

D. of Pride 351

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It was as she had expected, Simon crashed headfirst into the barrier. The two people he was facing, was hundreds of level above him, it couldn't even said a battle since the other party was one-sidedly oppressing him.

[Multi-Cast] and [Shadow Casting] weren't skills that he would be aware of at his level. it was no wonder that he would find the situation incredulous. He was lacking in every department whether level, skills or experience.

Just when Adalinda thought about stepping in, she saw Simon taking out a crimson sword that she had never seen before. What was more surprising for her than the fact that he was hiding such a weapon, was its power.

Even without using [Analysis], she could tell that the Crimson blade that looked like it was made of blood, was a top-tier [A] rank blade. Using the power of his weapon, the demon noble was able to tear a hole in the holy magic barrier [Gladius], a feat that should have been impossible for him.

Lucine narrowed her eyes and smiled "See I told you, that demon is not ordinary. His fate is destined to be not simple, or else how could he be chosen as one of the inheritors of that thing in the forbidden trail ground".

When Adalinda heard those words, her eyes immediately went wide "You mean to say that he was chosen by...".

She was so shocked that she couldn't complete her words. Simon was pummelled back into the coliseum, and stamped into the ground by a curtain of white light. One could imagine the kind of emotions he was going through after being put into such a state.

His opponent can easily defeat him with their powers; however, instead of doing that, they were just pressuring him with their aura, intending to break his will and enjoying his struggle. His hands were targeted making him unable to keep holding the weapon.

Nevertheless, those glaring crimson eyes of his, never got clouded over with despair. His eyes still shined with the light of making it out of this predicament.

"Is this it?" Adalinda mumbled silently, her eyes sceptical.

It was true that Simon was a little special in his own way but it was nowhere enough to gain the acknowledgement of that thing from the forbidden trail ground. As her thought process reached till here, her preconception was brutally broken apart by what she saw next.

The demon who she thought had reached his limit, suddenly had this ridiculous power spike and was even able to somewhat resist the pressure from his opponent who was well over level 700. That wasn't all, the feeling and aura he gave off, made him seem like a completely different person.

No matter who it was looking at him, they could feel a heavy oppression that originated from deep down their soul. Even Adalinda and Lucine who were watching all of this from high above the skies, were no exception.

"What did he do? This kind of feeling shouldn't be coming off from a low-ranking Demon Viscount. This kind of oppressing aura, I only felt it against Lord Morax and a handful of few people in this world".

Adalinda uttered unable to contain her shock.

"What?! Same as Grandpa?" Lucine asked shocked by the revelation.

Though Adalinda wanted to jab at those words of her disciple, another surprise came from the side of Simon. The moment Simon activated his [Ancestral Symbol Ignition] she was able to instantly recognise it and was no longer able to stay calm.

"Ancestral symbol?! Are those ancestral symbols carved on his body".

Adalinda stood there motionless, she felt like today was just one surprise after another.

"Ancestral symbol... then that means he is one of the possessors of the fragments of Sin. A demon viscount who was chosen by a fragment, what a freak" Lucine said, her golden eyes was constantly fixed on the figure of Simon.

Everything, from his peculiar behaviour to her not being able to see his status and even being chosen as one of the inheritors by that thing, everything made sense now.

The Demon Noble who these two people were looking down upon, was someone who had the potential to become one of the strongest and stand at the pinnacle of this entire world. It wasn't an exaggeration or some biased opinion of hers but simply the truth.

If this demon was given enough time, those aforementioned words of her would turn into reality.

'To think that a low ranking demon I casually met back in the ghastly winding forest, would be hiding so much potential... is it really a coincidence?' Lucine thought internally.

Meanwhile, Adalinda remembered the conversation she had with Irene back in the dining room of that dungeon.

"Why do you stick around that demon? From what I can tell, you possess a power that is no less powerful than my lord... So why?" Adalinda asked, perplexed by the concern the woman showed for the demon.

"He is someone whose fate and destiny is completely tangled and obscured like an abyss. He himself doesn't know who he is but I think the day he finds out, he would be able to undergo a complete transformation".

At that time, Irene's reply, made no sense to her and was very vague for her to understand anything. But now that she had seen and witnessed what the demon was capable of, she couldn't help but agree with those words.

At this moment a clear sound of a bell rang out across the entire city and a huge curtain of light that comprised of an unimaginable amount of holy energy, dropped down from the sky and onto Simon.

Seeing that, Lucine moved immediately. She extended her hand and was just about to swipe down, she was stopped by her master.

"Seriously, I have a boat load of complaints for that guy. Let your master deal with those two nincompoops" Adalinda said while in her head she was constantly cussing Simon for seducing her disciple.

As he master, how could she not see it, the light in those eyes with which she gazed at Simon. Although right now it was just admiration and affability, it would take time for these feelings to develop into something more complex and powerful.

'I knew it, every demon lord are a bad news'.

"Seriously, what are you thinking blatantly flashing all those abilities of yours in the public" Simon heard a voice that was full of complaint and fury in his head and a smile immediately appeared in his face.

Adalinda stretched her hand and with a gesture of clenching her hands, the space above the entire city distorted and just like that her powers penetrated through the barrier and shattered the space in front of Simon before the attack hit him.

Davis after hearing the name 'Vincent' was surprised for a second before his surprise turned into anger. He did not know the identity of this mysterious presence that had just shown themselves but using that name so casually, cannot be forgiven that easily. Not to mention the other party even made light of their Adventurer's association.

"This esteemed guest, please do not mistake my generosity for my weakness. This matter does not concern you, it will be good for you if you do not interfere in it" Davis said, looking high up in the sky.

The crowd too finally became aware of it and matched his line of sight to gaze at the sky. There, they could see a petite figure proudly standing in the sky. Her golden dress, porcelain white skin and her lustrous black hair made her seem like a beautiful doll.

"Hoh~ I must say you have quite the guts to threaten me brat," Adalinda said arching her brows, an intimidating look in her eyes.

The audience doubted their ears, a girl that looked no more than sixteen or seventeen years old, was actually calling Davis Hall whose age was well over 500, a brat? They felt their lips twitching but no one had the guts to laugh at an officer of the Adventurer's Association.

Davis Hall felt his face heating up after that remark and saw the funny way the audience was looking at him. In his shame, he immediately used the huge magic circle in the sky to send forth a white beam of light thrice as big as the ones that dropped on the coliseum.

Snort... he snorted, the twofold magic circle that he had created, was his most powerful technique and the culmination of skills that he had gathered. As long as he had this technique, he wasn't afraid to fight someone even if they were a few levels above him.

However, even in his wildest dreams, he couldn't have imagined that the one he had enraged this time wasn't someone he could afford to in his impatience.

Simon smiled, this guy was really over his head, if he thought that attack would be able to even faze Adalinda. Out of all the actions that the guy could choose from, he had chosen the option where he was most likely to die.

During the course of their journey, Simon slowly became aware of how powerful the little girl was, that is why he could tell that even if there were hundreds of Davis Hall present here they wouldn't even be able to put a scratch on her.

That was how powerful Adalinda was. And as if to prove him right, Adalinda did not even bother to dodge or move from her place and simply allowed the beam of light to attack her.

Seeing the attack land squarely on the girl, the audience wasn't surprised and shifted their eyes. They all knew what the outcome of getting hit by such a powerful attack would be. Though they pitied the girl, nobody dared say anything.

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After sending his attack flying at the girl, Davis turned around to face the demon noble who still had a smile on his face for some reason. Thinking of it as nothing, he was just about to finish what he started, when Vovues who was beside him suddenly cautioned.

Immediately, Davis shifted his attention towards the sky to see an unbelievable sight.

Even after taking an all-out attack from him, the girl was still standing unscathed and perfectly fine in the same spot.

"Did you think a pathetic attack of this level would even be able to touch me? Brat, I wonder where this confidence of yours to challenge I, Adalinda stems from".

Adalinda stated with her cold callous eyes that could give chills to anyone. She looked up and spotted the huge twofold magic circle silently rotating in the sky.

"Perhaps because of this".

The moment those words came out of her mouth, she extended her hand and pinched towards the sky. At that instant, every watching eyes to their disbelief, could see the sky being shattered in half along with the huge magic circle.

The sky above the city had a huge crack that refused to disappear for quite a while. Everyone present in the coliseum, was silent for a good long while, they only came back to themselves when they heard Sir Davis coughing out a mouthful of blood.

Having his magic circle shattered ruthlessly like that, gave him quite the backlash and severely disturbed the flow of mana inside his body leading to him coughing out mouthfuls of blood.

Barely stabilising himself, Davis glanced back in the sky, this time with dread in his eyes. He couldn't believe that the little girl would be able to break his magic circle with just the pinch of her hand as if it was some persimmon.

Vouves beside him also had a pale face, from that previous exchange, he could tell that the strength of the other party was far beyond what they can even imagine. He observed the little girl carefully and tried to recall any information he had about her but ultimately came out with nothing.

