

## D. of Pride 431

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Simon had already seen the sort of effects the crimson mutation crystals was capable of bringing thus he did not waste any time experimenting with these crystals on the fanged mouse and other monsters of his dungeon once again.

The result was after a week, various new species were registered to his dungeon and the new floors that he added were frolicking with these very types of monsters.

Of course, it was not like the experimentation was all a success, there were many failures and many deaths on the side of monsters that cost him quite a lot of DP. However, Simon wasn't discouraged, he saw every failure as a step forward to success and due to this quality of his, new species of monsters were born in his dungeon Laplace.

Amongst the new species, some had the ability to use water and wind attributes while those which already had this attribute, to begin with, became even stronger after the mutation.

For example, amongst one of the monster species that was experimented upon, were the lizardmen and pirodiles that are spawned on upper floors. These aquatic races already had the affinity with water attribute thus after the mutation, they evolved into a new type of species with increased strength and basic abilities.

Looking at their pre-mutated form and post-mutated form, one cannot even compare them anymore since the strength brought by that change was just too drastic. And of course, just like with the fire fanged mouse and fire eater rat, Simon had to personally see them with his eyes to register them to the dungeon.

Unlike the last time when they were caught unprepared by the powerful effects of the crystal, which brought a menace on the upper floors, this time they were ready and had stopped any problems before they arrived.

That is... not counting the number of monsters that were sacrificed during the experiment. The experiment as a whole might be a success but it cost a lot of DP and other than Simon who had amassed a lot of DP in a short period of time, even a high ranking demon wouldn't expend so much resources on simply mutating low level monsters.

After all, with the amount of DP that Simon had used to spawn the monsters and experiment on them, they might be able to create a couple of floors.

To others, it might look like Simon was being too extravagant with his experiments but he himself knew how much his heart bled whenever colonies of monsters died unable to assimilate with the effects of the mutation crystals.

Ultimately though, his efforts had paid off and an unknown number of sacrifices later, new and powerful species of monsters were born. These new species cost as much DP as their pre-mutation species so in a way, Simon had benefitted from this experiment enormously.

While he was thinking all that, Coleus who was reporting him about the events occurring around his dungeon furrowed his brows at his moment.

"Alright, I will report this to lord Simon immediately". It seemed like he had received a message from his fellow [Helpers].

The role feature created a neural network amongst the associated parties thus it was possible to communicate with one another without having a need to be physically present near. It was also through this network that Simon communicated with his subordinates.

Coleus after receiving the message from his associates, gave another report to Simon.

"Lord Simon, I have received a message saying 'that thing' has woken up. Maya and Fay are currently monitoring it".

The moment he heard those words, Simon's indifferent crimson eyes shone a bright glaring red for a moment. From his appearance, it seemed like he was extremely interested in that 'thing' that Coleus mentioned.

Simon got up from his couch and said with a wide smile "In that case, let us go there and greet it".

Coleus obediently nodded his head and along with Simon they teleported to one of the new floors. The place they teleported to was a wide rocky terrain filled with gravel, boulders and mountains as far as the eye can see.

The floor was the forty-fifth floor of the dungeon which was recently created by Simon and was relatively very small compared to the floors above it. The reason it was small was because there was no monster spawned in this area yet and was currently used for something else.

On a side note, the previous thirty-sixth floor ruled by the lightning draconic serpent was shifted below and was the current forty-sixth floor.

The moment they arrived on the forty-fifth floor, their aura was detected by the people that were already there as they came forward and bowed towards Simon.

Simon looked at Maya and Fay and told them to raise their head. His gaze roamed around seemingly trying to spot someone "Alice is not with you?".

"Reporting to Lord Simon, Miss Alice is currently locked in a fight with that thing" Fay stated looking at a particular direction of the floor where continuous noise of the dull explosion was coming.

"It was as lord Simon had expected, as soon as that thing woke up, it started attacking and became hostile to everything around it" Maya added.

Just a day ago, Simon had tasked Alice with protecting the [Helpers] just in case the thing turned out to be hostile. Looking at it now, it was a right decision to send her here since his suspicions came out to be true.

The four of them with Simon in the lead, rushed toward the base of a rocky mountain where the battle was currently going on. As soon as they arrived near, they could see a petite blonde girl valiantly fighting a scary entity multiple times bigger and bulkier than her.

RAWRR... the being smashed its claws and easily shattered a huge boulder. It had a massive body crossing a height of eight meters, four stout arms long enough to touch the ground and stumpy legs providing it a good centre of gravity.

It had a head of an ape, elongated fangs and a bipedal body filled with raw muscles. The fur on its back, hands and legs were burning in fire but strangely, it did not harm the entity.

The aura released by it was enough to scare these [Helpers] into submission and given its scary face it was only natural that evoked a sense of dread in others. However, no matter how powerful or

scary the being was, the petite figure fighting it held no such feelings as she nimbly dodge its attacks and lead it by the nose.

Her attacks were not as heavy as the latter and were only used to keep the being in place.

RAWRRR...

Seemingly frustrated for not being able to land an attack, the fire around the being's entire body started blazing, quickly increasing the heat around the surroundings. Following which, it opened its mouth wide revealing its sharp fangs and firing a stream of condensed fire.

"Eh?!" the petite figure seeing that a column of fire was coming towards her, swiftly dodged to the side and counter-attacked by firing two bullets made of lightning from her fingers.

BAM... BAM... although the bullets were extremely small, it still managed to scar the being as could be seen from its face that was writhing in agony.

"Hehe, be obedient or else I'll keep firing at you with those bullets until your entire body becomes sore" managing to do what she intended, the petite figure blew at her finger that was positioned in the shape of a handgun.

The jubilantly smiling figure was none other than Alice, the youngest of all the Valkyries.

"?"

Seeing that the being was glaring at her in defiance, she was just to teach it a lesson when she sensed a familiar presence approach her. Her mood immediately became happy and her face bloomed just like a sunflower.

"Hello~ master".

Simon gave a helpless smile seeing that Alice was waving her hands towards him and turning her back towards the enemy during a battle.

Normally, he would have scolded her for doing something like that but since he knew how strong the latter was, he decided to refrain for now and reminded her to keep her eyes on the enemy.

The Valkyries might be [A] rank subordinates, but they lacked combat experience thus they were prone to making mistakes in battles. Simon knew that he had to address this issue sooner than later thus he created a new regime and ordered all of his subordinates to have a spar with each other on the forty-seventh floor every day.

The forty-seventh floor similar to the prison floor, was an empty floor but it was much wider, spanning for more than thirty kilometres.

Currently, all of his subordinates were diligently training there, Alice was also there until yesterday. When he raised this issue about training to his subordinates, to his surprise he got a favourable reply from them.

The maids true to the moniker of Valkyries showed extreme enthusiasm. Gaining combat experience was a continuous process, one cannot become a master in it overnight. Even Simon who had accumulated a rich experience of fighting from his adventures, did not dare say that he was a master in it.

On the contrary, he was always looking for an opportunity to increase his combat experience. That is why, he felt that the training floor he had created, might not show its effectiveness now but with time, the difference it makes will only get apparent.

Anyways, he didn't come here to the forty-fifth floor to preach all of this to Alice instead he was here to check the being who was engulfed in a coat of fire.

Race- Fire demon Ape

Level- 423

Rank [D][?]

Skills- Fire Magic Mastery, Super Enhanced Strength, Super Enhanced Defence, Super enhanced Endurance, Blunt resistance, High Speed Regeneration, Body Strengthening, Berserk, Demonic Roar, Brutal Charge, Heavy Punch, Brute force, Demonic Strength, Cannibalism, Taboo.

The result of his Analysis showed him the race, level and skills of the being.

"It looks like it jumped quite a few levels, though its rank is still [D]. What happened to the others?" Simon observed the Fire demonic Ape and asked.

"Reporting to Lord Simon, out of the five demon ape, only this one survived the mutation, about the rest... uh, it ate all of them" the one to report was Maya, who had a dreadful expression in her eyes whenever she glanced at the monster down below.

When Simon heard what it did, he frowned and glanced at the last two skills that the being had, [Cannibalism] and [Taboo]. There was no need to ask how it got that skill. After it successfully mutated and woke up from its slumber it ate the other members of its species that failed.

Simon did not know why it did that but he could tell that its aggression and behaviour was probably influenced by the mutation crystal.

Yes, the reason the forty-fifth floor was empty because Simon was conducting an experiment on the [D] rank Demon Ape that he summoned not from the [Spawn] but from his [Ga??????] on one of his daily draws.

It was around the day before yesterday when Simon was tired from creating the floors and listening to all of the reports from his subordinates, he tried to use a little bit of his DP on the [Ga??????]. It was a routine of some sort for Simon to use the option every day since he believed that as long as he was being persistent, something good was bound to appear.

Although, he did end up drawing something far from the usual socks and junks, it was not something great too. It was the second time after Bloodthorn demonic warhorse that he had drawn a living entity out of it.

However, unlike the former, the Demon Ape was only a [D] rank and was another quip that he and his former team members inserted in the [Gacha] while creating the game Laplace.

The Demon Apes compared to the one in front of him, was much smaller about half the height of an average human and did not look as intimidating as the Fire Demon Ape. It could be seen from this mutation alone how powerful the mutation crystals were.

