

## D. of Pride 41

### Chapter 41: Wind of Change (2)

Sensing that his life was in danger, Drake parroted all the secrets and conversation he was told to keep to himself. Morax was quietly tall and on the contrary, Drake was a short-statured man. Being lifted by Morax, he was few feet above the ground. He was in quite a predicament right now, on one side was the unreasonable princess who one-sidedly ordered him to keep everything a secret and on the other side was an equally unreasonable grandfather of hers who wouldn't bat an eye to beat him down to open his mouth.

Saying everything he knew, Drake finally felt relieved but when he realised the consequence of his action when the princess returns, he shuddered like quail.

“You telling me that she has been gone for over a month... and you have the guts to bring this to my notice now!!” Morax tossed Drake aside as he burned with fury. “IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO MY GRANDDAUGHTER I WILL START THE THIRD APEX WAR” with a loud voice he roared as if declaring to the whole world. Immediately after he said that the surrounding people who were kneeling in front of him panicked and said in a hurried voice “Milord calm down, nothing will happen to the princess. I shall immediately head out to search for her”. When Morax heard that, he immediately ordered the speaker “Adalinda, Fafnir search all the continents and bring her back to me.”

A petite and delicate figure with black hair and a snow-white face wearing an exquisite golden dress stood up from among the kneeling crowd, behind her was a tall warrior who looked so thin that even a slight gust of wind could blow him away. But the aura he was releasing on the contrary told others that he was among the strongest people present here.

Adalinda came forward gracefully bowed and said, “Lord Morax please be rest assured that we will find and protect her even if we have to search all of the continents. No harm shall come to the little princess as long as we are alive”. Morax finally relaxed a little after hearing the assurance from the two of his strongest subordinates. He nodded and replied, “Hmm with you two taking action I can rest assured. But be careful, my granddaughter is wilful and wouldn't even leave a trace of her aura knowing that I would send people after her to bring her back. Take this transmission shell, If in the off chance something unexpected happens break it and I'll immediately tear the space and come to your aid”.

‘Wilful? the princess is more than just alright. Sigh how many times has she run out by now? looks like as her master I have to finally teach her a lesson’ Adalinda thought. She swiftly took the small

conch that was as big as her palm and filled with complicated patterns and formations, before disappearing only to leave a shattered space in her wake.

A transmission shell is marked with a pattern that allows the user to transmit their message and location to the other party holding a transmission shell with a similar pattern. Fafnir bowed his head and similarly disappeared in a flash.

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Simon slowly opened his eyes as he looked at his surrounding. He was still on the fifteenth floor lying face down. Standing up he tried to recall what had happened “I remember pressing YES when all of a sudden my vision grew hazy and intense pain assaulted me.” He did not know what had happened after he passed out nor did he know if the rank-up was successful or not. Checking his body all over to find any anomalies, he was stunned to discover that his height had grown a few centimeters in size and more importantly the golden-black tattoos that had disappeared after he used the [Ancestral Symbol Ignition] on the direwolves of his first day of arrival in this world have reappeared on his body again. He immediately opened his status to check on his condition.

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Name:- Simon

Race:- Demon Viscount

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

Stats:-

Level:- 200

HP:- 25,889

MP:- 33,018

Strength:- 1700

Defence:- 1800

Agility:- 2100

Magic:- 2300

Endurance:- 1900

Luck:- 1300

Skills:- Language Comprehension, Analysis, Flame Magic Mastery, Gale Magic Mastery, Electro Magic Mastery, Thought Processing, Regeneration, High-Speed Flight, Super Strength, Body Enhancement, Fire Resistance, Wind Resistance, Sense Presence

Amalgamation Skills:- [Flame-Gale Mastery]

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

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Simon clenched his hands after looking at his status, he had finally ranked up to Demon Viscount and broke through the restrictions placed on him by his impure bloodline. His stats also saw a sharp increase, some of which have even surpassed the 2000 threshold and delighted him very much. He also gained a few new skills and his previous skills have improved into superior skills.

Electro Magic Mastery was a novice tier magic one of the five basic forms of manas that he gained after he ranked up, he also gained resistance against novice tier fire and wind magic, and his Flight and Body Enhancement skills have improved into superior skills. Doing some light exercise, he felt that the condition of his body was much better than before and strength surged through every corner of his body.

