

## D. of Pride 36

### Chapter 36: Crimson Blazing Flame Blade (2)

Taking out another four [B] tiers weapons and placing them on the upgrade, he waited for a while before a loud bang sounded and smoke started coming out. The result without a doubt a failure. out of the twenty [B] tier weapons he had upgraded, twelve of them had already disintegrated. he couldn't explain the inner turmoil he was going through as he looked at the remaining eight weapons. This time he did not immediately start another batch of upgrades and instead closed his eyes and pondered for a while. He went through all the failures and tried to discover if he was doing something wrong.

It was only after a while that Simon opened his eyes, a weird glint flashing deep inside them. He felt that there was something amiss during the upgrade process but he couldn't put his fingers on what that something was. Clearing his mind of all thoughts, he put another batch of weapons and initiated the upgrade. However, this time he didn't just place the weapons as is instead, he inserted some of his manas into the weapons. The upgrade this time to Simon's surprise took longer than usual, and just when he felt that everything was going right, with a loud bang the weapons disintegrated into smoke. Sixteen [B] tier weapons was gone. If somebody had seen him disintegrating this many [B] tier weapons at once, they would have already gone insane by now.

But Simon did not panic and instead stood there in a daze. There was no trace of worry or pain on his face as if what happened before was inconsequential. His expression remained clear and he felt as if the fog that had been obstructing his vision all this time, had finally cleared a little. Recalling his previous failures, he learned something that could very well become crucial for upgrading higher-rank weapons in the future. Thinking about it like this he felt that the weapons that got disintegrated weren't wasted.

Simon took out the last four [B] rank weapons remaining but did not place them for upgrade and instead decided to refine them first. Each of the weapons was already very strong and when refined further, their strength increased manifold. It took him some time, but all four of the weapons were refined till refinement level two and he then placed them for the upgrade. He did not know what would happen when refined weapons are placed for the upgrade, but he did know that it would spark something.

Without further ado, he initiated the upgrade and gazed at it intensely. The upgrade process was going on for longer than usual and lasted for an hour before a peculiar blue light started shining but disappeared right after. A loud bang was heard and the weapons disintegrated.

He did not know what was that peculiar blue light but judging from the length of the upgrade, he vaguely felt like he was getting closer and closer towards upgrading a high-rank weapon. However, he was in a dilemma right now. He had used all of his items in the inventory and didn't have any more items to continue to upgrade. He felt like he was finally near something and discerned that it would be a waste to stop now.

Simon closed his eyes and opened it after a long while, a determined look on his face. He opened the [Gacha] from his [Main Menu] and immediately started drawing. After using the 100,000 DP gacha a total of twenty times, he had twenty [C] rank items on him. Each 100,000 DP draw guaranteed him at least a [C] tier items.

He refined all the items to refinement level two and used up all his stock of amgedite crystals. Now he had twenty [C] rank refinement level two weapons which he then placed for the upgrade. This time when he successfully upgraded [C] tier weapons into [B] tier he could see that similar blue light appear again and immediately knew that it was due to refinement. After all the [C] tier weapons was upgraded into a [B] tier, he discovered that the success rate for upgrading a [B] rank weapon had increased by 30% after refinement.

After the upgrade was complete, he was left with eight [B] rank weapons. each of these [B] rank of weapons was upgraded from refined weapons and were stronger than an average [B] tier weapon. Placing four of them inside the slots, he initiated the next round of upgrades, and with intense concentration, he awaited the result.

It was no surprise to him that the upgrade was longer than usual and took more than two hours. At the end of the upgrade, a bright blue light erupted and it seemed the result was a success when the light died down. A loud bang and the result once again a failure. Simon inhaled a deep breath of air and closed his eyes and pondered. His mind went through all the upgrades, the success, and the failures. Only after a long time passed did he open his eyes and placed the last four weapons for the upgrade. This time he also put some of his manas inside all four weapons before initiating the process.

The upgrade lasted for more than three hours this time and a bright blue light erupted soon after. Watching this scene he involuntarily clenched his hands, as the light became brighter and brighter lighting the whole room. After a while, the light slowly died down and a crimson red sword came into view.

### Chapter 37: Demon Viscount

The blade of the sword was long, thin, and made of mithril. It was radiating an intense heat capable of burning anything and everything. Its crimson light so blinding that Simon was forced to cover his eyes and when he used Analysis on the sword, he stood still in a place dumbfounded by the results displayed.