While it is true that the crystal used on the Demon Ape was a Grade [1] Rank [C] crimson mutation crystal, its effects were still powerful. Out of the five crystals used on the five demon apes, only one survived the mutation.

Since the pond was in its development stage and did not have an unlimited supply of these crystals, five crystals was still a lot. Nevertheless, Simon never shied away when experimenting and as a result, the Fire Demon Ape was born.

From this week of constant experimentation with the mutation crystals, Simon made quite a few discoveries and felt like he was approaching closer towards increasing the success rate of the mutation.

The mutation crystals can be assimilated with the monster in various ways and the success rate varies depending on that.

The first way to induce a mutation in a monster was very simple and direct and that was to give it the crystal to consume. Just like what he had done with the Stormwolf previously. However, as could be seen this method had a lot of risks and the success rate was also very low.

The Storm wolf that consumed it ended up dying.

The second method was by diluting the effect of the crystal. Although this method drastically reduces the power of the mutated monster; nonetheless, it showed the highest rate of success.

Simon thought of this way when he saw how the fanged mouse that were supposed to be the prey of the Stormwolves on the fifteen floor mutated after biting into the flesh of the dead Stormwolf that consumed the crystal.

The second method was the most surefire method to induce mutation in a large colony of monsters. However, just like everything had its own flaws, the second method too showed its shortcomings when used on the Pirodiles and Lizardmen.

The aforementioned monsters were much stronger and higher in the food chain than the likes of monsters such as fanged mouse and thus the second method which dilutes the effect of the mutation crystal was not very effective and was nowhere enough to induce mutation in the whole colony.

So what did Simon do to tackle this issue?

p He divided their population and made separate feeding grounds where he brought in the flesh of monsters higher ranked than them that died from the mutation and commanded the lizardmen and pirodiles to feed on it.

Although the number of monsters that mutated this way made a slight improvement, it was nowhere near enough to induce alteration to the entire colony.

Simon believed the reason for no change was the grade of the crystal. He believed that higher grades of crystals were needed to induce a mutation on monsters such as lizardmen and pirodiles using the second method.

As for inducing a mutation with the first method, forget pirodiles and lizardmen, even monsters higher up in the food chain than them aren't able to handle the powerful effects of the crystals even if it was just a grade [1] rank [C].

The third method that Simon discovered that can induce mutation was through breeding. Like the fanged mouse, the reproduction rate of the lizardmen and pirodiles was also high thus it made quite a sense to use the method of breeding to try and see if the offspring born were mutated or not.

The result was fifty-fifty when a mutated monster reproduced with a non-mutated one, and a hundred percent when both the parent monsters are mutated ones.

Since the failure rate of the first method was just too much, Simon used the second and third methods to populate his new floors with mutated monsters.

Another thing of note was that the success rate fluctuated depending on what attribute of the mutation crystal was used on which monsters. Monsters with an affinity for a particular attribute, will have far less success rate of mutation when assimilating with a different attribute of crystal.

For example, the pirodiles and lizardmen, since they were aquatic monsters they had more affinity with cerulean mutation crystal than crimson and viridescent crystal. Though they had an affinity with it, it didn't mean that an individual from their species can assimilate with a crystal alone and survive.

Simon thought that he would be able to induce different elemental mutations from the same species of monsters by commanding them into assimilating with different kinds of crystal. But it seemed



like his hope of creating fire attribute lizardmen and wind attribute lizardmen was a pipe dream for now.

Even though he had wasted a lot of DP spawning and destroying colonies of monsters like that, it was still not enough to daunt Simon. He firmly believed that as long as he kept on researching, there will be a time when multiple elemental monsters mutated from the same species would be roaming his floor one day.

Although Simon did not notice it, he looked just like a mad scientist conducting research that would be seen as unethical and frowned upon had it been in his former world.

The research on the Demon Apes he was doing on the forty-fifth floor was also on mutation. The five demon apes that were summoned by the [Ga?????] option, were each introduced to a different attribute of crystals.

Simon used the first method of direct consumption to try and see if the race of Demon Ape was capable of handling the powerful effects of the mutation crystals.

The result that he got, was astonishing to say no less. Out of every monster that can be currently spawned by his dungeon, the demon ape showed the most resistance and willpower to survive than all the other monsters.

In fact, just a day prior, all of the five demon apes were frantically trying to control and assimilate with the berserk effect of the mutation crystal in their body.

The demon ape which mostly did not have much attack power and only had their uncanny experience points which they provided to the players when defeated going for them, was the monster that showed the most resilience and flexibility.

It was a pity that he only had five of them to experiment with or else Simon would have liked to experiment with more of them.

In any case, it looked like out of the five demon apes one had successfully managed to mutate. Though even Simon didn't expect it to eat the members of its own race right after waking up.

What's more, even though Simon was looking at it and had registered it to the dungeon, the being was strangely glaring and resisting his control. Amazed, Simon tried to exert his control on it a few more times only to find it that it was impossible to bring the being under his control.

What was going on? He was the master of this dungeon and according to that rule, every being registered in this dungeon shouldn't be able to resist his control. His authority was absolute and should extend towards every monster that was spawned in his dungeon, whether it be the old or mutated species.

How come the one in front of him still glared at him as if he was its enemy?

A being that was somehow able to resist the authority of the dungeon master, what sort of concept was this?

Was there some kind of glitch, did the merger of the two options also tempered with the effects of the other functions too?

Concerned, Simon used the [Spawn] option to spawn a random monster only to find the creature submit to him unconditionally which meant that the function was not the problem.

What was going on?

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He dispersed the monster and observed the Fire demon Ape once again. This was the first time something like that had happened and Simon had no idea what led to this.

How and why was this being able to resist the control of a dungeon master which should have otherwise been impossible?

Was it because of the mutation? But that shouldn't be since all the other mutated ones no matter the race, had submitted to him. Then were the demonic ape race a special case or the one in front of him was just an abnormality?

There were so many questions floating up in his mind, no matter what he had to find the answer for all of them lest it became a major problem later.

Beckoning the [helpers] to stay behind, Simon strode forward and approached Alice and the Fire Demon Ape who were just until now locked in a battle.

"Master, what is your command?" Alice asked tilting her head.

She could see that her master was frowning for some reason looking at the monster in front of her. Thinking that it had displeased her master, she was just about to dispose it off when her master extended his hands and stopped her.

"Wait, I want to try out something on it. Step back and protect the helpers" saying that, her master casually waltzed towards the monster who had fully recovered from its injuries.

Alice did not know what her master was planning, even if she was an [Administrator] she was new to the dungeon and had yet to understand all of the functions of the [main menu]. She obeyed Simon's command and jumped back towards where the [Helpers] were.

"Miss Alice" the forest spring spirits bowed towards her. As she was a direct subordinate of their lord and someone higher in the hierarchy than them, it was only natural that they showed their respect.

Alice wasn't particularly bothered by their manner of address and casually greeted them. Her eyes that were glued on her master, never left him.

Seeing that he was extending his hands and mumbling something in front of the beast, she became even more confused. Suddenly, her eyes widen when she saw the fire demon ape raise its four arms and bring it down in an attempt to smash her master.

"Master watch out!!!"....

BOOOM... her voice came a second too late and was drowned out by the booming noise. The attack of the fire demon Ape was powerful enough to break the ground that was made of rocks and created a mini earthquake.

After smashing the one that was inducing a massive headache from it for some reason, the fire demon ape looked at the cloud of dust to affirm its victory. From the time, it had woken up from that agonising pain that threatened to burst its body apart, everything around it was shrouded in a colour of red and a will to destroy everything was splitting apart its head.

It knew nothing other than to obey that command and so it did. It first ate the corpses that were lying around it to satiate its hunger and then started rampaging all around.

It did not know how it knew that, but it was aware of the exit that would lead it up and out of this place. It obeyed its instincts and exited the cave where it was only to be obstructed by a tiny entity that was shrouded by a mist of red.

Everything around it was covered in that colour but the entity was just too glaring red. It blinked and rubbed its eyes still the red colour refused to fade away making it angry.

RAWRR... the will to rampage took over its mind and it started flinging its arm in an attempt to destroy whatever that thing was. However, like a slippery loach, that tiny thing always managed to avoid its attacks.

What was more annoying was that the other party's attack was hitting him while its own failed to connect.

BAM... BAM... BAM... something hit it on its ankles, knees and thighs making it fall down on the ground.

RAWRR... although the damage wasn't much, for some reason it felt more painful. As it was reeling in frustration and pain, another one of them came.

Just like the one it was fighting, that being was also shrouded by a glaring red colour in its eyes. However, for some reason the headache it was having intensified by a few proportions when that new being came.

"!@#\$% %^^&\*( %\$^\*\$#?><:" it seemed like the new entrant was saying something. But to the fire demon ape it sounded nothing more than gibberish and only served to strengthen its headache and will to destroy even more.

RAWR... now that its wounds were healed, it brought its four arms and smashed them towards the being creating a cloud of dust in the process.

Whoosh... a black figure could be seen jumping out of the cloud of dust and standing on top of a boulder. The figure was none other than Simon and other than his clothes being a little dirty, he was completely unharmed.

"Master are you alright?" Alice asked from the distance.