The muscles in his body were much more compact than before and brimmed with devastating power. Feeling the intoxication of power that came from his rank up, Simon finally was aware of the immense gap between a Demon Baron and Demon Viscount. No matter how much a Demon

Baron tried to compete they were no match for a Demon Viscount. Now that he had ranked up he could feel that the bloodline within him and become purer by a significant amount.

#### Chapter 42: Onset of Dungeon War

Simon experimented with his newfound powers on the north side of the forest and quickly discovered that most of the monsters here were no longer any match for him. Even the experience they give him didn't feel as satisfying as before and the pace at which he gained experience had slowed down to a crawl. If he wanted to level up and reach the next rank, he had to either challenge the three overlords of the north side, the Earth-Shattering Lower Dragon being one, or delve into the west side of the forest where the strongest monsters lived.

Currently, his level was still quite low compared to the Earth Shattering lower Dragon and if the other two overlords had similar levels or even more than challenging them with his current strength would be nothing more than a fool's errand. Hence he decided to avoid clashing with the three overlords for now and instead decided to explore the western region of the forest. Simon was not afraid of these three overlords but was biding his time since he knew that given enough time he would be able to surpass them. With that said his only choice was to delve and survive amongst the strongest monsters of the Ghastly Winding Forest.

Now that he had already set his eyes on the west side, he immediately called his Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse and flew towards the west. A week passed by as Simon explored and continued grinding levels, his [Mental Map] had also helped him chart out the parts of the forest he explored. In these last few days, he learned quite a bit about the monsters inhabiting the western region of the forest. The levels of the monsters he encountered at the edges of the region were lower than the Earth-Shattering Lower Dragon but their levels were still around 200-250 and the numbers in which they appeared were in hundreds which made them quite challenging in their own way.

These monsters did not just hunt in numbers but were all quite sentient and use tactics and tricks to immobilise their prey before going for the kill. Many a time during his exploration, Simon and the Bloodthorn Demonic warhorse were surrounded and pounced upon, exhausted fighting in addition to being chased by the monsters day and night they had to run back towards the dungeon.

This past week of exploring the western region, made Simon aware of how dangerous the western part truly was and why these monsters were the strongest monsters around. The perils and dangers hidden inside the western region of the forest couldn't even be compared to the other regions of the Ghastly Winding Forest.

He also learned that the monsters on the west side were very aggressive as they chased after him and even inside the dungeon. Moreover, since they weren't classified as weak, the Elixir of Enticement didn't work on them. Hence, even after burrowing inside his dungeon he still had to fight against these monsters who were after his life.

The spawned monsters inside the dungeon also helped in repelling the invading monsters albeit the spawned monster were quite weak compared to the monsters that chased after him from the western region of the forest. Thus most of them ended up dying. Simon didn't feel any regret over their death as these monsters were supposed to guard the dungeon and since they can be spawned again using DP, he did not have to worry about their numbers being decreased.

Thankfully most of the invaders were repelled or died before they even reached the twelfth floor. however, it made him realise that how weak he and his dungeon was and if anything unexpected happened, he might have lost the dungeon core along with his life.

This event made him aware once again that how important the dungeon was to him, it was not only his home but also a place that he must guard with all his strength as his life was connected to the dungeon. Therefore in the past few days, Simon renewed his efforts as he focused on increasing his level as well as added new floors and improved the defensive mechanisms of the dungeon.

After the improvement, the dungeon now had twenty floors and every floor was filled with deadly traps that could easily kill a lower-level monster if it was careless, winding paths that would keep interfering with your sense of direction and hidden areas filled with monsters and traps. The fifteenth and sixteenth floor was a vast forest with orcs, direwolves, and windwolves spawning on these floors. Their levels individually were low but the numbers in which they appear is what makes them a threat to any invaders. The seventeenth and eighteenth floor was a vast swamp loomed by rain clouds all the time along with the white fog that covers most of the land. The monsters spawning on these floors are adept to this habitat and make it quite a perilous task to breach this floor.

The nineteenth floor was a vast winding cavern that leads to the wide central colosseum. Simon made it so that if any invaders did manage to get past all the floors, they could have a final showdown here. Beyond this was the twentieth floor which had the dungeon core that made it all the more obvious to stop the invaders here before they could reach the core and destroy it.

“Well twenty floors should be enough to protect the dungeon for now” he made a satisfied smile but his naïve thinking was soon broken as a new window popped in front of him.