Though he knew nothing about her, he still felt that it was in their best interest not to earn her ire any more.

"Snort... I guess that puts you in your place. You are lucky that I'm in a good mood or else snuffing your life would be as easy as squashing an ant for me".

After ruthlessly stomping on the face of Davis in front of hundreds of thousands of people, she shifted her attention to Simon.

"What are you still standing there for, come back here" she commanded.

Simon did not have any reason to refuse, unfurled his wings and flew up. Now that he has used multiple skills and even ignited his ancestral symbol, the repercussion he would suffer after the duration ends would make him unable to continue standing. He had to get to a safe place before that.

Seeing the demon casually fly away, Davis hesitated for a while and after much contemplation, he decided to speak up. He believed that the other party destroying his two-fold magic circle was just to showcase the vast difference in their strength, he did not believe that the other party would kill him knowing his background.

"A minute please, this esteemed guest. I don't know what your relationship with that demon noble is but he has broken the treaty by invading the kingdom of Ellesmere and even attacked its prince and severely injured a participant. Our Adventurer's Association cannot simply just overlook it, we must punish this demon for this aggression. I hope you understand".

With his words, he reminded the other party of the ancient treaty and that they were in the right, while at the same time making it seem like the severity of the situation was more than what it looked.

Davis smiled, he knew that after this the other party cannot just simply take the Demon Noble away since doing so would make it seem like the little girl was making light of the treaty and the adventurer's Association at the same time.

However, what he didn't know was that Adalinda simply did not care about all of that.

Lucine who watching all of this from high up in the sky couldn't control her laugh.

"What an idiot. To think that he would try to threaten a member of the race that enforced the very same treaty with it."

Adalinda had an irritated face from the start to finish, she was doing her best not to kill this ant who kept on pestering about irrelevant things. With her intelligence, how could she not see what the other guy was plotting? This seemed to infuriate her even more.

She sighed audibly, turned her attention back on Davis and stared at him as if he was a dead person.

"From that moment you have been continuously spouting nonsense. It seems that keeping you alive was a big mistake. Let me do you a favour and help you shut your mouth forever".

Her cold and indifferent words just sounded out when her hands swung down in a cleaving motion. Davis had a hard time understanding her words but before he could even contemplate on it further, his body was frozen stiff by an aura of death that came swinging its scythe on him.

"Tempest Magic Mastery- [Materialise Zephyrus]" Vouves roared out loud and used every bit of his skills and mana to create a huge emerald bird made of wind.

The attack that can tear apart the very firmament of space, collided with the huge bird and in front of every gobsnacked eyes, was cleaved in half before exploding out in a big boom.

BOOOOMMMM...

The resulting energy storm was so ridiculous that it could have potentially wiped out the whole capital if not for the fact that turbulent energy was wreaking havoc in the sky. Though it wasn't like the capital had suffered no damage, many buildings collapsed and people were knocked out unconscious.

The coliseum similarly had suffered severe damage, and its conditions was in ruins. Other than a few high-levelled people, most of the spectators were blown back and rendered unconscious by the aftermath.

After the dust from the destruction settled down, two people who looked extremely miserable could be seen rolling on the ground, barely able to stand again. They had a terrified look in their face and a body covered in injuries.

The two people were none other than Davis Hall and Vouves. At this moment, the whole of the main stage was gone and they were pushed back into the ground by hundreds of meters.

Davis was stupefied, that attack earlier would have taken his life if not for the timely intervention from his friend. But even then, the most Vouves could do was stop the attack from landing on the capital knowing full well what would have been the consequences otherwise.

He had misjudged the entire situation, the other party wasn't someone he can afford to anger and more so hackle with them. He was almost about to lose his life for that and had endangered the whole capital along with him.

Adalinda looked at the sight of destruction and clicked her tongue, she did not attack further nor did she comment anything. She glanced at the two miserable old men before slowly flying away.

Simon silently followed behind her, he glanced back at the coliseum and deeply etched everything that had happened today in his heart.

The accusation, pain, humiliation and everything else he had to suffer, was because he was weak. He was so powerless that Adalinda had to intervene on his behalf. If not for the fact that she had arrived in the capital in time, Simon would have likely been captured today or forced to use the return transit rock.

"Thank you" he expressed his gratitude on their way out of the capital. Adalinda simply snorted and did not say much in return.

Back in the coliseum, everyone sighed in relief after they saw the little girl, the incarnation of destruction, go away. For the first time in their life, they felt the threat of death clearer than ever. Had the attack landed on the coliseum, they had no doubt that they would have perished.

"Who would have thought an officer of the Adventurer's Association and a powerful Ranker of the Sanguine empire would be reduced to this state by just a little girl" Scott green said, fear apparent in his words.

"Power dictates everything, it gives you the right to decide other's fate and allows you to look down upon the world. As long as you have power, you can do anything" Benny Beckermann clenched his fists and said.

"You said that he is the very same man you have met in the city of Mountmend right? Then that means the dungeon that recently appeared in the ghastly winding forest is his?" a peculiar glint flashed in his eyes.

Scott looked at the guild master of Sea God's trident and couldn't help but ask curiously.

"You don't plan on chasing after that demon do you? Did you not see what happened to those two when they tried to go against her? As long as she is with him, forget about getting the information out of that demon, you won't even be able to go near him".

Hearing those words, Benny Beckerman looked back at him with a smile.

"Do you really believe a Demon Viscount could possibly have someone like that little girl whose level is higher than those two old fogies as his guardian?"

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"I believe that girl did all of this because of some puny favour she might have owed to that demon. After all, a being of her level would hate to owe someone. Now that she has repaid her debt, she is likely to go on her own path".

"You mean to say is that..." before Scott could complete his sentence, he heard the sea god's trident guild leader give orders to one of his nearby subordinates who was barely able to stay conscious after all that.

"The direction they are flying to, will eventually lead them to fortress Volkan. If that demon wants to go back to the Ghastly Winding Forest, he has to take this route. Contact those two, tell them to stop in the fortress city on their way, also tell them that we have found one of the perpetrators behind the tragedy that unfolded with Chuck".

The subordinate immediately understood what his guild master was planning and hurriedly left the coliseum to carry out his order.

After leaving the capital behind and traversing the mountainous region for a while, the two finally stopped. Adalinda who was silently flying in the lead, finally turned around at this time and faced Simon whose body was continuously twitching and trembling, possibly from the repercussion of the skills that he forcibly activated.

She first sighed at the condition he was rendered to before dropping down on the ground for a stop.

'I can't believe a demon who can't even defend himself would be a possessor of the fragment of Sin' Adalinda complained internally nonetheless, she did not continue with their journey.

"Seriously, you have no awareness. What would you have done had I not arrived at the capital on time?" she grumbled looking at the clueless demon.

"He probably would have used the return transit rock to teleport back to the forbidden trail ground right, Mister Simon?"

Adalinda's question was answered by another voice, Lucine appeared out of thin air startling the Demon Viscount.

"Why are you acting so surprised? Hmph, weren't you the one who lead my master here. It is all because of you that I have to cut my trip short".

'It is because of me? Weren't you the one that led your master to me first? If she didn't insist on bringing me along, all of this wouldn't have happened in the first place'.

Simon wanted to retort but right now his body was suffering through so much pain that he felt like if he opened his mouth, he would involuntarily scream out.

He bought a few elixirs of healing and quickly gulped them down; however, how could the repercussions from activating so many skills, igniting ancestral symbol and abusing his body go away that easily?

Simon knew that he would have to suffer like that for a couple of hours or possibly even a day.

"Enough bickering, since he is not feeling well, let him rest here," Adalinda said creating a barrier that separated them from the outside.

Knowing that he can rest here without worrying, Simon found a rock to sit down nearby and allowed his nerves to relax. The moment he did that, his body immediately erupted with more pain.

Seeing that, Adalinda glanced towards Lucine who pouted for a second before relenting to her glare.

'Hmph, he should suffer more. Why must I be the one to help him' though she thought that internally, Lucine still found a rock near Simon and sat beside him.

Simon's eyes were closed; nonetheless, he still felt the presence of Lucine approach him. She gently placed her hands on his back and an energy so vast and pure that it opened every pore in his body, flowed inside him swiftly dissipating the pain around his body.

Simon did not stop her from whatever she was doing, since he knew that she won't harm him. Even he didn't know where this confidence of his stemmed from.

"You might think that your body is suffering so much because of the repercussions from you activating all those skills and pushing your body to its limit. However, that is just partly the reason. The main cause of this severe pain is because your body was basked in holy magic for too long and some of it managed to seep inside your body".

"Your body is naturally now rejecting the holy energy and this is causing an internal clash in your mana lines. It would no doubt heal on its own if you give it some time but it will also leave some permanent damage" Lucine explained.

Her vast energy that he felt flowing inside his body, told Simon how precise her control over her mana was. Pouring one's own mana into another body sounded easier said than done, it needed an extreme amount of knowledge of the mana system, mana lines and an acute control over mana.