Simon nodded his head, at this moment his eyes were looking at the fire demon ape with a peculiar look. The mutated monster was not only resisting him, the authority of the dungeon master, but also perceiving him as an enemy.

Simon did not know why it was acting as such? Earlier when he tried to communicate with the being thinking that his words might have an effect, it snapped and even attacked him.

Simon could see that for some reason the monster was clutching its head in pain as if it was having a severe headache. Its hostile behaviour indicated that it looked at them as its enemies.

He checked the [Archive] fuction of the main menu and confirmed that its name was registered inside the dungeon. Heck, it was not even providing any DP which could only mean that the dungeon perceived the monster as a part of it which made its current hostile behaviour towards him all the more confusing.

Simon had done many experiments with many monsters using the mutation crystals, but this was the first time that something like this has ever occurred.

'No, when I summoned the Demon Ape, they were very obedient, it was only after the mutation that it changed. Could it be because of a skill?' Simon thought internally. As he was thinking all that, the prompt from the dungeon finally came.

DING...

[An aberrant is born, Dungeon is unable to exert control over it].

Reading the prompt Simon was stunned. So it was not because of some glitch or bug in the [Main Menu] but because it was an Aberrant?

What was an aberrant in the first place, Simon wanted more information.

This was one of the times that he cursed his incomplete memories. Nonetheless, with this information from the dungeon, he at least understood that it was impossible to control this creature.

In that case, there was only one thing left to do. Simon jumped to the side and easily dodged the punch from the Fire Demon Ape which was currently going on a rampage.

From its aura, Simon reckoned that it was more powerful than the attacker zombie (Not buffed by Curse energy) he faced in the last horde of the tomb of depraved. And given its numerous strong skills and the size of the floor, if he let the being go wild, the [helpers] behind him will get caught in it.

Thus the sooner he takes care of it, the better.

"Alice, help me take it down" Simon said. It was not like he cannot take the fire demon ape down alone but for that, he would have to use the crimson blazing flame blade or resort to using his [Ancestral Symbol Ignition] which has just come off cooldown.

Simon was level 405 after the battle that occurred on the thirty-sixth floor and after killing those adventurers and taking their experience. The fire Demon Ape was level 423, it was not a gap that he couldn't cover.

Simon was confident that he could beat it but it would take some time and might even destroy the entire floor in the process. That is why, he asked the help of Alice whose abilities made her the bane of melee opponents.

"Of course, leave it to me master. I'll destroy it in one fell swoop" Alice answered patting her chest.

Delighted that her master needs her help, she was just about to go for a big one when...

"Wait... wait, if I let you do this alone, you would be the one to end up destroying the floor. Aim your attack up when I send this guy there" Simon said pointing up.

He then conjured dozens of flame and lightning spears that rained on the fire demon ape to keep it busy and rushed towards it.

BOOOM... BOOOM...

RAWR... Due to its giant frame or perhaps because it was still not used to its new abilities, the fire demon ape was unable to dodge the attacks as some of them even managed to pierce its weak spots.

Roaring in pain, it tried to regenerate its wounds using its [High-speed Regeneration] skill. But how could Simon give it the time to regenerate from its wounds? He rushed towards it and started pummeling the giant body of the fire demon ape with his bare fists.

In response, the mutated monster also used its four arms and [Demonic Strength] to send a wild flurry of attacks. However, Simon easily avoided these simple attacks from his opponent that had no depth.

In just a few seconds, Simon gained the edge over his opponent and activating the [Super Enhanced Strength] skill, he sent the fire demon ape into the air. His fist smashed squarely at the unguarded chest of the fire demon ape and sent it airborne.

"Now!" Simon shouted.

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He had dominated the fire demon in close combat but it didn't mean that the latter was defeated. Far from it, it still had much more life left in it. During their exchange, Simon realised that the Fire demon Ape stats were mostly lopsided towards its Strength and defence attribute thus even if most of his punches and kicks connected, it didn't manage to deal it much damage.

Far from it, it still had much more life in it. During their exchange, Simon realised that the Fire Demon Ape's stats were lopsided or focused towards its strength and defence attributes. Thus even if most of his punches and kicks connected, it didn't manage to deal much damage.

Alice was standing ready near the [Helpers], at some unknown point in time, her hand held an ancient bow that was made from a branch of a unique tree. The moment she heard her master give command, her fingers that were holding the outstretched bowstring let go of it.

PANG...

A dull sound was heard and an arrow made out of an unknown energy was released from the bow. the speed of the arrow was so fast that it ripped apart the air and space around it and was upon the fire demo ape in the blink of an eye.

The aberrant was unable to perceive the extremely fast arrow and was hit squarely on the head which spurted apart like a watermelon.

"Headshot... hehe" Alice smiled proudly though the next second she stared stupidly at the arrow that still retained most of its power and crash into the ceiling above.

BOOM...

A huge explosion erupted out rocking the entire floor. Pieces of rocks dropped down like rain all around the forty-fifth floor demonstrating the terrifying power that was imbued in the arrow.

After the rumbling floor and the rain of debris settled down, a huge hole appeared in the ceiling in front of every astonished eyes. Nobody could believe that an arrow as small as that was able to cause such terrifying destruction.

Looking at the hole in the ceiling that was swiftly being restored, Simon realised that if the power of the arrow was a couple of times more powerful, it might have opened a hole in the ceiling that connected with the floor above. As absurd as the notion sounded, the proof was right in front of him.

Simon did not know if it was possible to destroy the floor of the dungeon or not. but the matter today made him think of this possibility. He made a mental note to investigate more about this possibility later and turned his gaze towards Alice who for some reason was also acting surprised.

feeling the gaze of her master, she scratched her head and gave a silly smile. "Ehh... uh... umm.. master— that was—haha... even though I limited my power that arrow was..." Alice dejectedly dropped her head unable to find any excuse.

Seeing her like that, Simon sighed. He could tell that Alice did not do it knowingly, she even tried to control the output of her power but it seemed like she still needed much more practice.

"Master I'm sorry" Alice apologised, her beautiful face coupled with her youthful aura would make anyone sympathise with her.



"It's fine, the damages to the floor can be quickly restored using DP. Make sure you reflect on your powers and try to gain more control over them during the training" Simon waved his hand dispersing the issue.

He approached the fallen body of the Fire demon Ape and observed it carefully. For Some reason, after the mutation, it had become an aberrant that was outside the authority of the dungeon.

He did not know what an aberrant was but from the reaction he got from the monster itself, he could tell that the entity was dangerous to his dungeon. Apart from that, there were also those skills that it had.

"Sigh... there was no other option. Had I not sent Alice here beforehand, who knew what might have happened by now" Although it pained him a little to kill the mutated beast, there was no other choice.

"I'm going to spawn the Fire Demon Ape. Alice, be ready to act at a moment's notice" Simon called out to the downtrodden girl who recovered immediately after his call, her eyes blazing with resoluteness to not commit the same mistake again.

While it was true that Fire Demon Ape was dead, the species of the monster was now registered to his dungeon as a spawnable monster. Thus he could use the [Spawn] function to summon them again.

Since the fire demon Ape belonged to the upper spectrum of [D] rank monsters, it cost a lot of DP to spawn compared to the other monsters. But to Simon, that amount was nothing. Simon opened the [Spawn] function, scrolled over the list of monsters and clicked on Fire Demon Ape, the monster that was hostile to him and was recognised as an aberrant.

Why was Simon doing something like that even when he knew that he cannot control the entity? The reason was simple, he wanted to check whether that particular fire demon ape was a special case or whether their whole race was considered an aberrant.

There was only one way to find that out. As soon as Simon pressed the option, the bones, the muscles tissues of the monster formed and before long the fire demon ape manifested in front of him out of nothing.

Simon who was on high alert, relaxed his guard at this moment. The monster unlike the previous one, was very docile and submissive in front of him.

"Master??" came the confused voice of Alice who was ready to take down the fire demon ape.

Simon raised his hands and motioned her to put her bow down. The spawned fire demon ape was not recognised as a hostile entity anymore. To be absolutely sure he gave some simple commands to the fire demon ape to check whether it was under his authority or not.

As he had thought, the fire demon ape completed all of his commands without any question. Next, Simon summoned a few more of the fire demon ape and just like the first one they were all submissive and under his control which solidified the fact that the race of fire demon ape was not an aberrant but only the one that was killed by them.

He was completely certain of it after checking the skills of these monsters with his [Analysis]. None of the spawned fire demon apes, had these dangerous sounding skills like [Cannibalism] and [Taboo].

"So my guess was right, that one was a special case" Simon muttered narrowing his eyes.

"Lord Simon... they" at this moment, the [Helpers] who he ordered to say behind, approached him.

"It's alright, they are under the authority of the dungeon and are no longer a threat" Simon stated and asked the [helpers] to check it themselves. Although the [Helpers] were much lower in hierarchy, they were nonetheless, above the spawned monsters of the dungeon.

Thus their authority also extends towards most of the monsters of the dungeon. When these [helpers] saw that the fire demon apes were following all of their instructions, they finally relaxed and put down their worries.

"What is lord Simon going to do with them?" Coleus asked.

Simon thought over it a bit, initially he just wanted to test on the demon ape that he had incidentally summoned from the [Ga?????]. He didn't think that the end result would be a fire demon ape that was this strong.

