

D. of Pride 441

441 Chapter 441

This was further proven true when Simon started using low altitude attacks. The highly compact flame and lightning spear were conjured closer to the ground and unless the Deep Sea Alligator king learned to jump, it would be unable to dodge these attacks.

However, it was simply asking too much for its heavy body to make a movement such as that. Thus just as Simon had predicted, it took all of the attacks by lowering its body once again.

"Pesky demon stop running and fight me!!!" Possibly because it was completely enraged, the Deep Sea Alligator King did not realise that it was lured far away from its lake.

At this moment, Simon finally stopped backing away and turned around to face the beast. A crimson sword appeared in his hand at an unknown time and his gaze was firmly locked on his opponent.

GRRUUHHH...

The Deep Sea Alligator King grunted, its eyes that shone with an intelligent light landed on the sword. It did not know how powerful the sword was but from the aura of the demon that changed completely after they held the sword, it could tell that the sword was dangerous.

Nonetheless, it was one of the three overlords of the north that reigned supreme over countless other monsters in this forest. There was no way, it would back just because of a sword. From its perspective, the demon noble in front of it was weaker than him, the aura the former released and also the exchange earlier was enough for it to realise that.

Thus the Deep Sea Alligator king thought that it can take the demon down. With a deep roar that was enough to scare the monsters in a few kilometres area away, it started charging at the demon.

BANG... BANG... BANG... the ground trembled with its march as it left deep footprints.

Although its charge was slow and comical even, one cannot look down at the momentum a body as gigantic as that created. The charge of the Deep Sea Alligator King gave the illusion of a mountain crumbling down.

Simon waited till the last second before unfurling his wings and dodging the charge. He flew by its body and was just about to target its lower belly, when suddenly the Deep Sea Alligator king turned its upper body towards the side mid-charge.

A movement as agile as that and something that was only possible for a streamlined body such as that, took Simon by surprise. An enormous jaw big enough to swallow a mammoth, decked with razor sharp teeth came to bite him.

The powerful jaw of the Deep Sea Alligator king was enough to crush even a block of metal let alone Simon. To him, that attack was like a maw of death, something that he had to dodge no matter what.

CRUNCH...

the huge maw of death closed upon him and bit down.

The Deep Sea Alligator King leered with its eyes, thinking that the demon was over its head to think that it can conquer the northern region of the forest not to mention to defeat itself. However, its eyes became wide the next second when it realised that it cannot close its mouth.

A circular golden halo was barring it from closing its mouth. No matter how strong the pressure it applied to close its gaping maw, the circular golden halo refused to budge down.

BANG... SHATTER... at the end though, the barrier like halo succumbed down and shatter in front fo the might of its bite.

The golden halo did shatter but it managed to buy Simon precious time and allowed him to escape the maw of death. Had it not been for the golden guardian stone, that attack would be enough to claim his life.

It was a good thing he hadn't underestimated his enemy and was prepared for all sorts of attacks. The Deep Sea Alligator King might be slow, but its streamlined body made movements such as before extremely easy.

Now apart from its tail, he also had to be careful of its [Butal Bite] skill when approaching closer to its body. Fortunately for him, he had lots of golden guardian stones to spare.

In these past few weeks, lady luck had shined upon him a couple of times and he was able to draw out a few sets of golden guardian stones with each set consisting of ten stones. That is to say, Simon had more than thirty Golden guardian stones currently sitting in his inventory.

Even then, he still has to be careful, the Deep Sea Alligator King was not an opponent he can look down upon. The golden guardian stones might be able to stop all kinds of physical attacks and magical attacks under a certain level.

However, its effects only lasted a few seconds. Thus he had to use that few seconds of invulnerability to make an impact.

Simon flapped his wings and using his [High-Speed Flight], flew around the Beast trying to find its blind spot.

After its last attack failed, the Deep Sea Alligator King became wary of the demon that was using some kind of unorthodox items to fight. Its [Brutal Bite] skill that was powerful enough to crush enemies multiple levels higher than him was stopped by something on the person of that demon.

As careful as it was, it was naturally wary of the counter-attacks from that demon. Although it was cautious, it did not mean that it was afraid. Especially after fighting with the demon, it knew that the latter was not its match.

It used the same method again and started charging towards Simon. This time though it also used its mastery over earth magic to create spiky rocks of sorts that erupted out from the ground and barricaded the demon and limited its movement.

If the demon tried to take its charge head-on, they will be crushed, if they tried to dodge, the Deep Sea Alligator King can simply bend its body to the side and bite with his powerful jaws.

As it had expected, the demon flew left and right trying to dodge the spiky rocks, but when they got surrendered they tried to avoid his charge by moving to the side or so it should have been.

However, the demon acted differently this time and did not move away from the path of its charge.

Did the demon think that they can survive its charge head on?

"Idiot... if you wanted to die so badly, then I will fulfil your wish" the Deep Sea Alligator king roared and dashed towards the demon with even more momentum.

Feeling its powerful charge, Simon planted his foot strongly into the ground and arched his body forward and circulated his mana all around his body. The Deep Sea Alligator King's stats might have been higher than his in some areas but that was before he used the Crimson Sword.

With the buff that was provided by his weapon, the difference between their stats wasn't that big any longer. On the contrary, Simon might even surpass him in some aspects. The fact that the Deep Sea Alligator did not know it was the key factor here.

BAM... BAM... BAM

The ground trembled and the wind whistled, just when the huge frame of the Deep Sea Alligator king was upon him, Simon utilised his [Sword Mastery] skill and swung his sword with all of his strength.

CLANG... an intense metallic noise rang around the surroundings and intense spark generated from the collision.

His sword clashed against the enlarged snout of the beast that was covered with a defence so strong that even his sword had difficulty cutting in.

SCREEE...

Simon's feet scraped the ground as he was pushed back a few meters by the momentum and strength behind the charge of the Deep Sea Alligator. Nevertheless, even if he was pushed back in the process, he still stopped the charge of the beast dozens of times bigger than him in the end.

Simon used the outstretched rocks behind him that was meant to blockade him as a foothold to cancel the force pushing him behind and jump towards the dazed Deep Sea Alligator king.