Chapter 43: Onset of Dungeon War (2)

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Demon Viscount Gelgar has declared a war on your dungeon forcing each of the participants to fight a war of life and death. The time limit for preparations would be five days, during this period no party can attack the other. After the expiration of allotted time a spatial gate will be formed

linking the two dungeons. Forces from each side can pass through the gate and attack the other party's dungeon, the war will end when the dungeon master is killed or when their dungeon core is destroyed.

Countdown:- 4days:27hours

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Simon knitted his brows as he read the declaration that suddenly popped up in front of him, his tightly clenched hands made cracking noises. How could he be not? this declaration was an ultimatum of sorts which made it clear that only one party will survive the ordeal. It seemed that he was right about Gelgar, a person like him wouldn't let the matter be and would try to do things forcefully.

Simon was aware of Gelgar's goal and that was to take control of the [B] rank warhorse of his. During the banquet back at the castle of Avernus, he could see the greed in Gelgar's eyes as he fantasised about becoming the master of the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse. Little did he know that subduing the warhorse was a more difficult task than climbing a mountain barehand. Additionally, the warhorse chose its own master and wouldn't allow anyone it didn't approve of to ride on top of it.

Exhaling a deep breath of air, Simon exclaimed "So you can't wait any longer huh?...very well then I shall accept this challenge. Destroy my dungeon?... fat chance!" with a fearless smile on his face, he stated, "Gelgar you will pay the price for underestimating me."

Further north of Ghastly Winding Forest was a vast desert region perpetually assaulted by sandstorms and monsters. These monsters that can even survive in these harsh environments were quite strong and were one of the true dangers of this great Dassha Desert. In one part of the desert was a huge pyramid with an unusual design highlighting the strange artistic sense of the creator. Despite all of this, the pyramid was quite sturdy and persisted through all the sandstorms that passed by. Moreover, if one looked carefully they could see a carefully hidden entrance at the bottommost part of the pyramid.

The pyramid was none other than a dungeon created by a demon. Currently inside the pyramid in a lavishly decorated room sat a man on his grand sofa laughing as he looked towards his two subordinates and said "That lowborn demon must be panicking and racking his brains out right now hahaha. The nerve of him to dare to speak to me a Demon Viscount like that snort." The person was none other than Gelgar. He fiddled with his wine glass as he fantasized about the despairing face of Simon's after he got his declaration and a cruel smile crawled up to his face. Obviously, he was

enjoying the situation and loved playing with his prey and make them despair until they begged him for mercy.

“Sir Gelgar is right that lowborn demon must be cursing his fate by now” Mike who was present during the banquet spoke. Hearing what he said Gelgar fell into a deep burst of laughter “Ahaha that is true. That lowborn demon was clearly out of him to have challenged me. Now look how I destroy that confidence of his and make him grovel at my feet. What do you think Berd?.”

The other man named Berd kept silent for a while before he replied “I think he has no one other than himself to blame for his inability to recognize kindness and overestimating his own abilities.” Another burst of laughter leaked from Gelgar before he stood up and looked out of the room. Beyond the room was a wide area where hordes of monsters stood still in a row and just like an army they maintained a large formation.

Looking at the hordes of monsters down below from the balcony of his room, Gelgar made a pleased smile. After deliberating for a moment he asked looking at Mike “It took us months to prepare this number. How many are there?”. Mike replied after musing over the question “Sir Gelgar the dungeon was able to spawn 50 Armored Drillman, 100 Sandworms, 150 Big Poison Scorpion, 100 Scavenger Mummies, and 100 Corpse Eater Bird. Also adding in the [C] rank subordinate of sir Gelgar, our numbers including me and Berd are 503.”

Listening to the report Gelgar added “We still have 5 days use all the remaining Dp and spawn as many monsters as you can. I want to crush that lowborn’s morale by just our numbers alone and then when I kill him, I’ll take that [B] rank warhorse of his hahaha”.

As if he could already see the defeated face of Simon, Gelgar snickered as he broke the wine glass on his hand, the contents of which fell onto the ground and spoke to himself “I will make you understand the difference between our ranks, a Demon Baron going against a Demon Viscount... what utter foolishness. You shall realise how imprudent you were back then as I make you suffer humiliation worse than death”. Right after he said that, he ordered “Mike, Berd make sure you guys lead the attack as soon as the spatial gate forms. I will too accompany you guys after all I want to see his despairing and dying moments with my own two eyes hahahahaha”

#### Chapter 44: Dungeon War

5 days passed by in a flash and the day Gelgar awaited soon arrived. A wide spatial gate had formed just outside his dungeon which spun in an anticlockwise direction and looked just like an abyss that could swallow everything. This was the spatial gate that connected both of their dungeons and allowed forces to pass from each. He knew that the other side led towards another dungeon but still wondered how it was made.