Individually, the level and the strength of the fire demon ape race made them the strongest monsters that can be spawned at this moment in his dungeon. Their powers were enough to hold their own even against the adventurers at this point in time.

Thus it would be a waste not to use them. Simon made his decision, he was going to spawn them on the forty-fifth floor and have them make a colony here. It was always best to have monsters breed on their own and increase their numbers. That way, the strain on his DP consumption will be less.

Seeing that Simon wanted to use this floor to colonise them, Fay who had been pondering something all this while, spoke up at his moment.

"Lord Simon, since you intend to spawn these monsters here anyways, I have a suggestion to make".

"Hoh?" Simon who didn't expect a suggestion to come out of nowhere was a little surprised. Even Coleus and the other [helpers] were surprised, it seemed that even they didn't know what Fay wanted to talk about.

"You are free to speak up, I appreciate every suggestion" Simon smiled trying to relieve the worries of the forest spring spirit that just spoke up.

Although she had spoken up at the spur of the moment, she was now a little afraid. Seeing their lord Simon and hearing his appreciative words, fay mustered her courage and said.

"L-Lord Simon, from what I could see, the fire demon ape is quite powerful, it would be a waste to just spawn all of them here".

Hearing her words Simon locked his brows and asked "Are you saying that I spawn them on the upper floors too? But that way there would be too much casualty and might even drop the favourability of the dungeon amongst the adventurers".

What Simon was most afraid of was his DP getting reduced due to the adventurer refraining from entering his dungeon. Even if he had accumulated quite a sum of DP, it was nothing in the long run.

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Name- Alice

Race- Wood Elf

Rank- [A]

Level- 699+[???

Class- [Gunslinger]

Skills- Analysis, Ultra Enhanced Detection, Blunt Resistance, Cut Super resistance, Piercing Super Resistance, Poison Immunity, Ultra High-Speed processing, Parallel Thoughts, Ultra Natural Recovery, Ultra Minimal Mana Consumption, Ultra Enhanced Endurance, Ultra Enhanced Magic, Ultra Enhanced Defence, Herculean Agility, Battle Instinct, Essence Mana Conferment, Mana recovery, High-Speed Regeneration, Five Senses Ultra Enhancement, Future Attack Prediction, Telescopic Vision, Gun's Blazing Mastery, Thunder Magic Mastery, Tempest Magic Mastery, Golden Mana Lines, Cooking, Cleaning, Sewing, Housework.

Class Specific Skills- [Ability Overlay], [Ability Conferment], [Hawk Eyes] [Long Distance control], [Blink Steps], [Mark], [Rain of Bullets], [Gunmaster], [Ultra Essence Mana Condensation], [Materialisation], [Ammunition Unlimited], [Combo Star], [Indomitable Pierce], [Neglect Armour], [Permeate], [Unification+++]

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p If he wanted to grow the rank of his dungeon, he needed a steady supply of DP and adventurers to enter his dungeon. Additionally, given that the enemy he would have to face in the future would only be stronger, he needed DP to add new floors, monsters and install various other traps and mechanisms to his dungeon.

Thus the idea that he spawns a monster that could potentially wipe out a low ranking party on the upper floors, didn't seem appropriate to him.

"I know what lord Simon is thinking, it is dangerous to spawn them on the upper floors but what about the middle floors? The adventurers there might be able to do something and come up with ways and strategies to defeat these monsters".

"What I'm suggesting to lord Simon is that we won't just spawn it in a random place on the middle floors but in a specific area that is secluded from the other parts of the floor. Furthermore, to entice

the adventurers into entering these areas, we can also spawn treasure chests that can appeal to them and have the fire demon ape guard it".

Fay was expressive, excited even as she put her ideas out. Listening to her, it was not only Simon but even the other [helpers] who were surprised. From her words and how detailed she was, it could be said that she had thought things through before speaking up.

"So you are saying that we will set up a trap that will lure any greedy adventurer or a party of them to specific area where we would spawn the fire demon ape and if they manage to defeat it, they would be rewarded by the treasure chest it is guarding?... hmm interesting; No it is a very viable idea, it will be like a side boss chamber".

The more he thought, the more this suggestion made sense to Simon. He was a former game developer and a dungeon master at present, the idea of making a hidden chamber of some sorts filled with monsters and treasures, like in those games boiled his blood.

If you are powerful enough, you will be rewarded or else your greed will be your downfall. Simon flashed a fierce smile and looked at Fay, if he was not wrong, she had suggested something similar not too long ago when he came back from his trip.

"The treasure chest and the rewards that are spawned, are too plain in sight. Maybe we could stall more of their time if we make it spawn in risky and complex places".

If he was not wrong that's what she said at that time. Now, she even came up with this idea.

Seeing that their lord liked it, the other forest spring spirits praised her, making Fay blush a little. Simon smiled and immediately approved of this idea, furthermore, he even awarded a certain amount of DP to Fay and made her in charge of this project.

"Use this DP to alter an area of the floor as you see fit. Also, I will give you specific access to spawn the Fire Demon Ape and a few other monsters for the time being. Additionally, you don't have to worry about the contents of the treasure chests, there are tons of [D] and [C] rank artefacts and weapons sitting in my inventory, some of them can be considered treasures from their view".

There was also the items the adventurers that had died inside the dungeon that are left behind. If he counted those items too, then there was no shortage of rewards that can be put inside those treasure chests.

With those words, Simon handed the authority of creating a special side boss chambers to Fay who came up with the idea in the first place. All the other [Helpers] were happy to see her being praised so much by their lord and basked in her happiness together.

"I hope you all keep on doing a good job," Simon said raising the spirit of the other [Helpers].

They hurriedly raised their voice saying that they will work harder to deserve such praise. Not long in the future, adventurers would be surprised to find new chambers that would lead them to a secluded corner of the floor where treasure chests could be found.

The news would make waves around the adventurers, many would make their way to those hidden chambers blinded by greed. Some would be able to gain vast riches while others would meet their end by the guardian that protected the chest.

The allure of the [D] tier and occasional [C] tier weapon would make all the adventurers no matter their rank drool and would soon become a hot topic amongst the adventurers. However, that was something for the near future.

Now that the thing he came here to do was finished, Simon along with Alice teleported back to the main floor. While on their way to one of the chambers of the white palace, Simon glanced towards Alice and asked "How long are you planning to sulk like that?".

"Unnn~" Alice had a face that said she was jealous of someone.

"Sigh... you see that suggestion was quite something, that is why she deserved my praise. You don't have to be jealous of her, both Fay and your strength lie in different areas" Simon consoled the downtrodden girl.

Amongst the Valkyries, Alice was the youngest. Although Simon can't guess her age she seemed to be a few years older than Cecilia.

"But master I couldn't show my usefulness the last time, this time too, I couldn't control my strength properly and ended up destroying a part of the ceiling," Alice said still looking at the ground.

"If you say it like that then isn't it partly my fault too since I was the one who gave you that weapon? Although it's a far cry from the Heirloom made for you [Heroes], right now these are the only weapon I can give you" the bow that Alice used to snipe the Aberrant was something that Simon had given her.

During this past week, Simon tried his luck on the [Ga??????] every day, although he managed to get a few good items such as the golden guardian stones and a few [C] rank artefacts, but the overall result was disappointing to say no less.

Getting the heirlooms for the Valkyries seemed like a far-off dream right now. Thus he had no choice but to make a custom made one for them.

He used the [Armoury] function of the main menu and burned through [C] tier weapons like oil and produced a few good weapons that he gave to them for the time being.

"H-How can that be??" Hearing Simon's words, Alice frantically shook her head and hands saying that it was not his fault.

"In that case, you should stop blaming yourself too. Honestly, I'm more delighted than saddened by the incident. A part of the ceiling being destroyed is something that can easily be fixed by using a few DP. But more so than the damage, it gave me something to think about. If it is what I think it is, then you might have coincidentally discovered something that even I didn't consider was possible up until now" Simon continued to speak as he walked forward.

"Something that even master didn't know about?" Alice asked tilting her head.

"Yeah" Simon replied, if not for her accidentally damaging the ceiling, he would never have thought about this possibility or perhaps he would have discovered it much later when it started becoming a problem.

Up until now, Simon was always analysing and evaluating things at his own power level. If not for Alice's coincidental action, he wouldn't have thought that destroying a floor was possible. Just a single arrow from her was enough to create a huge hole in the ceiling.

Had she used her full strength, Simon had no doubt that the ceiling might have collapsed. Thus opening a hole to the upper floors.

How was this important? Think about it, if a being on the level of Alice can destroy it, then it was possible for other powerful beings to destroy it too. It doesn't necessarily have to be his subordinate, even adventurers, the truly strong one can use this possibility to open a hole in the floor to descend down the dungeon.

Though the floors swiftly recovers the damage dealt to it, it still means that there was a way to swiftly descend the floors other than clearing and going through each and every one of them individually.

Simon cannot be sure since he hadn't tried destroying a floor yet but he felt like the possibility was plenty after seeing the scene today. It was a good thing that he was made aware of this possibility at this point in time or else the result would have been disastrous had this method been shown to him by the adventurers first.

At that time, even if Simon could keep his calm, he would be hard pressed to find a solution. Thankfully, now that he knew that something like this was possible, he could try coming up with ideas and solutions to counter that.

