapon and the skill it bestows would never be able to match what a [B] tier weapon can grant. And that was the reason why Simon did not want to use a refined [C] tier weapon when he could use the [Upgrade] option to get himself a higher rank weapon.

Chapter 35: Crimson Blazing Flame Blade

Refining a weapon was tempting but what he wanted to use right now was the [Upgrade] option. This option combines the essence of all the weapons placed for upgrading to create a higher-rank weapon. Naturally, there is a chance of a failure and in that case, all the weapons placed for the upgrade disintegrates. The higher the rank of the weapons placed for upgrade the lower the rate of success. Simon understood that there is no benefit without risk, if he wanted to upgrade a higher rank weapon, then he has to take the risk of failure associated with it.

The way the [Upgrade] option worked was very simple, one just needs to place the weapons they wanted to upgrade in the slots and just press on the upgrade. once the upgrade starts, one cannot stop the process nor can they take out the weapons placed for upgrading. Hence one needs to be very careful before choosing the weapons they want to upgrade.

Simon took out four [D] rank weapons from his inventory and placed it for the upgrade, a maximum of four weapons can be placed at once and initiated the upgrade. As soon as the upgrade started a piercing white halo erupted out and blotted the screen. the white light settled after a while and the result was a success, a [C] tier short spear called white Fang was created.

The spear was entirely white, the shaft had a beautiful pattern, and the tip of the spear, a sharp and piercing glint flowed on its remarkable blade. Furthermore, like a row of teeth, tiny fangs lined up the blade giving it quite a threatening look. Simon brandished the White Fang for a while and felt that the spear was quite good. It not only provided him with a huge boost in stats but also new repertoire of skills.

However, Simon was not content with a [C] tier weapon. He put another four weapons for the upgrade and after the white halo settled, the result was another success. He immediately placed the next batch of weapons and repeated the process dozens of times.

(Success, Success, Failure, Success, Success, Success, Success, Success, Failure, Success, Success, Success, Success, Success, Failure...)

Simon noticed that five out of six times the upgrade would be a success and after upgrading for a while, he was left with sixty [C] rank weapons. If he took this many [C] rank weapons for auction, Simon imagined that he would amass a large amount of DP. Shaking the idea out of his head, he placed another batch of [C] rank weapons for the upgrade. He cannot auction all these items as he needed them to get himself a high-rank weapon. The upgrade took a while and when the white halo settled, with a bang smoke started coming out. this phenomenon was not new to him and he knew that the result was a failure, and all the weapons placed were disintegrated.

Looking at this scene made his heart ache a little. But he persisted on and quickly placed another four of them for the upgrade. The result was another failure, he placed another four and repeated the process.

After continuous experimentation, Simon learned that there was one-third of a chance for a [B] rank weapon to be created out of [C] rank weapons. The cycle of success and failure continued and after upgrading for a while, he was left with twenty [B] rank weapons. Each of these weapons was quite powerful and if refined further using the amegdite crystals, their strength would no doubt increase manifold. However, it was still not the end of the upgrade process.

Simon's eyes were now focused as he prepared for the next round of upgrades

With his heart rapidly pounding Simon placed four [B] rank weapons and initiated the upgrade. Each of these [B] tier items if placed for auction, would make even a Demon Duke frantically bid for them not to mention that at present Simon had twenty of those at hand. As the rank of the items placed for upgrade increases, the time it takes for the upgrade to complete also increases. Seconds ticked away and time stopped into a crawl, with bated breath, Simon awaited the result. After the white halo settled, BANG... a loud sound erupted and all the weapons disintegrated; the result a failure.

Four [B] rank weapons disappeared into dust just like that. He felt a sharp twinge of pain looking at this scene, the weapons if auctioned would fetch more than two million DP each. Simon sighed inwardly as he forced himself to place another batch of weapons and initiated the upgrade. This time his eyes were focused intensely as if trying to see the inner mechanisms of the upgrade. The upgrade went on for a while and after what felt like eons, with a loud bang another four weapons disintegrated into dust...

With bloodshot eyes he witnessed another batch of weapons turn into dust. Out of the initial twenty [B] rank weapons, eight of them disappeared just like that. Leaving aside the amount of DP they could have fetched him, he truly felt that the [Upgrade] was a money-burning machine. But he couldn't afford to stop here now that he started the process he had to see the end with his own eyes.