The latter who didn't expect the demon to be able to stop its charge was in a state of disbelief and thus was unable to react when they rushed at him.

Simon used this chance when his enemy wasn't ready to slip past their body and attacked the place they had been guarding so thoroughly.

"Infernal Magic Mastery- Infernal Blaze" Simon executed one of the infernal magic that condensed the golden flames around his sword making it seem just like an enlarged golden sword.

As he had expected, the underbelly of the Deep Sea Alligator King was much more softer than the skin on its upper body and back that was protected by a layer of plated scales.

The enlarged golden sword dug deeply into the skin of the Deep Sea Alligator king and even burned its innards with an infernal heat.

GRUUHHHHHH... the Deep Sea Alligator king roared once again this time its roar was filled with mind numbing pain and agony.

At the same time, the pain was the catalyst that woke it up from its daze as it turned towards the demon to bite and force him away from its underbelly.

BANG...

However, how could Simon who had gained the advantage let go of this opportunity to deal more damage and back away? The maw of death approached and shut close on him but at that exact moment, a circular golden barrier appeared around him and stopped the jaws of the Deep Sea Alligator King for the second time.

Using this time, Simon dug his sword even deeper. He poured more of his mana into the sword and mess the internal organs of the beast with its infernal heat.

442 Chapter 442

Simon swiftly backed away after he opened a deep gash on its underbelly.

SHATTER... the Deep Sea Alligator King feeling the pain and the burning of its organs, bit down at the barrier with even more strength and shattered it into nothing but light fragments. However, it was already too late as the assailant had already backed away.

Blood flowed out of its mouth, it looked at the large wound on its underbelly, its eyes were absolutely enraged.

GRUHHH... a deep guttural roar emitted out of the Deep Sea Alligator King and in front of Simon's eyes, its skin started to change colours. The last attack from Simon had dealt it a considerable damage and burned multiple of its internal organs. The pain was so excruciating that it had lost its mind in pain and activated its [Berserk] and [Overpower] skills at the same time.

Its ash grey skin started turning the shade of red and in the blink of an eye, it grew twice its size. Even its eyes which were a sandy yellow before, turned completely crimson at this moment. Clearly, the beast had lost its mind and had become even more dangerous.

GRUHHH...

In the face of its change in behaviour and that hatred filled roar, Simon smiled. He had a fair share of experience of fighting beasts that have gone berserk. He knew how dangerous they become once they enter this state. Thus instead of growing complacent, he stood sharp and ready to deal with any kind of attack that came his way.

The Deep Sea Alligator King now under the effects of [Berserk] and [Overpower] two stats boosting skills, repeatedly slammed its tail in an attempt to crush the demon. It did not care about anything else as it used all of its power to erase the demon from its eyes.

BANG... BANG... BANG... the tail now strengthened even further, generated a storm of wind as it slammed into the ground and devastated a few meters of land every time.

It was only to be expected, a monster right around the boundaries of disaster class. Every time they moved or fought, they caused huge environmental damage.

Simon dodged left and right and utilised his advantage in flight to outmanoeuvre the outstretched tail. However, even if he dodged the tail, the earth magic from the Deep Sea Alligator King would come targeting him.

Although these spiky boulders forming out of the ground didn't do much damage to him, it was enough to stall for some time before the tail arrived. Simon would counter attack by firing his magic at a low altitude. However, after suffering an attack on its underbelly, it now deeply guarded that place.

Unlike its front, upper body and back that was protected by hardened skin and multiple layers of plated scales, his underbelly only had a layering of soft muscles thus making it its weakest spot.

Simon understood that long range attacks wouldn't be able to damage the deep Sea Alligator king which is why, he was only using the magic attacks as a diversion to attract its attention towards guarding its weak spot.

p His main objective was... using the skill [High Speed flight] to their limits, Simon made a beeline towards the Deep Sea Alligator king. "Infernal Magic Mastery- Infernal Heatwave" the sword lit up but before it could erupt out in brilliant golden flames, an enormous tail filled with ruthless momentum came attacking Simon from the side.

BANG...

However, instead of the demon's body being flung back into the distance, a golden barrier stopped all of the momentum of the tail.

'Got you' Simon displayed a wicked smile, wildly poured his mana into the crimson sword and threw it towards the Deep Sea Alligator King. More specifically, he targeted its eyes which was yet another weak spot for the Deep Sea Alligator King in a sense.

A blade covered in golden flames, drew a golden line across the sky and distorted the space whenever it travelled.

STAB... caught by surprise, the Deep Sea Alligator King tried to move its eyes away. However, it was just too late as the blade of the sword managed to dig into the corner of its left eye. Although it was painful, this kind of damage was something that could be healed over time using its [High speed regeneration].

Nonetheless, the sword was imbued with a large amount of golden flames that severely burned its left eye making it impossible to regenerate through the damage in a short time.

GRRRUHHHH... the Deep Sea Alligator king roared in agony, shaking the nearby mountains. SHATTER... as time was up, the golden barrier gave up. Simon was just about to press forward with his attacks when he realised that the tail of the Deep Sea Alligator king hadn't moved an inch from its spot and had instead circled around the barrier in a grip/hold.

Now that the barrier was gone, Simon was unable to get away from its clutch in time even if he tried to fly away.

GRAB...

Caught, Simon was now solidly under the grasp of its tail.

The Deep Sea Alligator King looked at the demon with its remaining right eye while smoke and puss came from the left. It gnashed its teeth in absolute hatred and tightened its grip onto the latter in an attempt to squash it.

CRACK... CRACK...

Simon grabbed the tail with his hands to try and pull himself free from its clutch but even he could hear multiple of his bones breaking and creaking from the pressure.

GRUHHH... a furious roar that drowned all the other noise around the surrounding came from the Deep Sea Alligator king as it flung the demon into the distant walls of the mountain with all of its strength.

It was like somebody fired an enormous cannon and Simon who was the ammo of this artillery, broke the barrier of sound and was sent flying towards the mountain. He struggled, flapped his wings and even fired some magic behind him to offset some of the force.

However, the momentum his body had was just too much for him to solve in one go.