"Hehe, if master says that I was helpful then I am truly happy" Alice smiled, her previous gloomy and sulky aura was gone replaced by a jubilant atmosphere.

On his way to the main hall of the white palace, Simon thought about every possible way to counter this method; however, he came out empty even after a while. It might be true that he had no solution for this problem, but it was not like he was completely out of options.

As far as he knew, every increase in the rank of a dungeon, apart from increasing the maximum floors and unlocking new options in the [main menu], it also increases the defensive power of a dungeon as a whole.

That is to say, the walls, floors and the ceiling becomes much stronger and harder to penetrate with each increase in rank.

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This change was something that Simon had personally noticed when his dungeon evolved to a [D] rank after his war with Gelgar. Yes, the only option that he could think of right now was increasing the rank of his dungeon.



Fortunately for him, it was not so easy to destroy a floor and the current adventurers weren't powerful enough to do something like that. He had enough time to upgrade and increase the rank of his dungeon before powerful adventurers came swarming inside his dungeon.

When Simon opened the door to the main hall, he saw that Irene and the other Valkyries were already present there and were engaged in a discussion of their own. Seeing them smile and converse like that, Simon was pleased that the closest people to him were getting along with each other.

The Valkyries, were set to have their own unique personality and temperament but they were all proud and upright characters, to begin with. The only reason they were talking so respectfully to Irene was because they respected her.

The same went for this noble icy cold woman, she would only talk and converse with those who gained her recognition. Even Simon had a lot of trouble dealing with her at first.

In a way, it was quite a sight to see all of them converse like this.

The moment the door was pushed open, all eyes focused on him. The Valkyries hurriedly stood up and welcomed him while Irene calmly glanced at him walking inside with Alice.

Simon looked around and saw that Cecilia was missing, thus he asked "Where is Cecilia?".

"Princess Cecilia is currently with her clan, it seemed like elder Fennel called for her to check on the Spirit Tree" Annette answered while brewing a tea for him.

Simon nodded his head and made himself comfortable on the couch.

"You look quite worse for the wear, did the experiment on the forty-fifth floor not go as expected?" Irene asked glancing at his clothes that were a little dirty after he came back from the forty fifth floor.

"Ah! About that..." Simon received his tea from Annette and recited the event that occurred on the forty-fifth floor. How the mutation led to an aberrant being born and the fact that a monster was able to resist the authority of the dungeon, surprised them quite a bit.

Their eyes became a little concerned when he told them that he had fought the fire demon ape who was rampaging around the floor.

"Alice did you protect master well?" After his story was over, Bea from the side asked Alice who was grinning ear to ear. The little girl was started by the assertive and serious tone of her elder sister, she was just about to answer when...

"Yeah, she helped me quite a lot. In fact, she was the one who took out that monster and protected the [Helpers]. She was a big help" Simon spoke on her behalf.

Hearing their master's high praise of Alice, all of the Valkyries became surprised for a moment before smiling adoringly towards her. They were proud that their little sister was able to earn such high praise from their master.

"It looks like the monster rejecting the control of the dungeon has something to do with the mutation" Irene stated analysing the information she heard from Simon.

"At first I thought so too but there was no problem with the new race since the ones I spawned later were obedient and submissive to me" Simon discussed.

"Are you saying that monster was special?" Irene asked perceiving what was trying to say.

"Right, the one fire Demon Ape that managed to undergo the mutation, according to the [helpers] ate the other members of its race and was behaving quite peculiarly ever since waking up. I also noticed that it had some dangerous sounding skills such as [Cannibalism] and [Taboo]" Simon explained.

Although it was just his guess and he had nothing to back his words, Simon believed that the dungeon notifying him about the aberrant was somehow related to these skills.

"I see, then there is no other choice but to eliminate it. Fortunately, you sent Alice there in time and the [Helpers] weren't injured in the process" Irene closed her eyes and sighed in relief.

Simon nodded his head in agreement, then he turned towards her and asked "Enough about my side, tell me how is everyone's training going on".

"How about you guys tell him that yourselves" Irene smiled mysteriously and looked towards the Valkyries standing on the side.

"Master's suggestion was wonderful, after fighting with others I know now what I am lacking in and what areas I should make progress towards," Annette said trying to avoid his gaze.

"Master, I will try my best to not embarrass myself again" Bea commented, one could feel her frustration from her words.

Except for Alice, all the Valkyries acted strange, even Emma and Bianca who had little to no emotions were no exception. How could Simon who was their creator and knew them extremely well, not see through their peculiarity?

"Did something happen?" Simon asked frowning.

"Uhh!!"

"Guh!!"

"You see they are frustrated because they lost during the training" Irene explained shaking her head.

"What?!" Simon's eyes went wide when he heard that the Valkyries had lost. He was right to be surprised, after all the Valkyries were all incredibly powerful [A] rank subordinates. Except for Irene, Simon didn't believe that there was anyone else in this dungeon who could possibly defeat them.

When she felt his questioning gaze, she shrugged her shoulders saying "Its not me".

"Then...?" He was now even more confused, if it was not her, then who? Surely it can't be that the valkyries ended up defeating each other right?

"It was the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse" as if to answer his query, Irene explained with a peculiar smile on her face.

"Huh?! Bloodthorn demonic warhorse? But that is not possible, even if he has become powerful after his evolution, he is still not the Valkyries match" the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse was around level 540, whereas the Valkyries were all level 699.

Even if he used some tricks, he was still not their match. Perhaps due to the disbelief that generated from his trust in them, the Valkyries became even more strange with their conduct.

"You are right in thinking that, normally it wouldn't be possible for that child to defeat them. However, the premise of the training that I set for the valkyries to gain combat experience restricts them from using more than twenty percent of their strength and their racial or class specific skills".

"Under this condition, the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse who has been honing his strength every single day was able to gain an edge over them. His diligent and hardworking personality is very much like certain someone. Even now it's training with Lightning Draconic Serpent not wanting to be outdone by anyone" Irene explained.

It was only now that Simon finally understood why the Valkyries behaved so peculiarly when he mentioned the training and how the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse was able to gain an edge over them.

Though even he was surprised when he heard that the latter was able to come out on top against a Valkyrie. Even if their power and skills were restricted, the Valkyrie's basic stats and abilities were still the same.

One had to wonder how much effort and training the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse had to go through to defeat a Valkyrie.

"Kuhh" hearing from the sounds that the Valkyries made intermittently, it seemed that they were still not resolved to this defeat.

"I see, I guess that works in the favour of Valkyries. That way, they can gain experience in combat first hand while the others can also grow at the same time" Simon nodded understanding what Irene was trying to achieve with this method of training.

Anyways it looked like the training floor that he had created seemed to be working wonders since he could see the fire of not wanting to lose and the frustration from a defeat blazing inside the eyes of the Valkyries.

Simon discussed about the other aspects of the training floor with Irene and the Valkyries before moving onwards to something else.

"By the way, didn't you use your provisional adventurer card to enter the dungeon from the front gate? Will it be alright if you are missing for so long?" Irene asked picking up a subject he had almost forgotten about.

Now that he thought about it after coming back from his trip, he had entered the dungeon as a provisional adventurer with the pretence to go and mine the ores from the eighth floor. After that one thing led to another and now he was back on his main floor.

Since to the adventurer party, it might look like he had disappeared, there was bound to be some people looking for him. However, a week had already passed since then, the adventurers association might think he had died inside the dungeon already.

Even if they didn't it was not a problem since Simon could always use the identity of a provisional adventurer to see and roam around the town built around the tower on top of his dungeon.

"It's shouldn't be a problem, I will occasionally show my face around the town. That should be enough to get off their list of deceased people" Simon said after thinking for a while.

There was also the events from the capital and his face being known, thus he cannot be too complacent and rely on his alternate identity too much. Since Simon himself said that it was not a problem, Irene didn't comment further.

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Simon was sipping on his tea when suddenly he remembered something "That's right, do you think this can be fixed?". He said taking out a scroll from his inventory.

The scroll that he took out wasn't the scroll of return that he got recently from the space rings of those adventurers but something that he had bought at the Serene Palace Auction House. Yes, it was the same damaged space scroll that he bid a whopping 5000 blackgold coins to buy.

Although it was in a damaged condition and cannot be used, it was still a scroll that had the spatial laws in it. If it can be restored, the scroll was capable of teleporting someone anywhere within a thousand-kilometre radius.

The difference between a space scroll and a scroll of return was that unlike the latter, the former did not need a pre-established transit point and exit and can be used to teleport anywhere. Of course, there was always the factor of the uncertainty of not knowing where the scroll will teleport you.

In that aspect the scroll of return might be better however in the case of the scroll of return once the transit point and exit were set, it cannot be changed and thus it was useless anywhere else. On the contrary, if one can deal with the uncertainty factor, the space scroll can become a life saving tool in some critical circumstances.

Other than that, the space scroll also doesn't require extreme mana and concentration from the user, it activates as soon as one tear the scroll. There were many other reasons why a space scroll was seen as an incredible treasure; however, the main reason for Simon buying the scroll was because he wanted to learn more about the space magic.

Ever since he saw Berigard use the space magic, Adalinda opening spatial tears and the usefulness of the magic, he was fascinated by it. Simon would always try to understand or learn space magic in his free time because he knew how mysterious and versatile the magic was.