Even Simon did not know how to do it, since his control over mana was still very crude. Perhaps, her level of control was no inferior than Irene's.

Simon inferred, as he felt her energy do a full circulation around his body, the foreign energy that had seeped inside him unknowingly, slowly but surely dissipated. At the same time, the pain that his body was feeling, also subsided a little.

After helping him remove the holy energy from his body, Lucine snorted and grumpily walked away.

If she was mad at him, then why did she even help him? Simon found that he can no longer understand the reasoning of this woman.

Time passed by swiftly and before long Simon felt like his body was back to normal, he had also recovered 80% of his expended mana and most of his pain was gone.

Sun had already set by now, when he opened his eyes, he saw Lucine and Adalinda seated on a rock not far away from him, discussing something.

"Oh, so you woke up from your meditative state huh. Quite impressive of your body to recover from all of that in just eight hours" Adalinda said observing his body.

Eight hours? Simon was stunned, when he was in that state, he had lost the sense of time. He guessed that a couple of hours must have passed but he didn't expect more than 8 hours to go by just like that.

Seeing his surprise, Adalinda snorted "What did you expect? You not only activated all your augmenting skills without any regard but also ignited the ancestral symbols in your body? You would have to meditate for far longer if we didn't expel that holy energy from your body".

Simon widened his eyes, he didn't expect Adalinda to recognise the skill he had used back then. The [Ancestral Symbol Ignition] skill was one of his trump cards, naturally, he wouldn't feel too good after it was exposed.

"What's with that look of yours? Did you think it would be a secret after you used it in front of hundreds of thousands of people? Hmph, let me tell you one thing, you were lucky that this place was some remote corner of the central continent and many people aren't aware of it. Had it been the mainland, you would have to forget about leaving the place".

"I know I have said this many times but that skill of yours, don't go around flaunting that skill of yours around others until your level is high enough" Adalinda warned, she was exasperated by how low the common sense of this Demon Noble was.

Simon nodded, he knew that the latter had said all of that due to her concern for him.

"If you don't mind me asking, what is your ancestry, Mister Demon Viscount?" Lucine initiated a new conversation, staring intensely at him with her golden eyes.

Simon had a clueless look on his face for a second before he realised what she meant. He shook his head and answered truthfully.

"I am a demon that was born from the ample mana of this world, I do not have any demon ancestry".

When he finished his words and glanced back at them, he saw the dumbfounded look that was plastered on their face.

"This is unprecedented, a low-born demon being chosen by a fragment" Adalinda muttered in a voice that only she could hear. She was starting to think that the common sense did not even apply to this Demon Noble in front of him or maybe it was her who was going crazy.

He was an anomaly that cannot be judged. Lucine was of the same thought, she felt like from the moment she met him, he never failed to give her one surprise after another.

"SIGH... I feel like I would lose my own common sense if I probe anymore. Leaving that aside, I'm dying to know how did you attract the attention of those two people?" Adalinda asked with a tired look on her face.

"About that..." Simon was suddenly reminded of the reason behind the two old men wanting to capture him. He told the two in front of him the whole truth and how he was blamed for something he didn't commit.

"So that was how huh. I was right when I sensed the aura of a Demon earl around this part when I arrived here" Lucine confirmed.

Adalinda nodded her head and said, "He must have felt your presence and used you as a perfect scapegoat for whatever he wanted to accomplish here".

"Do you know who that demon is?" Simon asked. He was plotted against and almost captured. He didn't know what his future would be if he did get caught but he did know that it wouldn't be anything bright.

How could he just let it be? He wanted to find that demon to pay back this debt.

Adalinda shook her head, telling him that it would be difficult to know who that Demon Earl was just based on their aura.

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"Do not be impatient, a Demon Earl isn't a rank that you could challenge yet. If we strictly talk about demon lineage, a demon earl is in the truest sense a true noble. Whereas, Demon Baron and

Demon viscount are only considered false nobles. The reason being that a Demon earl's bloodline is very pure, their potential and strength are also very high. Many a times in demon hierarchy, you would find them as a closed subordinate or a butler of a superior ranking demon noble".

"If we talk in terms of strength, not even a dozen peak levelled Demon Viscount would be able to defeat or injure a Demon earl. You should know by now how hard it is to cross each hundred-level barrier. A Demon earl is someone who has breached level 500 and is on a realm far higher than you. I can tell you now, even if you used, that [A] rank sword of yours and even ignite the ancestral symbol at the risk of exposing it, you still won't be its opponent".

Adalinda stared him in the eye and reminded.

Simon kept his calm and did not say anything even after being made aware of the vast disparity between the ranks of a demon viscount and a Demon Earl. He knew that he wasn't a match for the demon earl; however that was only true so for right now, he believed that the disparity between them wouldn't remain the same in the future.

After resting for a while they decided to move. Now that Adalinda had found her disciple, there was no reason for her to keep staying on the central continent and since Simon had fulfilled his obligation he was free to return back.

"You sure you don't want me to return back to your dungeon?" Adalinda asked.

Simon shook his head and rejected her help, he already owed her a big favour for rescuing him from that situation, his pride won't allow him to keep being reliant on her. Plus after that display from Adalinda, he was sure that no one would come following him.

And since he knows the general direction for the way back to the city of Mountmend, he can just make the trip himself.

Lucine observed Simon and read his thoughts like an open book, she wanted to tell him something; however, when she thought that it would be good for him to realise it himself, she restrained herself back.

"Since you believe so, allow master to at least create a spatial tear for you. This way, you would be far away from the capital and out of reach of any possible pursuers and those two old fogies. Just take this favour from master and return it some other time, you don't want them to capture you again right? Using the spatial tear, you will be able to easily outrun them".

Hearing Lucine say all that, Simon finally decided to rely on their help one last time. He did not believe that someone who valued their life would come after him knowing that he had a powerful backer like Adalinda.

Then again, he did not want to meet those two humans over level 700, especially when his most powerful skill and trump card was in cool down.

Adalinda swiped her finger and created a spatial tear that covered dozens of kilometres. With this much distance between him and his pursuers, he was sure to be fine.

Just as he was about to jump into the tear, Lucine's soft words rang in his ears.

"Remember the humiliation you had to suffer today and use it as a driving force to become strong. If you want to strength, you might want to risk your life clearing the forbidden trial ground. I'm sure we will meet again, mister future demon lord".

When Simon turned back, the both of them were already gone. thousands of meters above the sky, the figure of Adalinda and Lucine came into view once again.

"You sure you don't want to tell that simpleton of demon? from what I can tell he is taking the situation very lightly" Adalinda commented.

p Hearing that, Lucine was surprised for a moment before saying in a flustered manner.

"H-Huh?! Why should I tell him all that, it is all that demon's fault for making light of his situation in the first place. Anyways, that demon isn't someone who will drop dead that easily. This might be a good wake-up call for him to realise his mistakes".

After taking a deep breath, Simon dived inside the tear "Alright now, its time to go back".

A vast field of grassland with small and big mountains here and there, lay in front of him. There was also a few small town and villages spread over the area. Simon flapped his wings and decided to avoid them.

He opened his [Mental Map] skill which he used to chart the places on his way to the capital. Now he can use the same path to navigate his way back.

Utilising his [High-speed flight] Simon covered dozens of meters of land in a few hours and just like that, he kept on flying for half a day. He did stop in between to restore his mana.

Right now, he was resting on a small hilltop overlooking a river.

"I'm still yet to get out from the territory directly governed by the royal family. If I keep on going north, I should soon enter the fortress city Volkan. Once I passed through there, I would be out of the central area of this kingdom".

Simon said looking at his mental map. At this moment, his [Detect Presence] skill suddenly detected a few presences that were hurriedly approaching him from distance. Immediately becoming alert, Simon concealed his aura using the Ice phoenix's Sigh and hid behind a nearby boulder.

Even after a while, Simon couldn't see anyone, the area was completely devoid of any person. Though he couldn't see anyone, Simon knew better than to ignore his skill which was alerting him like crazy.

He did not release his concealment and waited for some time, when he moved his gaze towards the sky following his flaring instincts, he was finally able to notice some peculiarities. A few thousand meters up in the sky was something that was travelling at a very fast speed. But since it was hidden by some mechanism at work, the thing couldn't be seen.

"Air Engine?!" Simon immediately recognised what the thing chasing after him was, it also made him realise why he couldn't see them and how they were able to chase after him so fast.

Unlike the one he had travelled in, which was owned by duke Montford, the air engine in front of him was much larger and grand.

The Air Engine landed in the field not far away from the small hill Simon was hiding, before continuing on its path. A group of no less than twenty people got down from it and started investigating and searching the area.

From their aura and the garbs they were wearing, they were definitely adventurers. At that instant, Simon understood what was happening, these people were definitely out for him and searching for any tracks or clues he might have left behind.

The worst possibility that he thought had a negligible chance of occurring finally came true. There really were pursuers after him. But why?

"Didn't those two not give up yet even after receiving an attack from Adalinda?" Simon wondered as he saw them approaching the small hill he was hiding in.