BOOOM... Thus his body was slammed and plastered into the walls of the mountain, causing it to tremble intensely. If one looked carefully, there were deep cracks running through the mountain showcasing how much force there was behind that toss from the deep Sea Alligator king.

Puff... Simon puffed out a mouthful of blood and tried to regulate his disoriented mana and blood flow. His entire body creaked from pain and multiple of his bones had completely cracked. Other than that he had also suffered multiple internal injuries and his wings and been bent at weird angle.

With his wings in such bad shape, there was no way he would be able to utilise his flight skill for a while. Simon coughed out a few more mouthfuls of blood, pulled one of his hands out and quickly drank on a few elixirs of healing.

This along with the [High Speed Regeneration] skill of a demon viscount was enough to offset the damage for a while.

'Damn, I let my guard down at the last second' Simon thought internally as he surveyed his surroundings and saw how far he was flung.

At the last second, he had dealt a blow to the deep Sea Alligator's King's left eye that should have been excruciatingly painful for it. Even he didn't expect this much tenacity from the latter to not even move from its place even while enduring that hellish pain of burn from the infernal magic.

What was more surprising was that, it did not even pull back its tail and instead chose to press forward at that time. Simon wouldn't have been in peril had he used another golden guardian stone.

However, the golden guardian stone had a fixed time period before it can be used by the same user again. Even though Simon had more than thirty golden guardian stones with him, he cannot use them consecutively to overlap the effects of all thirty of them and gain a moment of invulnerability.

After every use of the golden guardian stone, that same user had to wait for some time before he can use another golden guardian stone. If he had to estimate the downtime it would be around ten seconds. That is why, whenever the golden barrier shattered, Simon would always distance himself from the enemy or reposition himself.

TREMBLE... TREMBLE... the land started shaking and debris was starting to fall down from the mountain. Simon did not have much time to reorganise himself since he could see the Deep Sea Alligator King charging towards him from the distance.

He pulled himself from the dent he made onto the wall of the mountain and jumped away just before the beast could crash into him.

BOOOM... it was as if dozens of explosives had gone off together, the mountain that was multiple times bigger than the Deep Sea Alligator king crumbled down unable to bear the power of its charge.

Of course, it was buried underneath it which gave Simon a few seconds of time to reorganise his breathing. Or so he thought, but the next second he saw the light seeping out of the debris and a powerful blast that travelled in a straight line, blew away everything in its path.

When Simon finally gained clarity as to what happened, what was the thing that travelled at such a high speed was high, his eyes contracted and he hurriedly broke a golden guardian stone.

At that instant, a pressurised cannon of water crashed onto the golden barrier surrounding him. Everything around him, was swept through by that blast of water and even his golden barrier had many cracks running through it.

Simon's eyes which never left the Deep Sea Alligator king, clearly saw it opening its mouth and shooting something.

Breath Attack!!!

443 Chapter 443

"Ah, another thing my lord. Although that guy does not have any dragon bloodline, it is capable of breath attacks" At this moment, he recalled the words of the Lightning draconic Serpent.

Breath attack, an exclusive racial skill of some high level beast and monsters. It is said to be one of the most powerful attacks, an ace in the hole that can turn situations around.

There was no doubt about it, the skill that the deep Sea Alligator king used, something that made alarm bells ring inside his head was none other the breath attack, the lightning draconic serpent told him to be careful of.

GRUUHH... the deep sea alligator king growled, its enlarged body and crimson colour slowly returning to its original state. The effect of the [berserk] and [overpower] skill was over.

Simon looked up and saw that his sword was still dug inside its left eye. Without the buff from the sword, he was not its match. Thus he had to get his sword back but there was no need for him to physically go there to retrieve it since he was capable of that technique.

Simon extended his hands towards the sword and with the emergence of strange runes and marking on his hand, the sword stuck in the eyes of the Deep Sea Alligator king started trembling and moving.

GRRUUHHHH... the beast gave a roar of agony. If one looked carefully, the sword that was impaling its left eye had the same marking as the one on Simon's hand. As if obeying his will, the sword slowly pulled itself out from the beast's eye and flew back to him.

Simon caught the sword in his hand and smiled. The technique he just used was none other than [Dominator's control] that Irene had taught him. According to her, one can dominate any animate or inanimate objects with this technique.

After Simon got to experience how useful this legacy technique that was passed down to him was, he practised and comprehended the technique to increase his mastery over it in his free time. Thus one day Simon decided to practice this technique on his sword and to his delightment, he was able to mark and dominate the sword even without Irene's help.

From his experience, he understood how important the buff provided by the sword was when fighting an enemy multiple levels stronger than him. If he drops the sword or it is knocked away from his hand, he immediately loses the buff.

In fact, that person named Davis from the adventurer's association, did the same thing and knocked the sword away from his grasp to contain him. In the future, there would be enemies who would be able to see through the power buff of the sword and recognise its tier.

They would no doubt try to knock the sword away to weaken him. Hence, Simon came up with this idea after he deliberated over it.

Now, using this technique, even if the sword was knocked away from him or he himself uses it as ammunition just like what he hurled the sword at the left eye of the deep Sea Alligator king, he would still be able to recall the sword back.

Feeling the change in his stats brought by the sword, Simon set his sight onto his enemy. Seeing that they were not shooting any more of those breath attacks, Simon was about to initiate his own assault when suddenly he realised his vision was going blurry and everything around him was starting to move.

What was going on?

Huff... Huff...

Simon had difficulty breathing, even standing straight was starting to become a problem. He tried shaking off this feeling by biting his lips when from the corner of his eyes he saw thin green smoke come out of the water puddle around him.

Poison?!

It suddenly struck him. This discomforting feeling that was raging inside him was none other than poison. The area around him was filled with a greenish gas at some point.

Simon hurriedly covered his nose and stopped inhaling any more of the air. When he looked around he finally realised that the poison was coming from the water puddles and the droplets of water that remained after that breath attack.

At this moment, alarm bells rang inside Simon's head once again and he hurriedly dodged to the side while struggling to keep his senses together. The instant he moved to the side, a highly pressurised, high-velocity breath of water passed through the place he was at just a moment ago.