“Mike, Berd it’s time. lead the army towards the other side of the gate and show that lowborn demon that his death has arrived hahaha” he ordered his subordinates as he stared at the gate. Now that he was so close to getting what he wanted, he couldn’t wait any longer. plus when he imagined the despairing face of the demon on the other side, a twisted sense of pleasure like electricity ran through his whole body.

Immediately the two Demon Barons started giving commands and the monster army swiftly and steadily started marching towards the spatial gate. It was quite strange to see monsters making a formation just like an actual army but since they were spawned monsters loyal to the dungeon master, they obeyed all commands. The gate was wide enough to allow multiple monsters to pass through at once and even the huge Armored Drillmans that were more than ten meters in size and looked like a bipedal tortoise with spiky porcupine shells on their back, easily passed through the gate.

One after the other the monsters went in and before long all of the monsters passed through the gate. After seeing that the army had almost finished passing through the gate, Gelgar swiftly followed suit. Just as he stepped inside the gate, he felt his centre of balance shifting and a moment of weightlessness before everything became normal once again

After passing through the gate, he saw a wide forest with enormous tall trees and sensed a dense amount of manas pervading the air. The air was rich and the manas was so pure here that it couldn’t be compared to the manas pervading his dungeon. Looking all around the forest, Gelgar knitted his brows as if deliberating something. He felt like he knew where this place was but his memories were eluding him and he couldn’t exactly recall where this place was.

A few meters ahead in a wide clearance was a fifty meters tall spiral tower. It looked quite grand with all those intricate patterns and designs that spread all over its surface, a wide entrance pitch black in colour prevented anyone from peering inside. The tower that lay in front of them was their destination and also a dungeon.

“Heh, so this is that lowborn demon’s dungeon. Well, it’s not half bad considering it was made by him. Hehe, it still won’t be able to save him” Gelgar looked at the majestic tower and sneered. Though the tower looked grand and impressive, once he killed that demon or destroyed his dungeon core, everything would collapse and become nothing more but ruin. Wasting no more time, he commanded “Mike, Berd order the monsters to begin their march through that entrance, show that lowborn demon that is turtling inside his dungeon what it means to be on the mercy of others.”

“Yes, Sir Gelgar” the both of them replied in unison and roared at the hordes of monsters. The monsters roared back in a thunderous clatter as if answering the call and started charging towards



the entrance of the dungeon as ordered. Soon after all of them went inside the dungeon and a stifling silence pervaded the surrounding.

“Are you watching this? has your body started cowering and you want to run? or have you already fled from this place?. It doesn’t matter as long as the dungeon here, there is nowhere for you to run... Hahaha” Gelgar looked towards the dungeon and said before he too went inside.

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Simon sitting on his jade sofa on the 20th floor watched the scene unfold from his dungeon menu and as soon as all of the intruders went inside, a wicked smile crept up to his face. “It is time to see the effectiveness of the dungeon. You guys shall be my first test subject, it kind of reminds me of the beta testing of that game that I developed. My dear players, do enjoy everything that I have set up for you” he said with a wide smile displaying his sharp fangs and a crimson glow on his face.

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[Entered Dungeon:- (BLANK)]

“A no-name dungeon huh” Gelgar snickered as a notification popped up in front of him right after he stepped through the entrance.

After entering the tower, Gelgar saw a wide empty area with a tall ceiling. Two flights of stairs that led straight up towards the top of the tower were on two opposite corners and at the far end of the area was a gigantic double door. Carved on its surface were depictions of angels and demons facing each other.

Looking at the splendour of the gate, Gelgar couldn’t help but comment “That lowborn has quite the artistic sense if nothing else. But it’s a pity that after I kill you, your dungeon will naturally collapse along with you”. Right after saying that, He turned towards his two subordinates and instructed, “Open the gate and head inside, destroy everything that he has set and watch out for any traps that may have been laid”.

Two Armored Drillmans went ahead and opened the gigantic double doors. Even with their build, they only reached one-third of the height of the gate.