When they were only a few meters away from him, Simon jumped up from his hiding place and rushed towards them. Using his [Analysis], he was able to tell that this group consisted of people whose average level was around 250.

The moment he acted, he was spotted by the group of people and they immediately took out their weapons to engage with him.

"He is here, quickly notify the other groups," the warrior donning on a sturdy-looking armour said to his teammates at the backline who took out something that looked like a transmission conch from their space ring.

"Flame Magic Mastery- [Flame Spear Barrage]" Simon decided to take them out with his magic.

Flame arrows that packed enough power to level the entire place rained down on the screaming adventurers who couldn't muster up any defence in front of a super-fast magic. Before long, they were sprawled on the ground with many wounded and dead.

Simon did not care to control his strength since these people were his enemies. After cleaning them up in a matter of a minute, he looked at the insignia these people were wearing. It was trident, a blue trident that looked majestic and powerful.

"Sea God's Trident" the name of the guild the insignia belonged to, immediately popped up in his head. At the same time, he became confused as to why this guild was after him.

It was true that he was a demon noble and can be considered their enemy; however, it was still not a definite reason to chase after him with all their strength.

Simon unfurled his wings and hurriedly left the area, his detect presence skill was warning him of multiple presences that were quickly approaching this place. He had underestimated the tenacity and the number of his enemies, they were everywhere.

Simon was starting to get a little annoyed, he had wiped out multiple groups that came chasing after him but no matter how many he cleaned up they would still be coming after him in hordes.

He could tell that something was wrong, the Sea God's Trident guild was deploying all of its members to chase after him for some reason. There was no prior grudge between them nor did the reason that they were doing all of this just because he was a demon, was right.

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If the aforementioned things aren't the reason they were after him then it could only mean that they were after something that he had.

Simon did not bother to interrogate these groups of adventurers after him since he knew that they were just outer members and aren't privy to the actual objective of the guild. The only silver lining in all of this was that this constant chase had increased his level by a total of two.

He did not know what the guild was planning pitting their numbers against him and sending low levelled adventurers, but he could at least tell that their objective wasn't any good.

The sun was about to set, its last rays shone down painting the area in a crimson hue. Simon dived inside the forest and crisscrossed around, trying to throw off his pursuers who were relentless and persistent in their chase.

Currently, he was looking at his mental map skill and navigating his way to the fortress city Volkan, when suddenly he detected multiple presences approaching from his front.

Simon narrowed his eyes, his heart growing cold by the second. The enemy had somehow managed to pincer him from his front and back. He halted his steps and readied himself to engage with his enemies, when he noticed that the group approaching him this time, were a little different.

All of them were masking their faces and wore black robes to hide their identities. What was more surprising was that the target of their assault wasn't him but the adventurers chasing after him.

A fierce clash began in the middle of the forest at night. Spells and skills flew everywhere making the scene extremely chaotic.

Although it confounded Simon as to why these groups were fighting each other, he didn't stop to think and continued marching towards the exit of the forest. On his way, multiple teams of adventurers belonging to the sea god trident guild tried to ambush him but were stopped every time by another group that wore black robes and masks like the previous bunch.

"Who are you people?" Simon eyed his front and asked a question even though there was no one near him.

The buzzing of the insect in the area stopped at this moment and the space a few meters in front of Simon, distorted a little to reveal a person. Their face was just like the others, covered with a mask and they wore a robe so as to not reveal their identity.

"You don't need to know that. We are assisting you because of our master's wish. Anyways I am here to relay a message 'Don't go near fortress city Volkan' that is all. Right, take this... a parting gift from our master".

As soon as that person relayed his message, he disappeared into thin air using the skill [Stealth]. From their androgynous voice, it was hard to tell whether they were a woman or a man.

Simon caught the thing the other party had tossed towards him and nonchalantly opened it. It was a map that was more intricately detailed than the ones that could be found at the shop in the capital.

Simon fell into contemplation; he couldn't tell what motive the other party had behind helping a demon noble like him nor could he tell whether their intentions were good or bad.

But given that they had gone through the trouble to stop some of his pursuers and even send him a message and a map, he could tell that the other party wanted to help. The other party had told him to avoid fortress city Volakn which meant that the city was currently a red zone for him.

The worst possibility that he had thought of, had come to pass, the fortress city Volkan was an important junction that he must pass through to leave the central area. The central area was the region controlled by the royal family and was also the heart of the kingdom.

If the enemy knew where he was headed at, they would definitely try to set up an ambush there.

Simon finally realised what the sea god's trident was trying to achieve by sending these groups of low levelled adventure at him. They were trying to contain and lead him towards fortress city Volkan where most of their stronger levelled adventurers are stationed.

Now that he knew what his enemies were planning, the question remained whether he should head there even while knowing that there is a trap set up for him or should he avoid that area while knowing that he must pass through the city to get away from the central area.

Simon clenched the map tightly in his hand, the other party knew this would happen and thus provided him a map. When he looked at the map, he saw multiple colours marking the central area where he was currently at.

With how they were drawn and the colours used, Simon could tell which areas he should avoid and the places that were relatively safer. Red was for danger, yellow was for caution and green used to denote safe areas.

"There is only one person that I know would go through such trouble to help me. It seems she intends to keep her promise" Simon said, smiling helplessly.

This map could basically be considered a life saver for him right now. Without even knowing, he was about to march into an area that was marked in glaring red.

After reading the map for a while, Simon locked his brows. The map was extremely useful, but the problem was that the whole area near Volkan city is marked as red. He can't go anywhere near it.

The entire place around the city and even the mountainous regions around it were marked with red and yellow. The only green area that he could see, diverged away from this place and took him towards the extreme western border of the kingdom.

Thinking for a while, Simon decided to believe in the map and immediately changed the direction he was headed. Just like the map indicated when he avoided going near the areas marked with red, the fewer people were on his tail.

Capital city of Ellesmere, inside one of the rooms of Serene Palace, the personal quarters of the princess.

Cynthia sat on a chair while reading the reports from her subordinates. After that disaster that unfolded in the coliseum, almost all of the spectators and participants were knocked unconscious and injured.

In this condition, there was no way they could have continued with the 'Battle of the Finest' tournament. Hence as a result of an anomaly appearing, the final round of the tournament was postponed.

The royal family and soldiers were especially busy rescuing and tending to the injured. The clash previously, not only affected the stadium but damaged the entire capital.

KNOCK... KNOCK... KNOCK... at this moment she heard a knock on her door and her most trusted aid and friend, Alvara walked in.

Cynthia looked at the latter and asked "Did the shadow guards send any further reports?".

Alvara nodded her and reported "It's been more than six hours that the Sea god's Trident guild lost track of the Demon Noble. The main attack team of the guild that was stationed there are getting impatient, some of them were even trying to leave the scene".

"But because their guild leader has issued a new order stating that those that leave the city, will be punished severely and might even be removed from the main attack team, nobody dares to move from their position".

Hearing the report, Cynthia bit the nail of her thumb with her pearly white teeth.

"For Benny Beckerman to go to such lengths as to deploy his whole guild just to capture a single demon noble. What is he thinking? He is the type of person who never does anything unless it benefits himself or his guild".

"Can it be that demon has also made enemies with them?" Alvara mused.

Cynthia looked at her and rolled her eyes "Are you saying that after travelling with him for over a month".

Alvara opened and closed her mouth, it looked like she had tons to say, but did not know where to start. In the end, she could only helplessly ask.

"Why are you helping him, Princess? If the information that we were the ones who brought him to the capital got out, it would endanger your position and might even give your brother an edge over you. That demon has betrayed us, princess".

Alvara grumbled, she who did not know that Simon was Demon Noble, got quite a surprise when she heard the reports coming in.

Contrary to her, Cynthia seemed more calm and collected to differentiate the situation "He did not betray us, Alvara".

Seeing that the princess was taking his side, she suddenly realised something and could help but ask "Did the princess already know about his identity?".

After thinking that there was no point in hiding it, Cynthia nodded her head.

"Leo was able to see through his disguise the first time he came to meet with us in the branch office of the city of Mountmend".

"If you knew about it then why did you take him with us, your highness?" Alvara had a face that told that she was utterly surprised.

"At that moment, even I was confounded by the situation. I wanted to know the reason behind him approaching us on his own accord even if it meant risking my life. Nevertheless, it worked out in our favour didn't it?" Cynthia said looking at the latter.

If not for the demon, they would have probably died in the northern outlaw forest or worse become a plaything for the bandits.

"Even then, if you help him now, it would make you his accomplice. The people of this kingdom might not see this in a good light" Alvara stated, her face distressed.

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"He saved your life, to me this was a favour that I cannot possibly not repay. Even if it meant destroying my reputation, I'm willing to keep my promise".

SIGH... Alvara sighed, she knew that there was no way the princess would change her mind. Although it made her anxious, it also made her happy a little knowing that Cynthia cared so much for her.