What's more, other than having the power to even crumble down mountains, that pressurised blast of water also contained poison.

Simon was sure of it when he saw greenish gas come out of the puddles that remained after that attack.

He took out a vial and quickly gulped down its content.

[Elixir of Antidote X1 consumed].

The thing that he just consumed, was an antidote that he purchased from the [Shop]. It healed all kinds of weak poison and only lasted for a while.

After feeling the effects of poison dissipate and his vision become clear again, Simon started moving again. He cannot afford to stand still and let that breath hit him. Apart from that, he was also worried about how long the antidote would last since he could see this part of the forest slowly getting covered by a greenish gas.

Sure he can blow them away using his gale magic but the Deep Sea Alligator king can simply produce more. Plus to completely get rid of the poisonous gas, he had to get rid of the puddles of water that had spread all around this part of the forest.

BOOM... BOOOM...

The Deep Sea Alligator King fired one breath attack after another dealing severe damage to the environment. However, it did not care about it all as its rage filled eye was locked on the demon who looked very miserable while dodging all those attacks from it.

"Seven seconds interval... although it's not a lot of time, it is still somewhat doable" Simon muttered in a voice that only he could hear.

Perhaps if the Deep Sea Alligator king was a little saner, it would have realised that the demon was not just simply dodging but counting down the internal time between the breath attacks it can release.

Even if it made him look pathetic, with dirt and grime covering his clothes, Simon dodged the attacks like his life depended on it. He gulped down a few more Elixirs of Healing and Elixirs of Antidote and waited until his wings had recovered.

The attacks that he was unable to dodge, he would use the golden guardian stone to cover up for it. Like that, Simon stalled the Deep Sea Alligator king long enough for his wings to heal.

If he wanted to damage the latter, he had to get closer and without his wings and flight ability, it was just too dangerous. Thus the moment, his wings recovered enough to use the flight skill again, he rushed towards the Deep sea alligator king right after it fired its breath attack.

Using the seven seconds window, Simon flew towards the beast as fast as he could without wasting even a second. Taking the breath attack head-on and in close range was suicidal thus he had to make it so that it cannot fire those breath attacks anymore.

Simon flapped his wings and exerted the entire strength of his body to inch closer as soon as possible. However, how could the deep Sea alligator king just allow him to approach closer to its body?

It slammed its stumpy legs into the ground and numerous spiky rocky emerged out of the earth to impale him.

'There is no time to dodge all these attacks' Simon reckoned, instead of dodging and going around the rocks that would eat away at his window of time, he decided to brave through the attacks.

While still using flight, he activated all of his augmenting skills and sword mastery skill to erupt forward with hundreds of blade shadows that clashed with the onrushing stones.

BOOOM...

Numerous collisions sound echoed out and a cloud of dust formed up front. The Deep Sea Alligator King narrowed its remaining eye and observed the cloud of dust carefully, trying to detect where its opponent went.

Whoosh... at this moment, piercing the cloud of dust, a highly condensed flame spear came targeting its eye. This time though, the Deep Sea Alligator King was prepared and simply moved its head to the right a little so that the magic landed on its temple that was protected by a layer of plated scales instead of its right eye.

However, the next second it realised its mistake, due to turning its head to the right and its left eye unusable, it had no vision of the left side of its surroundings.

FLAP... Simon flapped his wings harder, his jet black hair wildly swaying with the wind. He was flying so fast that the muscles in his wings started creaking and tearing a little.

Using the flame spear as a diversion, Simon was able to utilise this gap in his enemy's vision to approach closer to its body.

The Deep Sea Alligator King's breath attack was a long-range attack and covered a wide area. Its earth magic and enormous tail gave it a good medium range attack and its bone-plated scales provided it with a solid defence.

The only weakness it had was its underbelly which had the lowest defence. Thus Simon had to make it a close range battle to deal it any damage.

The Deep Sea Alligator king was able to conquer a part of the northern region and reign as one of its overlords. Its experience and power was for nothing, it immediately realised the demon was trying to target its underbelly. So even while not having any vision around its left side, it instinctively swept its tail in that direction.

SHATTER... it felt a resistance and heard something shattering and a moment later it felt a sharp stabbing pain on its underbelly.

Just before the tail that came like a tidal wave to sweep him away, Simon shattered a golden guardian stone and using the time when its tail was momentarily blocked by the barrier, to hop over it.

SKIDDD... he dashed madly towards the body of the deep Sea Alligator king and staked every bit of his energy into this last attack.

STAB... the crimson sword without any obstruction stabbed its underbelly and with that, a large amount of infernal flames was poured wildly inside it.

BOOOM... GRUHH... a dull bang and the painful roar of the Deep Sea Alligator King echoed out. Its body started releasing smoke and blood flowed out in droves from its mouth. Clearly, the beast took a significant damage from that.

He did not let this go into its head and continued to pour a great amount of mana into his sword to channel the infernal magic to burn its inside. Even if does look like the beast had taken so much damage, in actuality, it had a much larger HP pool than Simon.

Thus until he saw its HP bar go down to red, he kept his relentless attack going. At this moment, he sensed something approaching from the sky and realised that it was the Bloodthorn Demonic warhorse.

The latter after spotting him and the Deep Sea Alligator King locked in a battle, immediately hovered down to the ground and spoke in concern.

"My lord, you must hurry up. The Deep Sea Alligator King's roar was a call for help. Its subordinates that were following me, disengaged with me and are quickly rushing here".

Simon hearing what the Bloodthorn Demonic warhorse had to say, wildly poured his mana inside his sword that was plunged inside the underbelly of the Deep Sea Alligator King to thoroughly burn its insides and chip away at its health pool.

He only pulled back when he saw the latter was near the brink of death. When the Deep Sea Alligator king fell to the ground Simon climbed its face and approached its only working eye.

He drew his sword close to its iris and said in a commanding tone "So what it's gonna be Death or Submission?".

The right eye of the beast quivered in fear, its entire body was in so much pain that it did not even have the energy to muster up a resistance. Whenever it tried to move its body a little, the severe internal burns that it had suffered from the hands of the demon, made it spurt out blood.

It was defeated and by none other than the one it looked down upon.