If he was able to learn the space magic he would be able to get another life saving card. That is why, when he saw a space scroll come up on the auction, he didn't think twice and quickly grabbed the item.

He thought that he might get some clue from this space scroll which is why he didn't bat an eye on using most of his money to buy the item even if it was damaged.

Irene observed the item before extending her hand to take a closer look. Of course, since the item was damaged, [Analysis] won't work on it. Hence, it depended on the individual's knowledge and ability to understand what was wrong with the scroll.

Irene spread open the scroll, looked at it for a while before asking "What about it?".

Hearing her bizarre question, Simon wondered if she was unable to see the problem with the scroll.

"You see that scroll is damaged and I was thinking whether there was any way to fix it" the reason why he was showing the scroll to Irene was because he knew that she was adept with space magic.

When he had seen her status the first time he summoned her he saw some absurd sounding magic listed there. One of which was the advanced tier of space magic.

However, even after explaining things so carefully to her, Irene seemed to look even more confused from his words. She gave him that 'What are you talking about?' look.

Just when he was getting suspicious, whether Irene was doing this deliberately when the person in question turned the scroll horizontally and said "This thing is not damaged. In the first place, this is not a scroll but a page from a space attribute grimoire".

"What?!" The words that Irene said, instantly made Simon's eyes widen, he took the page and looked at it horizontally. Now that he thought about it, it does look more like a page from a grimoire than a scroll.

All along he had been thinking that this was a damaged scroll and that is why it cannot be analysed. In the first place, the item in his hand was not even a scroll and was actually a page from a grimoire.

The reason why it was releasing a spatial aura was because the page was from a space attribute grimoire.

Then doesn't that mean that he was fooled? No, it couldn't be said that he was fooled since even the auctioneer wasn't aware about it. Very few people in this world are knowledgeable about space magic thus it wouldn't be wrong to say that the page managed to fool everyone at that auction.

Even Simon would still be living in that misconception had he not shown this page to Irene.

After hearing that it was not a space scroll but instead a page from a grimoire, Simon sighed in dejection. There goes his hope for thinking about restoring it.

There was no doubt a space grimoire was more valuable than a space scroll by a matter of magnitudes. One cannot learn the magic itself from a space scroll but that was not true for a grimoire.

Both were a one use items however, unlike the former, a grimoire was a special item that allowed the user to learn the magic stored in it. Grimoires are divided based on their colours, each colour showcasing their rarity.

There are Green, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and tiers that even Simon was unaware of. A single platinum grimoire was able to create huge waves and make even those renowned guild masters of the top five guilds of the kingdom of Ellesmere go crazy about it during the battle of the finest tournament.

It could be seen how valuable a grimoire was from this. Not to mention the page that Simon had on his hand was from a space grimoire, that in itself was enough to put the rarity of the grimoire above a platinum colour.

However, the thing was that, the item on his hand was only a page and not the whole grimoire itself. One cannot learn the magic inside a grimoire with just a page. What's more, if even a page is missing from a grimoire, the entire grimoire becomes useless.

Thus it could be said that even though Simon accidentally got his hands on something incredible, it was also useless at the same time.

Thinking that he had just wasted his time and money buying this, Simon was just about to keep the page back inside his space ring when Irene who had just thought of something stopped him.

"Wait a minute, could the page on your hand be the principal page of the grimore?"

"Principal page?" Simon asked looking at the page in his hand.

"Yes, if the page on your hand is the principal page which is the most important page inside a grimoire and is kind of like its nucleus, then it might be possible to gather the rest of the pages of the grimore" Irene answered.

She was not only adept with space magic but had advanced it to several levels. No wonder when she saw the page that was from a space attribute grimoire, she was able to quickly come up with this idea.

"With the principal page even if you do not have the whole grimoire, you would still be able to locate it using that page" she added.



"How do I know if this is the principal page or not?" Simon asked. Truth be told, he cannot understand even a single syllable or a word that was written on this page. His [Language comprehension] skill was having no effect whatsoever on it.

"A principal page other than detailing the most crucial part of a grimoire, will also have a faint magic circle enchanted on it" Irene mused. She looked at Simon and said "turn it towards the light and see if it has any".

Simon nodded his head thinking that it was kind of like a watermark. When he turned the page towards the chandelier, he saw a complex magic circle big enough to cover the entire page.

Irene, and the Valkyries all gathered beside him and peered into the page.

Irene: "I thought so, it really was a principal page".

p Annette: "With that master will be able to gather the rest of the pages and complete the grimoire".

Listening to the two of them talk, Simon became curious and asked "How will this principal page will lead me to the rest of the grimoire?".

It was true that the one in his hand was the principal page but how was it going to help him gather the rest of the grimoire?

Irene smiled, extended her jade white hand and pointed at the faint magic circle "This is not just an ordinary magic circle but the seal of the creator that made this grimoire. It was put into this page when the grimoire was made thus when it is near the other pages, or the grimoire, naturally it would try to seek it. The page would resonate with the other ones and at that time you would be able to sense their location".

So that's how it was, unexpectedly he still had the chance to get his hand on the grimoire itself.

"That's great master" the Valkyries said basking in this happy moment.

"Anyways, where did you get this page?" Irene asked arching her crescent brown in a frown.

"Hm? This page was something that I bought in an auction. At that time it was auctioned off as a damaged space scroll. I had no idea at that time that it would be a principal page from a space grimoire"

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Simon answered thinking back to the time when he entered the auction.

"Then do you know where it was recovered from? Perhaps that place might have some clues as to where the rest of the grimoire is".

Simon thought over what Irene said and tried to recall the words of the auctioneer when he brought that item at that time. Although that old man did say it was recovered from somewhere, he didn't specifically mention where.

It looks like if he wanted to know more about the space grimoire, he would have to go to the auction house which meant going back to the capital of the kingdom of Ellesmere once again.

If it was some other demon viscount, after going through that horrible experience, they would never even think about stepping into a human kingdom again. However, there was not even an ounce of fear in Simon's eyes, only an endless determination and fires of revenge burning in those crimson eyes of his.

'The next time we meet, things will unfold differently' Simon clenched his hands in resolve.

Seeing him get swept away by some different emotion, Irene did not press for an answer. She knew what kind of experience and adventures Simon had gone through when he was outside. Thus she could somewhat tell what he was thinking about.

The same went for the Valkyries who had been watching him from the void. "Master..." they called out in concern.

Simon smiled at them and told them not to worry.

"Right, how about I use the training floor too" Simon declared boldly, his face had a wide grin plastered on it.

"Eh?! Wait master me too, I want to train with you" Bea who was the first one to react, immediately made her request to tag along.

The other Valkyries not wanting to be left behind, huddled around him. Simon glanced at the last person and coincidentally she too was looking at him.

Irene smiled affected by the atmosphere around him and nodded her head. With that, the group teleported to the new training floor.

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Ten days passed by just like that.

Tower Town, Adventurer's Association. In the lobby where all the adventurers gather. Near the large quest board, Bolan and his team were searching for an ideal commission for themselves.

They discussed as to which one would be best for them now that they had reached the ninth floor. In the past few weeks, they had recruited a new adventurer who coincidentally was also a newbie just like that guy who disappeared inside the dungeon.

After working together completing commissions and fighting monsters, their group was able to work in coordination to some extent. Thus they were deliberating whether they should risk fighting the monster on the ninth floor or should stick with the commission on the upper floor.

The group was in a dilemma as to what to do when another team of adventurers arrived near the quest board.

"Have you heard that the guy who was presumed dead by the adventurer's association, was recently spotted on the town?" A warrior said to his companions.

"Huh? For real? To have survived inside the dungeon for so long, that guy must be really powerful" one of the companions replied.

They weren't very far from Bolan's group, naturally, they could hear the other party. Bolan was intrigued by that so called adventurer the other group was talking about and thus approached them.

"Wait a minute!! Are you guys perhaps talking about someone this tall, with long black hair and an uncannily handsome face?"

Bolan explained trying to describe the physical appearance of a particular provisional adventurer. Perhaps the other party didn't expect for Bolan to suddenly come butting in between their conversation, they looked a little fazed.

"Eh?! Ah! I don't know, I haven't seen the adventurer in person. I have only heard a few rumours from some of my friends who have spotted him" the adventurer who raised the topic, explained.

Bolan seemed to be a little unconvinced by those words from the other party, thus he pressed for more.

"What did your friends say? Did he tell anything about that adventurer? Like how he looks if he was a newbie or something?"

"Ah.. that".

"Leader, you are troubling them. How many times will you inquire about that guy? There is no way he would be alive after disappearing for so long. It's time you give up" Bolan's teammates came and pulled him away.

"Ehh?!... who is leader talking about?" the newbie adventurer asked.

"Hm? Oh, you didn't get to meet him huh. Well, he was a newbie adventurer who came to this town just like you. He teamed up with us for a mining commission to the eighth floor but disappeared due to some unnatural phenomenon that occurred on that floor that day".

"So there was something like that".

Bolan group conversed they were just about to exit the adventurer's association with Bolan in tow, when the other party approached him.

"Ah! Wait, I didn't know the person you were talking about was your teammate".

"He wasn't a teammate... but someone who teamed up with us for a mission. Well, i guess you can call him a teammate" Bolan's group answered.