"Saving him won't be that easy princess; even if he isn't the one who injured the third prince and a prince from the surrounding nation, the people will only believe what they see and hear. According to another report that I got it seems the two other tridents are returning back".

Cynthia scrunched her delicate brows, the situation became a whole lot worse now. If it wasn't already hard enough for Simon to escape from the clutches of the Sea god's trident, with the addition of the other two tridents, it was now almost impossible for him to escape if he got caught.

"Tell the shadow guard to do whatever they need to delay the Sea God's trident until the demon gets out of the central area. Also, investigate the motive behind that guild doing all this for" Cynthia commanded.

After Alvara left to carry out her orders, she once again fell into contemplation. One of the top five guilds making such a big move, was sure to attract attention. But because the attention of the whole kingdom was now currently on the capital that almost got wiped out, they were able to swiftly carry out their mission.

Though it wasn't like no one had their eyes on them, the other top five guilds who were situated near the capital, similarly had their eyes on them but because after what happened to Sir Davis and Sir Vouves, nobody dared to make a move against the demon in fear of getting their whole guild wiped out.

The royal family was in no condition to do anything in this situation and had their hands full right now. Benny Beckerman, the guild leader of the sea god's guild knew this very well and hence knows that he would get away even while making such a big move.

What Cynthia couldn't understand was that even while knowing and seeing with his own eyes how an officer from the adventurer's association and a powerful ranker was reduced to such a miserable state by that little girl accompanying him, they still dared to go after that demon noble.

"It's almost like they believe that...".

Fortress city Volkan, one of the oldest cities that was around even before the kingdom of Ellesmere was found. Tall ramparts surrounded the city from every corner and multiple magic cannons were stationed on the wall giving it a strong and impenetrable look.

The city was situated in the middle of two valleys and was an important checkpoint that anyone must pass through if they wish to get in and out of the central region. The population of the city was around three hundred thousand with ninety percent of the population being traders.

The city of Volkan was also called the trader's town with variety of goods going in and out of the town every day. The reason for it was the many air engines that landed and took off from the city every day.

If one wanted to travel the different regions or out of it, they must come to the fortress city Volkan to get a ferry. Usually, due to various goods and people coming and going out of the city, the security around here would be heavy.

However, today it was just too unusual with hoards of adventurers crowding the city. What was even more surprising was that they all belonged to the same guild and were heavily armed and ready.

If one looked at them, the first impression they would give was as if these adventurers were going on a war. In any other case, seeing this many adventurers would have resulted in a panic from the citizens but since they know the guild these adventurers belonged to, they weren't overly alarmed.

Inside one of the large buildings that belonged to the Sea God's trident guild, Benny Beckerman could be seen seated on a large comfortable sofa listening to the reports given by his subordinates.

Picking up the teacup from the centre table, he sipped on it and asked "Are we still unable to find any tracks related to that demon even after three whole days?".

His tone was neither angry nor happy.

The adventurer with the thief class, shook his head "Unfortunately, we are still unable to find the demon after we lost track of him back in the forest. Our adventurers are still searching for him all around the place".

Hearing the report, Benny Beckerman locked his brows and stated "Search every nook and cranny if you must, the demon will have to go through the volkan city if he wants to escape the central area quickly".

The subordinate nodded his head in understanding before asking something "Guild leader, what of the group that is hindering our move?".

Benny closed his eyes, mused for a while and said "Leave them be for now, since we cannot identify which group they belonged to, we will just engage them if we must. There is no need to back down".

He knew that there were many factions big and small, that have their eyes on their guild right now, but what of it? they were one of the top five guilds, just their name was enough to daunt most of them.

The fact that one of the group was moving against him despite knowing who they were, could only mean that the other party was also from the top five guilds or had power equivalent to theirs.

"There is no way they found out about my objective, then could it be these continuous attacks on our members are just to probe our intention?" Benny Beckerman thought internally. He saw the subordinate about to exit the room when suddenly he remembered something and asked

"Why didn't I get any reports about those two arriving in the city yet? Where are they? Did they not get my message?".

Seeing that the subordinate was tongue-tied, he asserted further.

"That... uh ... they have already...".

After hearing what his subordinate had to say, he got up from his seat in surprise.

"You are telling me those two went there without even telling me anything? But why would they go there out of all places?" he mused, when suddenly something struck his mind and he took out a map from his space ring.

'Although it is unlikely, if someone really is helping that demon, then they might have told him about the other route'.

Benny Beckerman got up from his sofa and started donning his armour."Prepare my air engine, I'm leaving for the Sea city Aqualin".

Hundreds of kilometres north-west of Volkan city was a vast land of loess eternally shrouded in dust and sandstorms. One must traverse through this place to get to the city of Aqualin also known as the sea city.

It is one of the important trade hubs of the kingdom of Ellesmere. Many ships that dock here bring numerous goods and cargos that are then transported to the rest of the kingdom.

"Once I pass through the sea city Aqualin, I would be able to reach the Northern outlaw forest. Once there, the Sea god's trident won't be able to pursue me any further" Simon said flying at high speed.

Since he kept his altitude low to check where he is going, he left clouds of dust at his wake. Northern outlaw forest was a place filled with monsters and bandits, even if it's one of the top five guilds they would have to put quite a lot of resources and manpower if they wanted to search for him there.

Anyways, reaching the sea city Aqualin, would take quite a lot of time even with his [High-Speed Flight] skill. Simon had been flying at full speed while taking stops in between to reach the city as fast as possible but even then, he did not even cover one-third of the distance.

Two days passed just like that and on the night of the third day, when Simon felt he was closer to the city, he suddenly stopped his flight abruptly. The reason for him doing so was because he felt

that something was wrong, his instincts that have been honed through numerous battles in the Ghastly Winding Forest, was ringing alarm bells in his head right now.

Simon took a deep breath and focused on spreading his senses all around him, but no matter how long he waited, there was nothing unusual around him. He shook his head and continued flying for a while before stopping once again.

He was sure this time, something was definitely wrong. This sensation he had felt many times when he was up against a strong monster from the Ghastly Winding Forest, the feeling of being at the edge of a knife.

Simon looked all around him and narrowed his eyes, whatever or whoever it was, it was definitely following him. What surprised him was their speed that was not inferior to his. He unfurled his wings and landed on the yellowish-brown land.

Since he can't outrun his enemy, he decided it was better for him to take care of them first. He took out his Crimson Blazing Flame Sword and looked at his surrounding in alert.

The cold wind of the night carried the dust along with it and other than the noise it made intermittently, the place was extremely silent.

"Hohh, so you were able to notice me huh, it's praiseworthy I must say" it was at this moment that a voice suddenly rang beside his ear and Simon instinctively swung the sword behind him.

CLANG... a fierce noise of metal colliding with metal rang out before a figure that had dissolved with its surroundings, appeared.

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It was a person decked in black leather armour from head to toe, half of their face was covered with a mask and they carried two sharp swords that seemed extremely lethal. From their aura to the way they handled Simon's attack, it told others that they were extremely experienced and a first-class fighter.

Simon narrowed his eyes, with that clash earlier he was able to tell that the strength of this person was no less than his. He immediately tried using [Analysis] on them only for his attempt to be blocked by a skill.

"Hey you are quite rude to use [Analysis] in my face all of a sudden" the person said sarcastically as they measured him.

Simon felt a probing attempt from the other party which was quickly dispelled by his body. "Interesting, you have [Analysis] blocking skill too huh, I guess that's a given with how unique you are. It's not a surprise that guild leader is interested in you".

When Simon heard those words he immediately realised who the other party was "You are a member of the Sea god's Trident?".

"DING DING DING, Correct. Congratulations for guessing that I am from the Sea God's Trident. As a reward, I will answer one of your question" the person said exaggeratedly.

Simon locked his brows, from the latter's attitude he could tell that the person was not at all daunted by the fact that he was a Demon Viscount. He did not know why the other person had initiated a conversation with him nor their motive, thus he pretended to play along with them and asked:

"What is the objective of your guild for going after me?".

The person donned in leather armour from head to toe, squinted his eyes "Do we need any other reason than the fact that you are a Demon Noble? Haha, I guess this reasoning won't work huh, too bad I can't tell you the real reason".

"Stop talking nonsense with that demon, Raven. If you can't do it then I shall do it myself" At this moment another voice sounded out and a presence quickly showed himself.

The person who just appeared, was standing in the sky with a pair of illusory wings protruding from their back. They were donned in an incredible-looking heavy armour that gave off a bluish-green sheen and radiated a heavy mountain-like aura.

When Simon heard the name that the new entrant used to describe the person in black leather armour, his eyes widened for a second. There was no way he wouldn't know the name of one of the three tridents, Raven the [Phantom Night Assassin] who was one of the pillars of the Sea God's Trident after staying in the capital for a while.

At the same time, it also made him realise the identity of the other person. There was no doubt, the description he inadvertently heard from the people of the capital every day, matched with the man in front of him emitting a heroic presence.