It saw the demon climb to its face, point that sword at its eye and give their ultimatum. Two choices were laid out in front of it, either to submit and become a subordinate of the demon or die by their hand.

And seeing how ruthless the demon was, he had no doubt that the latter would really kill him.

Nevertheless, who was it? It was one of the overlords of this part of the forest and a being that had lived for more than 600 years. How could it just let itself be subordinated like that? Since it cannot defeat that demon and now even that warhorse is here it only had one choice.

Thus it tried to delay answering until its subordinates were here. once its enemies were surrounded, it use this chance to run back to its lake and hide inside.

The Deep Sea Alligator king was an amphibian monster. However, it was most powerful when inside water than on land. Even monsters stronger than it wouldn't mess with it inside water.

"W-wait... wait a minute. I don't understand one thing, why is that you want to subdue me? We do not have any past grudges or enmity nor does my territory intrudes upon yours so why?".

The Deep Sea Alligator King had lived in this part of the forest for a long time thus it knew the races that inhabited this place and the demon noble in front of it was not amongst them.

"I have already told you didn't I? I am going to claim this entire forest as my territory starting from the north".

What Simon was saying was trying to say was that conquering the north was just the start. He was going to take control of the entire ghastly winding forest by conquering the west.

p The moment, the Deep Sea Alligator King realised what the demon was saying, its only remaining eye enlarged widened to the limit and it was silent for a good long while. Then it suddenly started laughing amidst its pain.

"Haaa?! What did I hear? You are going to take control of this entire forest? Are you out of your mind demon? GUHAHA... did you really think that the Ghastly Winding Forest is so easy to conquer? Haa, let me tell you something demon. Stop dreaming!!"

"There is no way you, a low-ranking demon can do it. Do you know the heights of those idiocratic words that you said just now? forget about you even if there were hundreds of you it would just be a pipe dream"

"Let me tell you this for your own good. Why do you think we are the overlord of the north and not the entire forest? That is because beings with strength incomprehensible to even us, reside there. They are the true kings of this forest, it is because of their presence that the forest remains unconquerable for thousands of years... haa... haaa".

At the end of its sentence, the deep sea alligator king puked out a mouthful of blood. Nonetheless, its eyes still obstinately glared at Simon.

The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse felt offended by its words and wanted to charge towards it but was stopped by Simon who took a deep breath. His clear crimson eyes still held their former light as they glared back at the gigantic eyes of the Deep Sea Alligator king.

"I know what you are trying to do. You are trying to buy time with your meaningless question and call your subordinates here. Be that as it may, let me clear this doubt for you. I am already aware of the strength of the seven Kings".

The eyes of the Deep Sea alligator king which had been obstinate up until now, trembled at this moment when it heard Simon mention the seven kings. It hadn't told the demon about the seven kings which must mean that the latter was aware of their existence.

The demon was aware but even then it held such lofty ideals? Was it not aware of their strengths?

As if the demon could read the inner turmoil of its mind, they leaned closer to its eyes and declared with absolute conviction.

"The strength of one of the seven kings, I have experienced it for myself. They are definitely strong, far stronger than the current me so much so that it cannot even be compared. But you know, they aren't the strongest, they aren't the peak".

"Sure the seven kings are strong but there are beings stronger than them. Compared to those guys, the so called seven kings are just frogs in a well. You might think they are undefeatable but that is not true for everyone. Defeating the seven Kings and taking control of the forest is just another stepping stone in my path to becoming stronger".

Simon tightly clenched his hands, he was telling this not only to the Deep Sea Alligator King but to himself too. In a way, this was a kind of pledge for him.

"Now that's enough stalling for time from you. So what's it gonna be?" Simon pushed his sword right in front of its eyes once again.

Unlike earlier when the Deep Sea Alligator king was being stanch and unbending, its belief was greatly shaken after it saw and heard what the demon had to say.

'Frogs in a well' he had declared the seven kings who were like unreachable existences for it, frogs who doesn't even know the vastness of the world. It was even more astonished when it heard the demon say that it had experienced the power of one of the seven kings in person.

But instead of despairing and cowering like it did when it came to the northern region after being shooed away from the west and living the life of a defeated dog here, the demon's eyes burned brilliantly like jewels whose shine refused to dissipate.

For the first time, the Deep Sea Alligator King looked at the demon for who he was and asked "Are you saying that you can defeat the seven kings?".

Simon narrowed his eyes thinking that the Deep sea Alligator king was still planning on delaying the time, but when he saw the earnest look in its eyes, he decided to answer honestly.

"Well that was the promise I made with the Ancient Titan Treant, Aldebaran. So it's not a matter if being able to do it or not rather I will do it".

"My lord..." the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse stated but stopped after seeing Simon nodding towards it.

"I know... Deep Sea Alligator King make your decision now. I will no longer tolerate any of your attempts to stall for time" right after saying that, he started channelling the last bit of his mana into the sword.

445 Chapter 445

The Deep Sea Alligator king was now convinced when it heard the name of one of the seven kings that ruled the clan of ancient treants. A Being so powerful that it could never hope to match. To hear their ruler's name directly from the demon, proved that the demon was not lying.

That is to say, he really did experience their strength and was working his way towards defeating them. Compared to itself who gave up after suffering a devastating defeat from the subordinate of a seven king, the demon was looking forward and working his way.

The Deep Sea Alligator King did not know how the demon was going to achieve something like that, but right now it did not have any other choice. Its subordinates still needed a little more time to arrive which meant that he was out of options.

Nevertheless, the Deep sea alligator king didn't plan to stall for time anyways. It looked towards Simon and declared "Very well, I accept your rule. I'm ready to become your subordinate. In any case, I was defeated by you... as the victor, you have the right to decide my fate".

At this moment, Simon released an inconspicuous sigh he had been holding for a while. Although he did not show in his face, in all honesty, he was quite nervous.

Yes, he had managed to defeat the Deep Sea Alligator King; however, he was powerless to do anything if the latter was still hell-bent on refusing his offer.

Unlike the Lightning Draconic Serpent who had the dragon bloodline and could be subdued using the [Ancient Draconic Compel], the beast in front of him was not from dragon lineage thus if it refused to become his subordinate and give its essence blood to form the contract, even Simon won't be able to do anything.