"I see anyways, as I told you before I do not know much about the adventurer my friends were talking about but I recalled them mentioning that he was quite tall and was wearing a black robe. He was seen near Marley's pub, he still might still be there".

The other adventurer looked at Bolan who seemed interested in this information.

"Thanks for that information" after thanking the other party, Bolan and his team made a round to Marley's pub; however, they were a step too late. According to the bar master, the adventurer left just a few hours ago.

"So he really was here"

"I can't believe he survived more than two weeks inside the dungeon" Bolan and his team discussed. It was not like they came out empty handed when they arrived at the bar. According to the bar master, the guy who was here looked exactly like the provisional adventurer who had teamed up with them.

"Well, at least he is alive. With that, the association shouldn't give us a bad review" Bolan sighed.

"Right, now leader can put down his worries" his teammates laughed.

"Alright, let's go finish our commission, newbie don't you dare stray too far from us"

"Yes leader" Bolan and his team proceeded to dive inside the dungeon.

Far north from the tower town, deep inside the lush overgrown trees, a figure of a person could be seen dashing forward in a fast speed. The figure was wearing a black hood and a bamboo hat to cover his features.

After diving deep inside the northern region of the ghastly winding forest, the figure stopped on top of a tree and removed the hat covering him.

The person underneath that hat was none other than Simon who had activated the trinket of Grimlock to mask his appearance.

NEIIGHH...

TAP... TAP... TAP... Simon turned his head towards the sound to find the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse coming out of the bushes.

"I hope you didn't have to wait long" Simon said caressing the latter.

"Think nothing of it my Lord" the warhorse answered "Was the objective that my lord set out to do in the tower town completed?".

It asked looking towards the eastern direction of the forest where the dungeon and the town was.

"Yeah" Simon nodded his head. The objective that the warhorse was talking about was none other than Simon showing himself in the tower town and getting off the deceased list of the adventurer's association.

Of course, with his visit to the pub, he also wanted to see if his face would be recognised or not. Weirdly enough, although the news about the demon that wreaked havoc in the capital had spread to this place, the demon's poster and his features were still not known here yet.

Simon thought about it on his way here but he was still not sure why it was so. He shook his head, got on top of his warhorse before tapping the latter saying "Let's go".

The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse spread its wings and with a blast of wind soared high up in the sky.

Whoosh... Simon looked below at the quickly changing scenery before setting his eyes to the front. The rate at which the Bloodthorn demonic warehouse was travelling was many times faster than its previous speed. After it had gone through its first evolution, its [High-Speed Flight] skill have evolved into [Super High Speed flight] skill.

That was not all, it has also gained many new skills and magic that made it much more stronger and worthy of a disaster class being.

"My lord, we will be arriving there swiftly," the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse said increasing its speed even further.

Simon nodded his head and spread his senses all around. He could feel that the number of monsters around this part was quickly getting lower and lower the further they went in, this also indicated that they were on the right path.

Why were they diving inside the northern region of the ghastly winding forest when most of the strong monsters were on the western side? The reason for it, was simple, Simon was here for one of the three overlords of the northern region of the forest.

The promise that he made with Aldebaran was drawing near, thus Simon was here to fulfil one of them. In the span of a year, he had to subdue all of the three overlord of the northern region of the ghastly winding forest. It had been almost six months since then.

That was one of the promises he made with Aldebaran at that time. Right now, Simon and the bloodthorn demonic warhorse were heading towards the territory of the Deep Sea Alligator king, one of the three overlords of the north.

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A few days ago, Simon realised that he was not making any advancement towards the agreement he made with Aldebaran, thus he decided to make a move soon and paid a visit to the floor where Lightning Draconic Serpent was.

The reason he went to the Lightning Draconic Serpent was because he wanted to know more about the other overlords of the north that he needed to subdue.

"My lord, it is my incredible honour that you thought about me. Of course, I shall tell you about everything that I know about them" the lightning draconic serpent said wiggling its tail in delight.

Simon nodded his head and said "Out of the three overlords of the north, I know about you and the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon. However, even I am unaware of the last one".

Although he heard of the three overlords, in truth he had only met the two he mentioned above. As for the last one, though he did feel its presence when he was exploring the northern region, he never had the opportunity to meet it.

"It's no wonder that my lord doesn't know about the last one. After all, among the three of us, that guy is the most cautious one and does not come out of their territory easily. The Deep Sea Alligator King unlike me and the Earth shattering Lower dragon, rules over a large number of subordinates who do most of the work for it".

"Personally, I think it's just a lazy bum who sleeps around all day. Out of the three of us, he is weakest but due to the large number of subordinates that guy commands, it's quite a hassle to fight it".

The lightning draconic serpent said with a loathing tone. From its voice, Simon could tell that it looked down upon the deep sea alligator king, after all, the lightning draconic serpent took pride in its own strength while the former just used its numbers to suppress its enemies without confront them himself.

"The deep sea alligator king huh... does it mean that to subdue it I will have to first fight all of its subordinates?".

Simon mused, he did not know the exact number of subordinates the deep sea alligator king commanded. Thus if he were to start fighting all of its subordinates, by the time he reached it he would be all spent.

"That is not true my lord, you just need to lure its subordinates away. That guy, he is quite territorial, he would no doubt try to swarm you with their numbers the moment you intrude its territory while he himself will comfortably lie inside his lake".

"If my lord can lure the others, you would be able to fight that guy while he is all alone. How about lord Simon takes me with him, I know every tactic that guy might use" the lightning draconic serpent proposed.

Simon thought over the proposal, and looked at its large draconic eyes that were filled with expectation. It was not a bad idea to bring someone who was more knowledgeable about the overlord with him.



However, its size was just too large and eye-catching. The moment it teleports out of the dungeon, it would cause panic and alarm to spread amongst the inhabitants of the tower town. It would be the same case even if Simon teleported it a little away from the town.

Therefore Simon had no choice but to reject its proposal this time and take the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse with him. Unlike the former, the latter's size was much more manageable.

When Simon explained his reason, the lightning draconic serpent became a little disappointed. Nonetheless, it understood that its huge frame was just too eye catching and thus it had no choice but to give up in the end.

Simon asked a few more information about the deep sea alligator king, like its skills or any abilities that needed his attention.

"My lord, if you can do not fight it inside the water. I do not exactly, but it has a skill that increases its power drastically when fighting inside a water body. If possible, my lord should drag it outside its lake and fight it on the land. Additionally, my lord should be careful of its breath attack. Although it does not have any dragon blood, it is still capable of a breath attack".

The lightning draconic serpent informed everything that he knew about its former rival. Simon thanked the lightning draconic serpent before moving out with his warhorse.

He teleported the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse a few kilometres away from the tower town while he himself went to the tower town.

"It looks like it has sensed our presence" Simon stooped his train of thoughts when he felt a mighty pressure and an aura lock onto them. Needless to say, the aura was from the Deep Sea Alligator King.

The territory of the Deep Sea Alligator King was located in the far north of the forest where a huge lake could be seen. The land around here was damp and the height of the trees a little low. There was not a single presence of other monsters around as all of them were scared away from the presence of the deep sea alligator king.

Simon and the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse landed a few kilometres away from the lake.

"Remember, do not release all of your aura or else the deep sea alligator king will just hole up inside its lake. You just need to attract its attention and lure away the subordinates it sends your way" Simon said going through their plan once again.

The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse was a genuine disaster class being while the Deep Sea alligator king was yet to reach such a height. Thus if the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse really did release all of its aura, the latter might be scared shitless and just hole up inside its lake.

Simon was cautious about the thing that the Lightning draconic Serpent said about not fighting it inside the lake. Thus if possible, he wanted to tempt the deep sea alligator king into stepping outside.

"Don't worry my lord, I ensure you that nobody will get in your fight against the deep sea alligator king" The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse said thumping loudly on the ground. After that, it unfolded its wings once again and flew towards the direction of the lake while Simon hid his presence using the Ice Phoenix's Sigh.

BOOOM... BOOOM...

The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse did not hesitate to let its presence known by firing a few huge fireballs into the lake. Hot steam rose from the lake and with the last attack as the catalyst, ripples started appearing across the entire lake and before long, a deep guttural noise came from the depth of the lake.

Whoosh... Whoosh... Whoosh... hundreds of water pillars rose from the lake and from it surfaced hundreds of lizardmen.

Simon who was looking at this scene from his hidden place, immediately identified the species to be an evolved form of lizardmen that spawned in his dungeon. Unlike the mutated ones he created himself using the mutation crystals, the ones in front of him were standard evolution of lizardmen.

Race- Elder Lizardman

Level-391,

Skills- water magic mastery, Cut Resistance, Blunt Resistance, Super Defence, Super Strength, Hard Skin, Berserk, Strong Bite, Tail Slam, hydro Blast, Swift Swim, Spike, Deadly Claws.

When he used [Analysis] on them, this was the result he got.

"So they are called Elder Lizardman" Simon recalled that they were on the list of monsters that can be spawned inside the dungeon. However, the option was greyed out since his dungeon was still too low ranked. If he wanted to spawn monsters like Elden lizardmen and bloodhounds, he would have to wait until his dungeon ranks up to [C].

Anyways, even if there were hundreds of them around level 390 to 399, they were still not a match for the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse. However, the point was not to eradicate them all but to lure them away.