-Crimson Blazing Flame Blade

-Rank [A]

-Refinement Level 1

– When equipping, all Stats + 600, Magic +1000

Skills:- Infernal Magic Mastery, Sword Mastery, Super Cutting Enhancement, Super Piercing Enhancement, Immolation, Crimson Blazing Infernal Body.

A sword forged in the very depths of hell. The sword purges and immolates indiscriminately making the sword hard to subdue. In all of ages, only a handful few managed to wield its immense strength.

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The Spriggan Continent housed one of the three great dungeons, the Dwelling of desires ranked [SS]. It is also the place where one of the three primordial Demon Lords, the Demon Lord of Lust resided. Currently on the 647th floor of Dwellings of desire, in a dimly lit posh room sat a woman wearing a white faceless mask. She had an extremely alluring build and a head full of luminous red-colored hair. Half of it spilled over her shoulders and the rest sat cozily at the sofa she was sitting on. She seemed to be wearing a dress made of exquisite leather that tightly clung to her body that showcased her bewitching body.

Every gesture she made was so perfect and enthralling that she could mesmerize the whole world with just her movements. She had a voluptuous breast and a perky bottom so tantalising that it was perfect to the point of breathtaking. Her creamy white legs were shapely and seemed to hold an endless splendor, red toenails that matched her luminous red hair flashed intermittently from the openings of her dress. Her entire body was dripping with a kind of allure and seductive charm that ate at one's mind and rationality.

At this moment Amon who was kneeling at her side and dressed in his usual butler attire said while looking down at the ground "My lady it was as you expected the fragment of Envy and Gluttony had born once again and together this time. Gareth hosted the banquet to announce his son Belial who was chosen by the fragment of Envy ascending to the position of Demon Lord." Listening to

Amon's report the woman parted the glass of wine from her cherry pink lips and replied, "hmmm anything else?" the voice that came out was seductive to the extreme.

However, Amon wasn't affected the slightest, he pondered over her question for a while and replied, "there was nothing uncommon other than the [S] rank subordinate of gluttony..ahh... I remember there was a peculiar demon present in the banquet." "Ohh! Peculiar you say?" the woman replied with a voice full of interest. "Yes, Lady Lilith there was a demon whose status even I nor miss Zelda and sir Stellar couldn't see through," Amon said as he remembered the scene back in the castle of Avernus. "Hnnn even you couldn't see through huh!" as if it caught her interest Lilith replied with great interest as she played with her wine glass.

"Do you want me to investigate him? my lady." Amon asked detecting her interest towards the demon. At this moment a beautiful woman wearing an angry face mask that only covered half of her face and wearing a warrior's clothing which accentuated her mesmerizing curves spoke out "we do not have time for that. The Seraphim of Origin Azrael of Patience is instigating the Azure Moon Empire into usurping the neighboring kingdoms."

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In the depths of the north side of the Ghastly Winding Forest lay gigantic honeycombs on top of equally gigantic trees. Currently, the trees were on fire and large colonies of Killer Worker Bees were swarming Simon from all sides. "Infernal Blade Storm" with his shout, the crimson sword in his hand burned wildly as it turned hundreds of Killer Worker Bees into ashes. Ground charred black for miles, and trees burned into charcoals littered everywhere.

Devastation spread as far as the eye could see and amidst all of this carnage was Simon with his wings spread open and a crimson sword on hand. After a month of progress and familiarizing himself with the Crimson Blazing Infernal Blade, he was once again here challenging the foe which gave him a lot of trouble previously.

If it was not for them chasing him to no ends, he wouldn't have intruded the territory of the Earth-Shattering Lower Dragon and be forced to pathetically flee for his life. Reminiscing about the humiliation he suffered back then, he brandished his Crimson Blazing Flame Blade and large groups of Killer Worker Bees were incinerated into ashes in an instant. Utilising the power of the sword, even these enemies which previously could threaten his life, were no match for him.

The power that the sword bestowed to its user could be explained with only one word 'terrifying'. And it was still refinement level 1, he could not even imagine what kind of power a fully refined Crimson Blazing Infernal Blade would display.

## Chapter 38: Demon Viscount (2)

Infernal magic the advanced form of the novice tier fire magic. The advanced magic is said to be so powerful that it can level an entire city and was very difficult to master. Additionally, it required a colossal amount of manas to cast. In the world of Althaea, you are already considered an elite if you can master advanced tier magic.