He was finally face to face with Godwin, whom the people of the kingdom of Ellesmere regarded as the legend and their greatest genius. However, unlike the ordinary mass, Simon did not have any good feelings about meeting the man at this moment and place.

His premonition was indeed on the mark, the other person was here to capture him. Simon did not even have the time to wonder how the other party was able to find him as Godwin came charging at him as soon as his words fell.

Like a falling meteor, he let the gravity pull him down. His heavy armour along with the momentum from his free fall, was enough to create a small crater where he landed.

Simon swiftly jumped back and avoided the attack, or so he thought when suddenly he felt a foreign energy enter him and he felt extremely enraged and had an urge to charge at Godwin.

[Fragment of Pride is reacting, effects from the Champion's Taunt have been removed]

Thankfully, due to him possessing the fragment, the taunt wasn't able to grab hold of him. A droplet of sweat trickled down Simon's face, he couldn't even realise when the other party had used a skill. This fact in itself told him that he cannot afford to let his guard down even for a second.

The man he was facing right now, was different from any other opponent he had faced up until now so much so that a moment of distraction might decide everything.

Without giving him a moment to think anything, Godwin who maintained an indifferent face, kept pressing him with one attack after another as if probing his strength.

He took out a wide blade from his space ring and sent dozens of blade shadows that had enough power to easily cleave a person below level 200 in half, at Simon.

To counterattack, Simon materialised dozens of flame spears which met his enemy's attack head on.

BOOM... BOOMM... the silence of the place was immediately broken by the continuous explosion sounds from their clash. At a glance, it would seem that the two attacks were even; however, when one looked carefully, the flame spears were actually being pushed back by the sword shadows.

After sending forth dozens of blade shadows, Godwin sheathed his blade inside the ground, stretched his hands and pointed at Simon. Immediately, the wind started picking up and in the blink of an eye it made a complex magic circle that was two meters in diameter and emerald green in colour in front of Godwin.

"[Howling Tempest Fist]" roaring out in vigour, Godwin punched towards the magic circle and created a huge vacuum fist that flew towards the demon.

When Simon felt the incoming attack, all his hair stood on end and his instinct started alerting him of danger. No matter what, he couldn't allow the attack to land on him.

Simon unfurled his wings and hurriedly took to the sky but the fist as if it had a mind of its own followed closely behind him.

"Haha, that fellow really thought that he can dodge your attack by flying away from its trajectory" Raven laughed from the sidelines as he saw the Demon Noble flying left and right trying to dodge an attack that locked onto him.

Simon after an unsuccessful attempt of dodging the attack, understood that there was no way he can evade it and instead chose to face the attack.

The vacuum fist created by Godwin packed so much power that it was basically on par with the [Infernal Heat wave] attack of his sword. Even with the Defense stats of a Demon Viscount, facing an attack like that would be devastating.

Just as the Vacuum fist was upon him, he took out something golden from his space ring. BOOOMM... a huge blast that basically pushed all the clouds in the sky hundreds of meters back occurred in the sky and created a huge twister dispersing dust and soil everywhere.

The attack was so powerful that the noise travelled for dozens of miles and even reached the soundly sleeping inhabitants of the sea city Aqualin.

Capital city Ellesmere, in the backyard of the branch headquarters of the adventurers association was a huge construct that looked like some sort of device.

"Lisa helping that demon noble will negatively affect your reputation and standing in the guild. Is there no way your mind can be changed otherwise?" the branch president asked the lady beside him.

"Father, no matter how many times you ask me, I will not change my mind. That demon has helped me and Chuck when we were almost about to die in that place even though he had no obligation nor did he stand to gain any benefit from it. Now that he is in danger and is being pursued by my own guild, how can I not help him despite knowing that?".

Lisa argued back, she wanted her father to open the teleport gate that is managed by the adventurers association and is installed in a handful of important cities.

The cost of operating a teleport gate is so much that it is only used during dire times or a crisis. But now, Lisa wanted to open the teleport gate, as the branch president of the adventurers association, he did indeed have the authority.

With how doting he was to his daughter, he would have opened it any other case but right now, there was an officer from the main headquarters of the adventurer association located on the mainland and the person his daughter wanted to save was none other than the demon Noble who was behind all this destruction in the capital.

If the news reached back to that person it was sure to bring back some huge repercussions. That is why, he was trying his best to change the mind of his stubborn daughter.

"Lisa, listen to me. He is a demon noble, if we look at history our two races can be considered arch-enemies with so much bad blood between us. There is no need..." the old man tried to reason but before he could complete his sentence, Lisa interjected.

"The demon noble that you are calling our arch-enemy, was the one who had saved the life of your daughter back then. If not for him, you would have already lost your daughter back in the Ghastly Winding Forest".

"If you are not going it's fine, I'll go there by myself and stop them from killing that demon even if I have to step in front of them," Lisa said, adamant on going there.

"What? Absolutely not" the old man jumped up, he was given a huge scare.

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The branch president of the Adventurer's Association was given a huge scare. At this moment, he had the urge to strangle the neck of the subordinate who came to report him about the activities of the Sea God's Trident at such an inopportune time when his daughter was inside the room.

Since he knew he cannot change his daughter's mind, he threw all the caution to the wind and decided to accompany his daughter to the city of Aqualin.

Dozens of kilometres away from the city, in the middle of the land of Loess, a huge blast erupted pushing the onlookers dozens of meters back.

"Seriously Godwin, do you not know how to hold back? What if you also caught us in that blast? You didn't have to use such a technique on a Demon Viscount. What if you killed him? Did you already forget what the guild leader's orders were?" Raven complained choking out on dust.

Contrary to Raven's lackadaisical attitude, Godwin had an indifferent and unperturbed expression.

"It's fine even if he dies, with how many members of our guild he had killed, I see no reason to keep him alive. Though it doesn't seem like he died from that attack earlier".

Godwin said, his narrowed when he thought about the peculiar action of the demon noble just before the attack hit him.

"What?" Raven was surprised, he didn't think that the demon was powerful enough to survive an attack like that from Godwin, even on the off chance they did survive, their condition after taking a hit would be extremely serious.

After the twister in the sky dissipated, a silhouette came into view. Simon flapped his wings and glared at his enemies with his crimson eyes from the sky. Just before that huge emerald green fist connected, Simon shattered one of the Golden Guardian Stones that created a shield around him and protected him from the attack.

Had it not been for the Golden Guardian Stones that he had summoned from the [Ga??????] (previously Gacha), he would have definitely been severely injured from that attack.

'That vacuum fist was extremely unusual, I have never seen something like that' Simon mused as he clenched his [A] tier crimson blade tightly. That attack earlier felt like a magic but was more closer to a skill or a technique so as to say.

In any case, even with the buff from his Crimson Blazing Flame Blade, he was barely able to match the other party. His [Ancestral Symbol Ignition] skill was still on cool down and needed more than a day to come active.

With one trump card down and one trump card already used, the situation didn't look good for him.

There was finally some reaction in Godwin's face when he saw the Demon Noble coming out unscathed from his [Howling Tempest Fist] attack. He didn't know what that thing the latter took out just before the fist connected but he could tell that it was the reason the Demon Noble was unscathed.

"Interesting" Godwin said as he pulled the sword that was inserted on the ground, recalled his wings and took to the sky.

With one hand holding a shield and other a wide sword, he charged towards his opponent. On his way, he was bombarded by his opponent's flame magic that came at him from every direction.

"Champion Shockwave".

Nevertheless, with just one of his class-specific skills that generated a powerful shockwave around him, he was able to repel all the attacks.

Covering the distance between him and the demon, Godwin brought down his wide sword in an overhead swing.

Simon matched his enemy's aggression with a swing of his own sword.

CLANG... intense sparks generated when the two powerful weapons collided with none wanting to give an inch to the other.

CLANG... CLANG... CLANG like a brilliant firework the sparks from their clash lighted the read around them showcasing how powerful each of their blade was.

In the blink of an eye, they exchanged dozens of moves. Seeing his attacks being blocked and read by his opponent, Godwin put forth more power. Battle intent flashed deep within his eyes and he started chaining his attacks with feints and even used his shield to bash his enemy.

Simon on the other hand used his claws and [Mana Lines] skill to conjure magic fast enough to cover any shortcoming he had in his defence.

Watching all of this from a distance, Raven couldn't help but whistle in surprise "To think that the Demon Viscount would be able to last so many exchanges against Godwin? Even though I know he isn't serious but still".

"That demon Noble is full of surprises. What is more amazing is that sword of his, its grade is definitely not low to be able to clash against Godwin's sword which is made from Mythril. This demon holds a lot more secret than I expected... what do you think Chuck".

At this moment, Chuck walked out from behind. He had a complex expression on his face as he watched the two duking it out in the sky.

"What's wrong Why do you look so lost?" Raven asked as he looked at Chuck.

Chuck hesitated for a while, thought over his words and said "Do we really have to do this?".