Chapter 45: Dungeon War (2)

Opening the door revealed a wide set of stairs that led downwards. With the commands given by Mike and Berd, the monsters started charging downstairs. Soon after a dimly lit maze came into view.

The floor was a few hundred meters wide and thick walls crisscrossed in every corner, the passageway was quite narrow and only allowed a few monsters to pass through together at once. Gelgar tried punching through the wall and realized that the walls were further reinforced with manas, which made it rather difficult to break them. Even with his strength, he could only make a small crack that disappeared in an instant as the walls mended themselves whenever they were damaged.

“Tsk. I want all of you to quickly find the entrance to the next floor” realising that he couldn’t just brute force his way, he clicked his tongue in annoyance and with an irritated tone he gave the command. Following his orders, the monsters soon spread towards all corners of the floor and started searching for the entrance to the next floor.

“Cheap tricks that is only good to buy time” Gelgar spat as he looked around the dim floor and couldn’t help but comment when he couldn’t detect anything other than traps. There was no trace of monsters that were supposed to be guarding the dungeon.

“I guess that demon didn’t have enough DP to spawn monsters to guard all the floors of his dungeon” Mike added after Gelgar sensing that there were no monsters nearby.

But they all failed to notice that in some corners of the floor a faint pinkish smoke was rising from the walls smeared with some pink fluids. The monster that passed by or inhaled some of the pinkish smoke, had a dazed look in their eyes as they fell in the traps laid for the intruders and quickly becoming the nourishment for the dungeon.

Whenever a foreign entity that wasn’t recognised or born in the dungeon dies inside, they would become the nourishment for the growth of the dungeon and converted into DP for the dungeon master.

The first floor wasn’t big and only a few hundred meters wide. After the monsters spread all over the floor, even when the walls and routes changed periodically, they swiftly found the entrance.

In only an hour they found the entrance to the next floor and immediately started marching in. Gelgar who was a little irritated that they had to spend so long in the maze to find the entrance failed to notice their slowly declining numbers. A dimly lit path led towards a dark cavern that made the forward march of the monsters slow down quite a bit. After coming down to the second floor,

everyone felt their vision declining by a significant amount. That was because there was no source of light.

Though there was no source of light, Gelgar didn't feel any discomfort even he did not have the skill [Night Vision].

Mike and Berd immediately started ordering commands as they used fire magic to light up their surroundings. The monsters that innately have the ability to see in the dark such as the Corpse Mummies marched unhindered. Those that did not, had to rely on fire magic cast by their top commanders.

Though there was no source of light, Gelgar didn't feel any discomfort as he had the skill [Night Vision] which allowed him to see just fine even in the dark.

Since Mike and Berd didn't have a convenient skill to see in the dark such as the [Night Vision], they were using fire magic to light up their surroundings and surveyed the floor. A wide cavernous terrain lay in front of them, many twisting paths interlocked and crisscrossed around each other, many tall and wide rocks protruded from the ceiling and floors. From these rocks, water seeped down making the floor quite wet and made a continuous splashing sound as the monsters marched over it.

in one part of the cavern, a group of twenty Sandworms that are individually five meters in length were frantically crawling and searching for the entrance to the next floor as per their orders. Their slithery bodies were drenched with liquids from the small puddles on the floor, as they crawled forward more and more of those liquids latched onto their bodies. though the sticking to their bodies was a little unusual, they paid it no mind as it didn't threaten their life.

After making a turn and coming to new a area, the sandworms started scouting for the entrance. Hundreds of small rocks protruded from the ceiling as droplets of water seeped from them and crashed below. However, when these droplets of water fell on the liquid drenched bodies of the Sandworms, they ignited into a burst of flames.

SHRIEEEEKKK....all the sandworms that entered the area, ignited one after the other as the water droplets dropped on their bodies. Their shriek of pain resounded over the area, as they desperately thumped their bodies into the ground in an attempt to snuff the flames on their bodies but to no avail. The more they thumped onto the ground the more water dropped onto them and increased the intensity of the flames burning them. Their shriek of pain lasted for a long while before all twenty of them succumbed to the flames.

It was not only the Sandworms but many other monsters similarly burst into flames in some corners of the cavern. It would be only after they reach the third floor when Gelgar and his subordinates realise the dwindling numbers of their monster army. But for now, they had no way of knowing what had transpired in these wide twisting caverns.