Not to mention that the people who can actually master the magic of this caliber are few and far between. Even the current Simon wasn't able to master advanced tier magic and was only able to reach intermediate tier flame magic. He was aware that if the Crimson Blazing Flame Blade didn't bestow him with the skill [Infernal Magic Mastery], it would still be a long while before he could advanced tier magic

"Truly worthy of being [A] rank, all the DP spent on upgrading it had paid tremendously" he laughed out loud and looked towards another battlefield. A Black warhorse burning in crimson flames and clad in ancient armor was stampeding large groups of Killer Worker Bees as it charged across the sky. Piles of rubble and corpses decorated the ground. It roared in a wild and unbridled manner and charged towards another group of bees. With a flap of its wide draconic wings, it instantly covered the distance and used its large antler-like horns to pierce the enemies one after the other. In the past month, the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse had grown quite a bit, it had reached level 180 and also gained a few new skills.

Simon himself had also leveled up quite a bit since then and was now level 199. And currently, he was grinding experience and trying to reach level 200. Sounds of air vibrating and buzzing reached his ears as he refocused his attention on his own battlefield. Swarms of furious Killer Worker Bees surrounded him from all directions as they screeched. Watching this scene, Simon revealed a fearless smile and beckoned with his hand.

Immediately after the bees charged at him enraged by his taunting actions and revealed their pointed stings. The Stings of the Killer Worker Bees were said to be so sharp that they could pierce most shields and were excellent materials to forge swords with. He imagined that if he got pierced by this many stings at once, he would be turned into swiss cheese. Pouring manas into his wings, he carefully dodged all the stings that came at him and parried the ones he couldn't.

Swarmed by all directions, he was forced to dodge left and right. Even with his defense stats which was quite high, he didn't dare to take on their Stings carelessly and felt threatened by the sharp glints on their stings. Recalling all of the shriveled corpses whose life force have been sucked dry along the way, he didn't dare to underestimate their sting attacks. However, he was outnumbered and couldn't constantly dodge the attacks that came from his blind spots.

All the constant dodging made him annoyed as he loudly roared and forcefully broke out of the encirclement. On his way, he got pierced several times and blood was coming out of the injured areas. A paralyzing effect was also spreading from the places that got pierced by their stings. Clenching his teeth and forcefully suppressing the effect, Simon charged straight towards the sky like a rocket, the swarms of bees chasing him like a black cloud.

BZZZZZZ... Looking from afar, it just seemed like a black cloud that was constantly changing shapes, chasing after a small dot. A vibrating noise that assaulted one's ear constantly came from the cloud and the air distorted wherever the black cloud traveled.

“Don't think I'm the same as the last time we met” Simon roared as he stopped his ascend. Gravity took its effect and his body started falling down. He flapped his wings and increased the speed of his descend even further. “Sword mastery, super cutting enhancement, super piercing enhancement, super strength... haaaaahhhh..[Thousand Piercing Sword Storm]” he used his skills to boost his strength even further and with a loud yell, he hacked at the onrushing bees thousands of times with the Crimson Blazing Flame Blade.

Thousands of crimson sword shadows came flying down like a rainstorm and pierced all the bees like a hot knife slicing through butter. PIERCE... PIERCE... PIERCE each of the attacks was so strong that even after piercing the Killer Worker Bees, its momentum didn't decrease even a bit. Thousands of sword shadows slammed into the ground and filled it with tiny holes. Seconds later, the bees that were pierced by the sword shadows burst into a bloody pulp and fell to the ground like a rain of blood and corpses, a horrific scene.

Simon who was high up in the sky looked at the sight with satisfaction as he inhaled hurried breaths of air. [Thousand Piercing Sword Storm] It took a toll on his body to activate all these skills together but the might displayed by the skill was enough to forget his exhaustion.

“Huff... huff... huff... It was a bit of an overkill to use it on these bees huh.” Turning his head he looked at the battlefield where the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse was. The Warhorse was also done defeating its enemies as it hurriedly flew towards him. “You did a good job. This should be enough for today let us return,” he patted its head and rode on to it as they flew back

### Chapter 39: Demon Viscount (3)

After defeating the colony of Killer Worker Bees, he had gained enough experience. but since he was a low-rank demon whose bloodline was impure, he was stuck after reaching level 200. Urging his warhorse they rapidly flew from the north side of the forest towards the dungeon.