"What are you saying Chuck, did you not listen to the guild master say how many members of our Guild he killed? Other than that wasn't he also responsible for the tragedy that unfolded with that branch guild you were managing? Just leave this to Godwin, he will make sure that demon doesn't go anywhere" Raven stated.

BOOM...

At this moment, something at the speed of a missile came crashing down on the ground raising a cloud of dust in the air. When the dust settled down a silhouette of a person could be seen coming out.

Cough... cough

Simon coughed a few times, patted the dust off of his body and got out of the crater he created. When he looked up, he saw Godwin standing perfectly fine in the air and looking down at him with cold indifferent eyes. Not even a trace of exhaustion could be seen on his face.

He lost that exchange of might earlier and was pummelled to the ground by the latter. This bout with Godwin had also told Simon that whether it be skills, stats, or combat experience, he was lacking in every front compared to his opponent.

"Give up you are not my match," Godwin said conjuring a advanced tier Tempest magic and sending it flying towards him.

Simon clicked his tongue in annoyance and conjured a infernal magic of his own. Both advanced magic clashed and created a huge outburst of energy that devastated hundreds of metres of area and pushed all the parties back.

Using this chance Simon utilised his high-speed flight skill and charged towards Godwin.

[Thousand Piercing Blade Storm] activating his augmenting skills and the skills bestowed by his sword, he brandished the crimson sword thousands of times and sent forth a storm of blade shadows towards the latter.

The situation was too unfavourable for him, not only was he facing an enemy whose levels was multiple times higher than his, but he was also outnumbered by them as well. Not using all his powers in a situation like this would be truly foolish.

Godwin stood in front of the storm of blade shadows without backing down, his red mantle continuously flapping with the wind. There was no signs of anxiousness nor any worry in his eyes.

Just as the thousands of blades carrying a sharp sword intent were a few inches away from him, he adapted a weird stance, took a deep breath of air and swung his sword.

"[Blade Heart Sword Mastery]- [Emotion Severance Blade Formation]" Godwin murmured brandishing his sword in a mighty yet profound way.

The [Emotion Severance Blade Formation] created an illusion of him holding dozens of swords. Godwin, using the formation deflected all the thousand blade shadows. His concentration was high and his mastery of the sword was close to being perfect that no matter who looked at him right now, they would undoubtedly open their mouth wide in awe.

Chuck was the same, looking at the scene of Godwin bravely and effortlessly deflecting all the attacks of his enemies, he was once again reminded of why he joined the guild.

At that time, Godwin was just a rising talent of the Sea God's Trident, he neither had the authority nor the power to scout someone. Nevertheless, he still extended his hands towards Chuck who was still a nobody at that time and convinced all the senior members of their guild to at least consider him for the upcoming recruitment test.

Even Chuck at that time did not know why the former was so adamant on scouting him, who was just a no-name newbie adventurer at that time. However, it all soon changed when Chuck passed the guild's test, became one of the Sea God's Trident's member and started going into dungeons and adventures with Godwin and the others.

He realised how talented Godwin was and at the same time knew that his destiny was different from theirs. To Chuck, Godwin was a friend, a mentor and also a kind of rival that he wanted to surpass.

And ever since then, he trained with the objective to get as strong as the latter one day. Nevertheless, now that he looked at the latter's skills after a few years, he once again admitted how monster of a genius Godwin was.

"Not Bad... to be able to make Godwin use the [Blade Heart Sword Mastery] skill that the guild leader only taught him, that demon noble is not bad. From his movement and skill, it could be seen that the demon has quite the experience of fighting adventurers" Raven stated.

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"But if he thinks that he can match Godwin with just that, he up for a rude awakening," Raven said with a languid smile.

Simon utilised this chance when his opponent was busy deflecting all the blade shadows to approach closer.

"[Sword Mastery], [Body Enhancement], [Infernal Sword Mastery]" he activated and stacked even more skills on top of the augmenting skill he already had activated to dish out a clean slashing attack towards his enemy.

Although the material of the armour his opponent was wearing, didn't look simple, Simon was sure that his Crimson Blazing Flame Blade that he upgraded from the [Armoury] after many failed attempts would be able to pierce through that defence.

Godwin noticed the Demon Viscount approaching near in the midst of him intercepting all those blade shadows and instantly understood his enemy's intention. Nevertheless, he did not try to dodge it nor raise any defence against it.

His opponent's lack of intention to guard against this attack of his, although it raised a brow from Simon, he did not stop and executed his attack all the way.

Using the chance when Godwin swung his hand in a wide swing to deflect one of the blade shadows, Simon slashed his sword with enough momentum and strength to ensure that his blade cleaves through the armour and his body.

Intense sparks generated the moment the crimson blade came in contact with the armour but thanks to his strength stat and momentum, he was able to swing his blade all the way.

Simon stopped after successfully slashing Godwin's armour but there was no joy in his eyes and instead, a grim look clouded them. When he slashed his opponent's armour, he had clearly felt it, some kind of resistance barring his blade from cleaving all the way.

He turned around to see a green aura envelop Godwin and materialise into armour. The way it was pulsating with energy, it was clear that it was a skill. A skill that manifests an armour around you.

"As I thought so, much of your strength is coming from that sword of yours. Not only is it Rank [A], a rank that is extremely rare to see around these parts, but it also bestows you with many skills and stats" Godwin said touching the deep gash in his armour.

"You look surprised, I guess you weren't aware of the [Mana Armour] skill huh. When one steps beyond level 500, the mana in their body will harden to form a cloak around their body drastically increasing their defence".

"And when one reaches level 600, the mana in their body will become solid enough to become an armament just like this.." Godwin said as he conjured a dense blue sword and threw it towards Simon.

BANG... the speed at which he threw the sword, broke the speed of sound and approached the latter with a supersonic speed.

Before Simon had the opportunity to comprehend those words, the counterattack from his enemy forced him into a defensive state once again. He brought the crimson blade in front of him just in the nick of time before the blue sword could pierce his heart.

CLANG... there was a solid ear-piercing noise of a metal colliding with metal and Simon was forced dozens of meters back.

Flapping his wings to dissolve some of the power behind that attack, he somehow managed to keep himself in the air. Simon's expression at this moment, was extremely ugly, his hand which was tightly holding onto the crimson sword, was bleeding.

That feeling earlier that he got when the blue sword clashed with his [A] rank crimson sword, was so real that it was no different than an actual weapon. When his eyes went onto the blue sword which fell to the ground, they froze for a second.

Even after clashing against his Crimson blazing flame sword, it only suffered a minor crack. From this, one could see how dense and solid his opponent's mana was. The armour and the mana sword right now, told him that the guy he was facing was beyond level 500 and possibly even 600.

"Do you understand the difference between our levels now? No matter how much you try, you won't be able to put a scratch on me. If anything, I praise your courage for not running away the instant you saw us" Godwin extended his hand and immediately, the blue sword dissolved into mist.

"Hey now, it's rare to see you conversing with someone and that too with your enemy. Are you perhaps trying to capture the demon just like the guild master told us?" Raven from the side asked.

It was also when Simon realised that there was an additional person there other than Raven and it was also someone he knew.

Chuck was trying to avoid Simon's glance as a complex emotion currently masked his face.

"So that's how it is... haha" Simon silently laughed. Why would he not, even the person he had saved once and travelled with had ended up becoming his enemy once his identity was revealed.

He found the situation so funny that he couldn't help laughing. At the same time, the slightest reservation that he used to feel towards humans whenever he killed one because of him being a human in his previous life, was slowly snuffed out completely in his heart.

At this moment, he no longer felt any attachment nor connection with them any longer and only a deep loathing. With his reservation gone, a unique change occurred deep within Simon that even he wasn't aware of.

"Don't be ridiculous, there is no way I would allow this demon to live that long after killing so many of our guild mates. The only reason I have kept him alive is to know what happened that day. How did Chuck's teammates die and why was he and that fiancé of his the only ones to come out alive. Tell me demon?".

Chuck stopped holding back his powers and his aura flooded out like a typhoon. It was so powerful that it was enough to blot the sky and lock Simon down in place.

By the time he went to the city of Morgress, most of their senior officials of the Seen Sword Guild had already run away. The low-ranking members of the guild he caught, did not know anything while Chuck's fiancé refused to speak out about that day's event leaving Godwin with no way to confirm what had happened that day.

Chuck was like a little brother to him ever since he made the other join their guild. How can he just let the matter be when his little brother and his fiancé were almost killed? This issue had always been a thorn in his heart and he always felt guilty for not being able to help Chuck that day even though he was in the same city at that time.

Now that he was made aware of the demon noble that had made a huge commotion back in the capital and killed dozens of their members, was the very same demon who had created that dungeon in the ghastly winding forest, how could he let the one responsible for it all escape?

The events of that day? As he recalled that, Simon laughed in the face of that question from Godwin. Did the other party really think that he can make him talk by pressuring him with his aura?

In the first place, the person he should ask that question was right with him. Chuck must have been informed something by that girl who was beside him at that time. Why would he ask that question from a Demon Noble that he was trying to hunt?