It was not he can really kill it, since he had to subdue the latter to keep his promise with Aldebaran. Thus when he saw the Deep Sea alligator king finally submit to him, he felt a weight drop down from his shoulders.

He took a deep breath and felt his back drench with sweat from the tension. Without wasting any more time, Simon asked the Deep Sea Alligator King to give its essence blood so he could seal the Blood contract.

A blood contract was a pact between two parties that sealed them into a master-servant relationship. According to the memories that Simon had inherited, only a demon noble could initiate a blood contract and it needed the essence blood of the one being subordinated.

There were different types of contracts a demon could perform but for a low ranking demon viscount like him, most of them were still out of reach.

It is said that when a demon performs a contract with the other party, only some special means or the death of the demon could break it. If someone tries to break it forcefully, they would suffer from intense repercussions that might even lead them to their death.

However, the blood contract that Simon performed wasn't that strong and had to be renewed after a set period of years. Even the authority and binding power he had over the Deep Sea alligator King was much weaker than the one he had over Lightning Draconic Serpent.

Although the blood contract technique was weak, it worked fine for now. If in the future the Deep Sea Alligator King ever tried to break out of its bindings, Simon could always show it its place. By then, he would be much more stronger than he was now and capable of performing even more powerful contracts.

Right after Simon initiated the blood contract, a deep crimson magic circle with complex runes appeared in front of him and swiftly absorbed the essence blood of the beast. Following which, the pool of blood underneath the Deep Sea Alligator King started shining and churning.

The phenomenon lasted until the latter felt a mark of some sort form deep inside its blood. When the Deep Sea Alligatr King tried to focus on it more, it felt an overwhelming pressure and a force that shouldn't be coming from a low-raking demon, from the mark.

Disturbed, the Deep Sea Alligator King opened its eyes and looked at the demon again wondering what kind of power was that just now. That kind of oppressive feeling could only come from beings someone much stronger.

"You that..." it tried to ask something but seeing the clueless look of the demon, the words got stuck in his throat.

Was it imagining things? Could that power be something of a mistake on his part?

"You are being rude to your new master. Not you—from now on address him as my lord".

The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse who was standing beside Simon reprimanded in a harsh tone. It did not like the attitude the newbie adopted towards their master just now. Thus, it couldn't help but remind it who was the master of its fate now.

The deep Sea alligator king shifted its eyes from the demon towards the warhorse. Now that it looked at the other guy carefully and from this close, it could sense an oppressive feeling that generated from its bloodline from the warhorse.

Its eyes which had already submitted to its fate, went wide with surprise once again. For beasts like them, they could determine each other's strength through the suppression they felt through their bloodline.

If there is no suppression, it meant that the other party was weak and vice versa if the suppression is too strong.

From this, the Deep Sea Alligator King realised that the warhorse in front of it was much stronger than itself. Perhaps it was already a disaster class? A class that was close yet somehow out of reach for the Deep Sea Alligator King.

What's more, such a being was subordinated and absolutely submissive towards the demon even going as far as to threaten someone who disrespects its master.

While the Deep Sea Alligator king was lost in its thoughts, Simon and the warhorse conversed.

"It's alright... it's not like I care about how it addresses me or something. As long as he is loyal to me, there is no need for me to persecute him".

The Bloodthorn Demonic Wahrose did not like the idea of its master being addressed like that thus it voiced out—

"But my lord even if you say so, one must at least address their master with a proper title of respect. This guy was just beaten by my lord but still had the audacity to speak like that. Now that my lord is also its master, I believe it should show respect by calling you as such. Even the Lightning draconic Serpent who is much more stronger than this guy is respectable when addressing you".

Simon: "Well...".

'Lightning Draconic Serpent?!' when the word came up in their conversation, the Deep Sea Alligator king who was thinking to himself, immediately snapped out of his thoughts.

"Wait are you guys talking about that Lightning Draconic Serpent, one of the three overlords of north alongside me?" it couldn't help but butt in.

Simon nodded his head at his question and added with a shrug of his shoulders "You are the second so called overlord of the north who has submitted to me. The first one was being the Lightning Draconic Serpent".

The Deep Sea Alligator King blink its eye a few times before muttering to itself "how can that be? as much as I hate to admit it, that guy was indeed stronger than me and even has the dragon bloodline. To think even he was subdued by this demon".

Simon did not care what the Deep Sea Alligator King was thinking, after he was finished completing the contract, the beast was now his subordinate.

Simon stored his sword back in his inventory and pointed out "I'll give you a few days of time, inform you subordinates about who their lord is now. If they dare to show any discontent I'll kill them. After a few days, I will come to take you to your new place".

Seeing the demon declare so and turn around to leave with the warhorse, the Deep Sea Alligator King hurriedly asked out.

"What do you... ahem, what does my lord mean by that? Are you asking to move out of this place?". The query of the Deep Sea alligator king was only natural, from the demon's words it could tell that his new master was planning to move them away from here.

Since it was mostly holed up around this area, It did not know about Simon's dungeon. Thus it was sceptical when the latter said that he would take them away. As far as it knew, there was no other lake big enough for it and its subordinates around these parts..i.e... except the western region.

However, it was scurried away by the other races living there thus it chose this lake which was barely to its liking. It has been living here for more than 200 years, suddenly being asked by its new master to move out of here, it would obviously have some misgivings.

"Ah, I almost forgot to explain that part. I'm a demon noble you see so of course I have my own dungeon. I'll prepare a floor big enough for you and all of your subordinates to live in. All you have to do in exchange is to defeat any intruders that come your way. That will be your duty as my subordinate".

Simon did not wait for the latter, after leaving his words, he along with his warhorse flew into the sky and out of their sight.

A gawking bloody alligator could be seen hanging down its mouth as it looked at the sky in a daze.

446 Chapter 446

FLAP.. FLAP... the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse flapped its wide draconic wings and sped towards the eastern region of the forest where their home was. The altitude of their flight was high and the land below them looked just like a patch of dark green with small bumps which are actually mountains propping up in between.