Simon was eager to return to his dungeon as he had something he wanted to try now that he was level 200. According to the unwritten law of this world, he was a lowborn demon birthed through

the extremely rich manas of this world. There was no way he could level up any further as the impure blood in him barred him from ranking up. Other than a few exceptions, most of the inhabitants of the world who did not inherit a pure bloodline, find themselves reaching a bottleneck that they can never breakthrough from.

Unless they use some precious treasure that could purify their bloodline, most of them spend their whole life stuck in the same rank. However, finding a precious treasure of the world capable enough to purify one's bloodline was easier said than done, and even if it was found it would quickly go into the pockets of those wealthy and powerful ones. That would have been the case if it was any other ordinary demon but Simon was different, he was a reincarnated person from a different world.

Soon after, the silhouette of the dungeon came into view. By now the spiral tower above the ground was fifty meters tall and had intricate designs all over. The tower was mostly empty and only had a gigantic door that led towards the first floor of the dungeon. The dungeon itself had fifteen floors and monsters spawned on the floors that acted as a defensive mechanism for it. Starting from the ninth floor to the twelfth floor was a vast mud land more than ten kilometers in area that made walking a treacherous task on this floor. Lizardmen and Pirodile that looked like gigantic piranhas spawned on this floor.

The Thirteenth and Fourteenth floor was a vast wasteland similar to the twelfth floor in size and was occupied by the anemodactyl, a race he had already fought with on the north side of the forest. Some of which were spawned by the dungeon and some brought in by him from outside. After a month, they made a new colony on the thirteenth and fourteenth floors. And finally, the fifteenth floor was used as his personal space. His personal floor wasn't as empty as before and was decorated with plenty of items he got from [Gacha]. By now Simon had collected quite a lot of joke items, the jade sofa set, crystal chandeliers were some of the few that he put in the [Gacha] in his previous life to annoy the players. But now that he was the one using the [Gacha], he couldn't help but curse his previous self.

Sitting on his jade sofa, Simon took a few deep breaths of air. Clearing his mind he opened the [Main Menu] and pressed on the [Character] option. The character option was similar to the status which displayed all his stats and skills, but the [Character] had two more functions that the status didn't and that was [Promote] and [Constellation]. The last time he used [Constellation] was to get more details on the Pride Fragment that was shown in his title. This time the function he wanted to use was [Promote], which he created in his previous life to help players break the level cap and reach new heights.

If the function performed as it was meant to in the game, then Simon was sure that he could rank up using this function and overcome the limiters set by his impure bloodline. He was aware of the impurity of his bloodline and knew that no matter how much experience he gets from defeating monsters, he would not be able to level up anymore and will always remain a Demon Baron. But

with the help of [Promote] option, he felt that he would be able to break the restraints placed on him and step on a new and higher realm which would very well be impossible for others who did not have [Main Menu] with them.

With great hope and expectation, he pressed on the [Promote] option, immediately after which a new window appeared in front of him. Reading the details displayed, an incomparably wild and unrestrained joy surged within him

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Character has met all the conditions for [Promote]. Use Purifying Crystal Essence to promote character?.

Crystal needed:- 10

On hand:- 0

YES/NO

—

The window was the very same one he was expecting and the material needed to promote was also the same. Seeing that everything was the same even after [Main Menu] got transmigrated, Simon sighed in relief. If the [Promote] didn't work, he wouldn't know what to do anymore but that was not the case, the function worked as he programmed and his wildly beating heart finally relaxed.

Purifying Crystal Essence are the materials needed to promote the character or rank up in Simon's case. The crystals can be bought from the [Shop] option of the [Main Menu] and cost 100,000 DP each. He immediately bought ten crystals for a whopping one million DP and hurriedly pressed YES. Considering that one million DP was able to help him rank up, he felt that the exchange was quite cheap.

Just after he pressed YES, a great sense of exhaustion hit him making it hard for him to sit still as the world around him kept on rotating, his eyelids growing heavier by the moment and his breathing became ragged. An unimaginable amount of pain started coursing throughout his body as he screamed out loud. A crimson light continuously pulsed inside him and drilled inside his skeleton, bones, muscles nourishing and purifying it.



“AAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH...this...wasn't..what..i..planne..d” as his words fell, he immediately passed out due to the unimaginable pain.