It was true that he had saved a couple he admired back in the ghastly winding forest when they were about to be killed. But that was at that time, now that he looked back at his action, he couldn't help but find it extremely funny and nonsensical.

A Demon Noble intervening in a skirmish between parties from the same race. What was he even thinking?

Even though he was from a race that was enemies with humans, he was being empathetic towards them. Was he trying to create a friendly relationship with them? or the fact that he was once a human subconsciously influenced his mind?

Even though he always rejected that thought, he knew clearly in his heart that it was the truth, so much so that Irene and even Adalinda had to point it out that he was a Demon Noble.

"Truly Pathetic" Simon muttered.

"What?" Godwin asked unsure what he heard.

"I said, why the fuck should I answer you? Do you really think that you have me cornered?" Simon snarled, his demonic side becoming more and more apparent.

Godwin and even Raven narrowed their eyes when they heard that, there was a cold glint in their eyes.

"I change my mind, I don't want to be a spectator any longer. Let me fight that demon and cut that tongue of it's so that it can't make this kind of bad jokes any longer" Raven said with a smile that wasn't a smile.

Nevertheless, Godwin stopped Raven with a gesture of his hand and fixed his gaze back on the demon.

"I guess you leave me with no other choice but to show you your place. I will beat you until you beg me and squeeze out every information from that blabbering mouth of yours".

Contrary to their expectation, instead of getting angry, the demon kept on laughing as if everything seemed very funny to him. Simon clutched his stomach and laughed until he came to terms with his situation.

"You want to kill me because I killed those guild mates of yours? Haha, what a pathetic excuse. Isn't the real reason you want to kill me is because you see me as a threat. I'm quite sure some of your guild members have their eyes on some of the possession of mine" Simon mocked.

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Godwin no longer spoke anything and simply extended one of his hands to create multiple of those mana swords which came flying towards his opponent from tricky angles.

It took everything Simon had to fend off those mana swords that were as deadly as [C] rank weapons themselves. It was like each sword had a mind of its own and even if Simon deflected them, they would keep on targeting him like homing missiles.

However, that was not the full extent of Godwin's assault, after creating mana swords, he applied his [Blade Heart Sword Mastery] skill on top and even rushed at his opponent himself.

CLANG... CLANG...

Simon deflected the swords left and right and dodged where he could, but how could the [Sword Mastery] bestowed by his sword, be compared to the higher version of the skill that Godwin had attained after putting years of his effort into mastering the sword.

In the first place, other than his magic, Simon hadn't put much attention on his sword techniques and training. it was no exaggeration to say that he was severely lacking behind in this forte.

Godwin's mana sword kept on putting pressure on him and after a while, he was riddled with cuts and stabs everywhere. To make matters worse, the wounds for some reason weren't healing as fast as he expected.

Contrary to him, Godwin did not have a single scratch on him and his mana armour stopped every attack that the demon noble threw on him even at the cost of lowering its own defences and suffering more damage in return.

It was a difficult pill for him to swallow but Simon knew that his opponent was still not fighting him seriously and had yet to use his full power. Whereas, he on the other hand was approaching his limit. The buff from the skills he had activated was about to wear off and once it did, his power would drop by a whole lot.

The disparity in their strength would become even more apparent. It wasn't like he didn't think about running, he had been doing that all along since his humiliating escape from the capital. It maddened him to no extent that in the face of a strong enemy, all he could do was escape.

However, right now he didn't escape because he knew that the moment he did, the man in front of him wouldn't hesitate to deal him a fatal blow.

WHOOSH... Simon flapped his wings so fast that he left afterimages behind. Dodging Godwin's sword that came swinging down at him from behind, he turned around and deflected the mana swords that barred him from moving around too much.

This time, when he dodged the sword swing from Godwin, he clearly saw it. That wide blade of his, shimmering with a yellowish-green light.

"Hmph, it seems that demon is perceptive enough to see it but it is too late now, he has already suffered too many wounds from that blade" Raven commented a small snicker hanging at the edges of his lips.

"What do you mean Sir Raven" Chuck asked unable to understand those words.

"Hmm? Ah, you weren't there at that time I guess. You see Godwin and I got the opportunity to travel to the mainland once. There in one of the empire, we found a Master Craftsman to forge a special sword for Godwin that was made of Mythril and some part of the disaster class monster that we had killed".

"As a result, the sword that was forged, other than being extremely sturdy and being able to handle that dense amount of mana from Godwin, it also possesses the unique ability to delay any kinds of regeneration ability once a cut was made from that sword. That is to say, even if you drink potions or have regeneration skills like that demon noble, cut made by that sword would have difficulty healing" Raven explained.

It was as Raven had guessed; Simon recognised the peculiar ability of his enemy's sword and that was why he wasn't even drinking the Elixir of Healing since there was no point to it.

CHIII... unable to stop Godwin's rush, Simon got cut by the sword again. If it was a human, they would have already become unconscious from the numerous wounds they had suffered. However, Simon was a demon noble and his stats were much higher than an average human.

Thanks to his defence stats, those cuts from Godwin weren't fatal enough to render him unable to battle. Though that might not be the case now, the timing was slowly but surely approaching.

After a while, the duration of the skills ended and the repercussion from activating all those augmenting skills at once, caught up to him, putting an immense pressure on his body. Not only that, but his power level also dropped by a whole lot.

"Tempest Blade".

Not missing this chance where his opponents aura had suddenly dropped, Godwin channelled his sword with his powerful advanced tier tempest magic, turning it completely emerald.

One of the features of Mythril was that it was an excellent medium that can store and channel mana very well. Because of this property, Mythril was sought out after by all the strong adventurers of this world.

A dark emerald blade was created after Godwin poured all of his mana and magic into it. The sword vibrated and distorted the very space itself. One could even feel its destructive aura from miles away.

After creating the [Tempest Blade] Godwin released a deep breath of air and glanced at the demon viscount who was clearly suffering from the repercussion of his own skills.

[Tempest Blade], a skill that he created after combining his Tempest magic with his sword mastery skill. The skill was one of his most powerful skills and the culmination of years of his hard work and practice.

Using the skill meant that he was not only serious but also ready to take down his opponent.

SHIIIIINNNGG... the moment he swung the sword, all the air around the surrounding stopped blowing and a huge greenish gash appeared in the sky. The green gash was so bizarre that it looked like some kind of cut that was made in the space.

It stayed stationary in the place for a second or two before rushing towards the demon viscount, distorting the very space in its wake. The speed at which the gash travelled, was so fast that before Simon had the chance to see it properly, it was already upon him.

The backlash from activating so many skills was already putting a huge strain on his body, there was no way he would be able to dodge an attack that surpassed the speed of sound. But then again, he couldn't allow an attack like that to land on his body.

The power and mana behind the emerald sword energy was so great that alarm bells started ringing inside his head. His instincts was screaming and warning him not to get hit by it.

Gulping down the blood that came to his mouth from forcefully stabilising his mana that was in a state of turbulence, he poured every last bit of it into the sword.

"Infernal Heatwave" with a vigorous shout, the blade of the sword lit up with a beautiful golden light so radiant that it blinded the eyes of everyone watching it.

A golden sword energy carrying along an intense heat that was powerful enough to even sear the space, was dished out from the crimson sword as it travelled forward and met his opponent's attack head-on.

"Let's get back," Raven said hastily as he grabbed Chuck before recalling his wings and retreating from the area.

BOOOOMMM...

When the two different elements of energies clashed, the resulting aftermath was a huge big bang so thunderous that land for hundreds of meters was instantly obliterated. A fierce storm carrying intense heat and berserk winds, was generated and rose as high as three thousand meters towards the sky.

The violent storm was even visible from the city dozens of miles away. At this moment, all the inhabitants of the city were out of their homes and watching the distant terrible storm. the

shockwave from the clash just now was so powerful that it travelled as far as their city and if not for the barrier raised by the local adventurers and magicians, the city's wall might have collapsed.

At this moment, on the northern corner of the city, around a wide clearance was a bizarre construct that was maintained by the adventurer's association branch of the city of Aqualin. Right now, the construct was lit up with a bluish-black light and a couple of figures could be seen coming out of it.

Feeling the terrible energy storm coming from outside the city, the lady in the front complained "See I told you father, they have already started fighting. If we don't rush there soon, it might very well be too late".

The lady in the front was none other than Lisa and the old man she was complaining to was her father, the branch president of the Adventurer's Association.

The old man looked at the huge storm that was dozens of miles away and his eyes were immediately clouded with a grave look. No matter how he saw it, this ferocious and berserk energy that they could feel from this far away, was a result from two extremely powerful advanced tier magic capable of even levelling a city, colliding.

If they got caught up in such a terrible storm, even with the adventurers he brought, they wouldn't be able to come out of it unscathed.

"Listen to me Lisa, although you have forced me to come with you here, you must also promise me one thing. Regardless of whether we are able to gain enough time for that demon to run away or not, you will not move too far away from the reach of these adventurers" The old man stated with a serious face.