"My lord, if I may ask. How do you plan on bringing a guy as big as that into our dungeon?" Since it was undergoing an evolution during the time when Adalinda visited, it did not know about how the Lightning Draconic Serpent was brought in. It only knew what it was told by Irene and Cecilia after it woke up.

"About that...Gulp.. gulp..." Simon drank an elixir and continued "Naturally I'm going to employ the assistance of someone who knows space magic".

Inside a fortress situated not far from the capital city of Ellesmere, was the territory of the Sea God's Trident guild. Adventurers wearing the insignia of the guild, could be seen coming and going out of the grandiose fortress that displayed the prestige of this guild.

The fortress was the headquarters of the guild. Around the fortress, was a vast field specifically used to conduct training for the new recruits and storage houses. At this moment, a sky engine gradually arrived from the horizon, covering the sunlight and casting a huge shadow on the field.

When the air engine slowly landed on the field and its cabin door opened, a man with broad shoulders donning exquisite looking clothes, could be seen coming down from the air engine.

When the many recruits whose eyes were inevitably drawn to the air engine, saw who it was, they immediately bowed their heads in respect.

"Welcome guild master" an assistant who was already waiting there for the man, called out.

Obviously, the man who can command such respect and awe from all the guild members, was none other than the guild master of the Sea god's trident Benny Beckerman himself.

Benny nodded his head and looked at the parchment of paper passed to him while they walked towards the guild headquarters.

"How was your travel mainland?" the assistant asked.

The mainland that the assistant was referring to was used to represent the hundreds of countries that were situated around the middle of the central continent. It is an enormous place with its own sets of laws and rules.

The factions there were numerous and complicated with new powerhouses emerging there every day. Even a top-five guild such as the Sea god's Trident would be considered nothing there.

Most of the experts and high levelled individuals come from there. It could be said that experts are like clouds there, only those that could stand at the top of the mainland could be said to be the true powerhouses of this world.

Their Sea god's trident guild was only a top guild in a third-rate kingdom, it did not have any standing there. However, it did not mean that Benny Beckerman made a useless trip to the mainland. His main objective behind going there was to meet up with a friend.

"I have asked him to take care of Godwin and Raven for me. If possible also take them in a few of their dungeon raids. You should already know, our guild does not have the capital nor the manpower to tackle high ranking dungeons. Our power can only bring us around the upper middle floors of a mid rank dungeon".

"In the first place, it requires the clearance certificate and lots of capital to even get an approval letter from the adventurer's association to dive inside middle and high ranking dungeons. The criterias are especially stringent for guilds like ours, so we can never even get a clearance certificate for high ranking dungeons".

"Staying with a guild such as ours will only suppress his talent. That is why, I want him to experience the vast wide world in the mainland, broaden his horizons and see for himself what true experts are like" Benny Beckerman said smilingly.

"It seems the guild leader dotes on his foster son very much but please don't show it in front of everyone. Or else, people might say you are being biased" the assistant reminded, shaking his head.

It was true that Godwin was a talent like none other that their kingdom has ever seen before but it was not like he was unparalleled. Take the third prince of Ellesmere for example, he was also a talent that was comparable to Godwin.

Glancing at his assistant and knowing what he was thinking, Benny Beckerman sighed and stared at the sky.

"I not telling you to believe everything that I say, but I think that boy is special. When I first found him abandoned in a forest on the mainland, I sensed a special power coming off from him. It was something so brilliant and unique that all the monsters that were there in that forest, did not dare to approach near that boy".

"It was also because of that power that I was able to find him in that dark gloomy forest laden with danger. I must have been out of my mind to have approached him when even those powerful monsters beyond my comprehension were afraid of him. At that time, he was not more than three years old and he was unconscious and badly hurt. I don't know who or what was after him so I took that boy back with me".

The assistant who heard Godwin's origin for the first time was stunned completely, he hurriedly matched Benny's pace and asked "You are telling me that Godwin is someone from the Main Land? Then does that mean he knows where he came from?".

Benny Beckerman shook his head and explained "When I brought him back he was severely injured and on the verge of death. Had it not been for those expensive elixirs I brought from there, that boy's life would have been in danger".

"Anyways, it seemed like he had gone through some post-traumatic experience and since then has lost all of his memories. When he woke up, he did not know who he was and what he was doing in that forest injured. If not for that necklace on his neck having his name, it would have been impossible to tell what his name was".

"Ever since then his memories remained locked and with that the power I sensed back then. I do not know who his enemies were back then but I have entrusted him with a good friend of mine. As long as he stays with them he should be out of danger even if he is on the mainland again".

"Who knows this experience might even help him remember his memories from that time and help him awake that power. Besides, Raven is also with him, that child's talent is not bad too, if he stays on the mainland his powers might improve by leaps and bounds".

At some unknown point, while they were talking they had arrived in front of the entrance of their guild headquarters.

"Guild Master" everybody that saw him would bow their heads with respect. The two of them stood in the middle of a teleportation circle carved in the lobby and were swiftly teleported to a room.

"I-I did not know there was such a background attached with Godwin," the assistant said a little speechless after what he heard about the guild master's foster son.

"Don't think too much about it. I kept it a secret at that time to protect him. Now that he is almost as powerful as me, there is no point in me keeping it a secret from you all. Anyways, give me a report

of what happened in these past few months while I was away from the kingdom" Benny Beckerman lounged himself on a sofa and asked.

"Yes, first I will start with the battle of the finest tournament that was halted because of the Demon. A couple of weeks after the incident, when the order in the capital was back to normal, the tournament resumed. Of course, some of the participants who were injured fatally failed to partake in it".

"The result of the tournament was as predicted by the guild master. Prince Denzel from the Sanguine Empire took the first place, his sister Alice was second. Third place was a tie between Erwin and Marcus, followed by Hallie and the others...".

Listening to the report of his assistant, Benny was a little surprised. The first place result was already predicted by him thus it did not faze him. What he was surprised by was the second place holder, Alice.

From what he knew, that girl's level was around level 400 and was yet to breach it. Compared to her, the level of the third prince of their kingdom was much higher than her. Yet somehow, she was the one who grabbed the second place.