#### Chapter 40: Wind of Change

The Draconic continent was the second largest continent after the Central continent. Its landmass was only a little bit smaller than the latter. It was mostly populated by dragonkin, demi-humans, and humans nonetheless the true rulers of the continent were not them but the five ancient Dragon Lords. These Dragon Lords have survived since ancient times and were the ancestor of all the dragons that currently roamed the world. Although in the present timeline, nobody had seen them, but their reputation and might which shook the continents in the ancient times was clearly written in the annals of history.

The Draconic continent was a peaceful continent where most of the kingdoms and empires live in harmony. Many races lived and intermingled with each other, even the races that have gone extinct in other continents could be seen roaming in these lands. The inhabitants here build shrines and monuments of the Dragon Lords and revere them just like gods. A utopia for all the species balanced and overseen by them. One could even say that they were the guardians of the draconic continent.

These Dragon Lords that have lived since the primordial times, were one of the strongest species alive. They mostly lived a life of seclusion and hardly bothered with the affairs of the world unless a calamity that could threaten the harmony of the world arises, they wouldn't willingly show their faces easily. Although there are a few people alive who can sense their presence, the knowledgeable ones were tactful enough not to earn the ire of these behemoths of history.

In one of the tallest mountains in the entire Draconic continent, the Clouds Meet Mountain which was hundreds of thousands meters tall. The peak of the mountain couldn't be seen as it was hidden by the clouds above and the most amazing thing about the mountain was the bottommost part was levitating above the ground. The mountain was not connected and was hovering a few meters above the ground. A marveling sight that could make the onlooker's jaw drop.

Anyone that looked at the mountain would be amazed by its grandeur and mighty presence. However, that was if anybody could see it. The entire Clouds Meet Mountain was hidden by a powerful magical array inlaid at the base of the mountain. The array generated a thin film over the entire mountain that made it invisible to the onlookers.

High above at the peak that pierced the clouds was a grand castle that was carved into the very mountain itself giving off an imposing and impenetrable aura. The castle was gigantic to say no less and its craftsmanship spoke volumes of its splendor and might. The castle gave the presence of indestructibility and was a relic from the ancient times. In one of the rooms of the castle which was

hundreds of meters wide, supported by the tall pillars that reached up till the ceiling, an old man with a muscular build was seated in the center of the room.

The man had a head full of silver-white hair and wrinkles reminiscent of old age was in his otherwise sharp face, his eyebrows were like two unsheathed swords. Dragon scales releasing divine light dotted the corners of his closed eyelids looking just as menacing and when he breathed the air in the entire room trembled. The old man was wearing a simple gray robe and his body was uncharacteristically tall, sharp, and unmoving. The air trembled as the man breathed in and out and it seemed that he was in deep meditation and not even the slightest presence or aura of his leaked out.

Suddenly the eyebrows of the man twitched a little before his closed eyelids slowly opened, WOOOSH... the clouds suddenly darkened as they continuously churned around the mountain and at that moment the entire Clouds Meet Mountain trembled. Thunder rumbled as his two silvery-white eyes filled with a mystical light scanned the entire area, his might encompassing the entire mountain and the surrounding lands. After a few moments the man abruptly stood up “My granddaughter Lucine, I cant sense her presence here anymore!?”. The old man made a confused face and said “That can’t be I could sense her presence a few moments ago. What’s going on?..did she use [Imitate Presence] to fool my senses to sneak out of here again!?”.

No longer able to contain his anxiousness, he stormed out of his room and roared “DRAKE WHERE ARE YOU?.. COME OUT HERE THIS INSTANT”. His voice like a soundwave spread onto the whole mountain and even shook a few kilometers of land. Immediately after his thundering voice sounded, many people with extremely strong presences appeared out of thin air and kneeled before the man. Surprisingly each of their presence was no less powerful than a Demon Duke. After what felt like a few minutes, a fat man with a round belly wearing a well-designed cloth and luxurious coat that reached till his plump knees appeared using a spatial gate and hurriedly tied to kneel. But before he could, he was grabbed by the collar and lifted by the man. “Drake you worthless fool...didn’t I tell you to notify me whenever Lucine sneaks out of the place huhh?” ?” he roared as he questioned the man named Drake.

“L-L-Lord Morax please calm your anger...I-I was told that she already got your permission and since you were in seclusion I did not dare to barge inside....I-I’m sorry” Drake hurriedly pleaded with a pale face that was devoid of any blood as his whole body shuddered intensely.