The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse fired a few big fireballs at the lake enraging the lizardmen and the overlord that was hiding inside it.

GRRRUUHHHH... the water on the surface of the lake started trembling intensely and a huge entity peeked its head out of the lake.

Pointed snout, elongated jaws riddled with razor-sharp teeth and a menacing appearance enough to scare anyone away. Blackish grey skin covered with bony plate-shaped scales showcased its incredible defence.

The being was enormous, just its head that was peeking out of the water was more than six meters. There was no mistaking the creature, the Deep Sea Alligator King finally showed its appearance.

'So it's out' Simon who was hiding his presence a few kilometres away looked at the Deep Sea Alligator King. He did not use his [Analysis] on it because there was a high chance that it would reveal his position.

After the Deep Sea Alligator king peeked its head out of the water, it looked at the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse flying in the sky and roared. With its roar that was enough to shake the surrounding land, all the Elder Lizardmen started baring their fangs at the assailant.

Hundreds of them charged towards the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse who remained unfazed by their numbers. To make sure that he had the attention and aggression of every lizardmen present, the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse used its downgraded version of its infernal magic to take out a few lizardmen charging towards it.

BOOMM....

The lizardmen who got consumed by the flames issued a deep wail before succumbing to their death.

SHAAA... the other lizardmen seeing their clansmen die in front of their eyes, became enraged and started charging towards the Bloodthorn demonic without regarding anything else.

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Using this chance to secure the aggression of the subordinates of the Deep Sea Alligator king towards it, the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse flapped its wings turned around and ran. The hundreds of Elden Lizardmen were behind it in hot pursuit.

GRUUHH... the sandy yellowish eyes of the Deep Sea Alligator king were still locked on the warhorse who appeared and disturbed its sleep out of nowhere.

At first, when the Deep Sea Alligator king saw the appearance of the warhorse and how fearless it acted in front of hundreds of its subordinates, it thought that something was wrong.

It ruled the northern region of the ghastly winding forest as its overlord for over more than fifty years. Over the period of time, it faced numerous opponents many of which were from the western region of the forest.

But because its power wasn't enough, it was chased away by the other powerful monsters from that region and came to the northern part of the forest.

Even though the concentration of mana here was far less pure and the size of the lake was very small, it had no choice but to make this place its territory. It chased away the former residents of this place and ruled over this area like an overlord for dozens of years.

It fought with a few others that were around its power level and finally secured its position around the northern region of the forest. Thus it was cautious when it came to enemies that did not show any fear in front of it.

Just when it was considering whether the enemy was hiding its strength, it saw the latter turn tail and run away. The Deep Sea Alligator immediately lost interest, even if its intelligence was high, it never considered the possibility that it was all a plot.

It let its subordinate chase the enemy away and was just about to dive back inside the lake when dozens of flame arrows came manifesting out of nowhere and targeted it.

BOOOM ... BOOOM... the water on the surface of the lake shook and a deep guttural noise came from the Deep Sea Alligator king. Although it did not take much damage from the last attack, it was still enraged by the hidden attack.

It scanned the surroundings but was still unable to find the location of the hidden enemy.

Right at this moment a few more attacks, this time of lightning attribute, came flying from its blind spot. Nevertheless, it was prepared for an attack this time and hence intercepted the attack even before it came closer to it.

A long spiky tail appeared out of the lake dispersing a massive amount of water that blocked the incoming attack.

GRUHHH... after easily dealing with the attack, it looked towards the forest and roared. Because of the attack earlier, it was now aware of the location of the hidden enemy.

The deep sea Alligator king swam till the shore of the lake and finally came out of its abode. Looking at its broad wide body which was decked with spiky plated skin like an armour, short legs and powerful jaws, one could only say that it was menacing to behold.

After it appeared out of the lake, it extended its short legs and slammed it on the ground making huge spiky rocks emerge out of it in a straight line. The attack from the Deep sea Alligator King travelled at a high speed and targeted one of the particular trees amongst the sea of trees.

BANG... the tree was quickly skewered by the numerous spiky stones that emerged out of the ground. However, seconds before the attack hit the tree, a shadow dashed out of it and dodged the attack just in time.

The Deep Sea Alligator King narrowed its eyes and roared causing the trees in the path to be uprooted and blown away. After everything barring its vision of the hidden enemy was removed, it was finally able to see who it was that dared to sneak an attack on him.

Pale white skin, crimson eyes and horns. That dark and malevolent aura released from its body were the signature characteristic of a particular race. There was no doubt about it, the one in front of it was from that race.

BAM... BAM... BAM... the Deep Sea Alligator King walked forward, its enormous body along with its weight made it so that the ground trembled whenever it took a step. It lowered its head and stared menacingly at its enemy.

"What is a Demon Noble doing here?"

A wicked smile was hanging in the corner of his lips, hands folded, the being was standing tall even in front of its presence. Simon who was now face to face with the Deep Sea Alligator was only a few meters away from it.

The distance was so close that the Deep Sea Alligator King can open its mouth and just eat him. Nevertheless, Simon did not back down and reacted by releasing his own aura.

"Indeed, I'm a demon noble. You must be one of the overlords of this region, the Deep Sea Alligator king?" Simon said using [Analysis] on the being.

Race- Deep Sea Alligator King

Level- 476

Skills- Water Magic Mastery, Earth magic Mastery, Bunt Super Resistance, Cut Resistance, Super Enhanced Strength, Super Enhanced Defence, Super Enhanced Endurance, Sense Presence, High-Speed Regeneration, Body Enhancement, Berserk, Raise Guard, Body Slam, Overpower.

Inherent Skill- [Swift Swim], [Hydro Breath], [Tail Slam], [Hardened Scales], [Poison Touch], [Brutal Bite], [Spill], [Spike].

"Hehh, to stand and face me even after knowing who I am, Demon Noble I applaud your courage. However, you are not my match. If you run away now, I will overlook your previous transgressions... now scam" The Deep Sea Alligator King roared and bared its spiky teeth threateningly.

Even though it hadn't yet reached level 500, due to its intelligence being higher than other creatures and close to complete evolution, it was somehow capable of speech.

Simon smiled in front of its intimidating behaviour, instead of backing down in front of an enemy that was multiple times stronger than him, he pressed forward and even tried to incur the ire of his enemy.

"Haha, It seems like I'll be disappointing you in that case. I am not here to run away but to subdue you. From this moment forward, I claim the northern region of the Ghastly Winding forest as my own territory. You who are living in it, have two choices, either become my subordinate and swear unwavering loyalty to me or die".

After finishing his sentence, there was a silence of a good few seconds before the Deep Sea Alligator King became furious. It extended one of its legs and tried to smash Simon underneath it.

BANG... "You puny ant dare to have thoughts about subduing me?!! Who do you think I am??".

A deep depression formed on the ground and cracks appeared within a few meters of area. Just from this attack, one could see the raw strength the beast possesses.

Simon who had dodged the stomp without any problem, appeared a few meters away from it.

"Does this mean that you are defying me?" Simon asked with a haughty attitude that was meant to irk his opponent even more.

As he had planned, the Deep Sea Alligator King became more furious after it saw this attitude.

"Taking claim of the northern region? Know your place puny Demon Noble!!!" It started chasing after Simon who kept dodging its attack and backtracking.

To make sure that he had the entire focus of his opponent on him, Simon did not shy away from using his powerful and mana consuming attacks and bombarded his enemy with them even when he knew that the latter was taking hardly any damage from it.

Those plated scales of the Deep Sea Alligator King were so durable that they easily shook off most of the intermediate tier magic attacks from Simon.

Whoosh... a powerful tail sweep came from the left side that cleanly cut all the boulders and trees behind him.

Managing to dodge that attack somehow, Simon fell back and observed the tail in dread. A droplet of sweat trickled down his face, his expression completely serious.

That attack earlier, that tail sweep from the Deep Sea Alligator king was so fast and fierce that had it not been for his increased levels and battle practice with the Valkyries for the past few weeks, he would have been completely decimated or seriously injured by that.

That long slither tails packed enough power to even crumble a mountain and bypass Simon's defence stats. The Deep Sea Alligator King, most of its stats were focused around its strength and defence.

However, it was extremely slow. Other than a few parts of its body like its tail, its other attacks were extremely slow.

BANG... BANG... BANG...

Perhaps it learned that its attacks weren't connecting and it started swinging its tail in a frenzy more and more. For it, the demon was an annoying bug that was difficult to swat.

Simon would doge its attack and lead it deeper towards the forest while simultaneously trying to figure out its weak point from his magic attacks.

Even though it was to keep all of its attention on him, Simon wasn't just blindly bombarding it with attacks. If one looked carefully, Simon never attacked the same place twice and was continuously observing and analysing his enemy.



Thanks to his battle experience, and his high mana pool that made it possible, Simon finally noticed a pattern. Whenever he attacked the Deep Sea Alligator king's lower body, or any attacks that specifically targeted its underbelly, it would always lower its body and use its back to endure all of the attacks.

This pattern was so frequent that it was on the level of a behaviour. Since the Deep Sea Alligator king had a streamlined body that was flat to the ground, Simon was unable to see its belly.

However, from its behaviour, he could tell that its weakness or something that it did not want to expose lay there.