Benny was a little astonished but when he remembered who her master was, it all made sense. "That old monster must have deliberately stopped her from level to make her focus more on her skills and magic. it's no wonder Erwin lost to her. On the other hand, that son of Brutus has shown quite the potential to be tied with Erwin for the third place".

Benny muttered seemingly to himself. He did not expect he would get an unusual reply from his assistant.

"About that, it seemed like Marcus was able to tie it with Erwin because the latter was tired after going all out against Denzel. Marcus knew that and thus rejected his ranking saying that he did not deserve the third place".

(...)

"Hahaha" Benny Beckerman laughed loudly. He could imagine Brutus doing the same thing during the competition long back during their time. It was no wonder that even his son had that same flippant attitude like his father.

447 Chapter 447

"What about the participant from our guild?" Benny asked although they did not have any star participants this time, they did have a few good seeds that were worth nurturing.

"Reporting to the guild master, there was only a single participant from our guild who managed to secure the top ten position".

"Hoh? Who is it?" Benny asked, curious that there was such a talent in their guild.

"His name is Max, he is one of the children who was brought in by Godwin's recommendation," the Assistant said.

"Ah, so it was that child. His talent is not bad, tell him that if he wants to get stronger I am ready to take him as my disciple".

"I'll be sure to relay the message from the guild master to that child. Now onto the second report, about the adventurers from the guild named Seven swords, that were sent on a reconnaissance mission to that dungeon in the Ghastly Winding Forest. It seemed like they have wiped out, the reports up until floor thirty-fifth floor are here".

The assistant passed him a transmission crystal that showed him the visuals of the adventurers and the things that were inside that dungeon.

Transmission Orb, just like its counterpart transmission conch, allows others to send a long distance communication back to where another of this orb marked with the exact same inscription was. However, unlike the transmission conch, it was also capable of sending images and not just sounds.

Because of this, it was many times more valuable and expensive than a transmission conch. In fact, you can buy a good transmission conch that can send audio back from thousands of kilometres in the capital but one can only buy the transmission orb from the mainland.

When sending a few contracted people along with the members of the seven swords inside that dungeon, Benny had asked Raven to give them the transmission orb which their guild only had one in possession.

The transmission showed images and visuals of those people fighting the hordes of monsters and the various traps inside the dungeon. The communication abruptly ended after the group reached the thirty fifth floor which could only mean that the guy recording either forgot to record events or was killed instantly.

There was no way the guy who was recording everything from start to finish would suddenly forget recording after the thirty-fifth floor. That is why, the scenario where the guy was killed was the only viable possibility.

"Guild master..." Seeing that Benny was frowning his brows in consternation, the assistant couldn't help but call out. It was not a secret anymore that their guild had pursued the demon that wreaked havoc in their capital to the distant north-western city of Aqualin where a huge battle had unfolded before the demon got away.

The images of the dungeon inside the transmission crystal belonged to that very same demon. Thus seeing that even a team comprising of all elites was wiped out, would give anyone a surprise.

"As I thought, that demon is not ordinary. For a Demon Viscount of that level to survive in the forbidden lands, they must possess some special abilities or something. This dungeon for example, from what I heard from the association branch manager, it hasn't been a year since the dungeon emerged".

"To be able to create so many floors and those monsters... that demon he must have gotten his hands on some treasure from the forbidden lands using which he is doing all that. I should have used all of my power back then and captured him".

Benny Beckerman said with a little irritation in his tone. At that time, he had taken a big risk by sending the members of his branch guilds towards the demon because somewhere in the corner of his mind he was worried about that mysterious presence who turned the capital upside down and make people like Sir Davis and Sir Vouves whose power which even for Benny was difficult to fathom, miserable after just a few attacks.

It was because of this that he didn't go all out into capturing the demon right from the start and only took action until he was completely sure that the mysterious presence was gone. However, he didn't expect the demon to even escape his grasp even when he came in person.

What's more that peculiar space artefact that demon used, it was capable of protecting the user from all kinds of attacks and something that should definitely be from the forbidden lands.

The more Benny Beckerman thought about it, the more it made sense to him. It was a good thing that he sent those people to scout the dungeon first. To him, the information they sent, was more valuable than their lives.

In the first place, those people were all criminals or someone who owed him a debt. It matter not whether they returned alive from this trip or not, he was planning to kill them later anyway. the Demon just made it easier for him by killing them all.

'With this, I guess we can call it even... right Morgress?' Benny thought internally and replayed the visuals inside the crystal once again.

"Guild master what are we going to do?" the assistant asked, the meaning behind his question was plainly obvious. Now that their guild has made an enemy with the demon, there was no way it was not going to affect them in the future.

In fact, given that the other party was a demon, it was guaranteed that they would retaliate some way or another. If they wanted to protect the guild and the safety of their inner members, they had to wipe out this factor of concern.

Their Sea god's trident guild did not just become a top guild in the kingdom of Ellesmere out of nowhere. To arrive where they were now, they had to trample on many other guilds, use underhanded methods like bribing the royals and nobles and even resorting to using monsters to raise their fame.

Thus they knew better than to let a demon noble survive now that they had made an enemy of one.

Benny Beckerman closed his eyes and became silent for a while, he then kept the transmission crystal in his space ring, got up from his seat and said—

"For some reason, I have this foreboding feeling that if we do not take this demon out soon, they would turn out to be a huge hindrance later. However, we currently have our hands full with exploring that place and cannot divert our full force to that dungeon".

"But there is no need to worry, the visuals in this transmission orb would prove incredibly useful to convince those guys. As long as they move, even if we do not do anything it will be fine".

The assistant looked sceptical but after he understood the full scenario of what his guild master was plotting, he couldn't help but think that it was a good plan.

Benny Beckerman looked out of the window towards the direction of the distant capital "The fact that you are from a race hostile to us for millenniums will work in my favour even more".

"Leaving that aside how is the progress going on with our current mission?".

"About that... we were somehow able to get to the second trial but it came at a very heavy price" the assistant reported with a heavy tone.

"How many casualties did we suffer?" Benny Beckerman asked after a pause.

"Out of the initial fifty members that we sent through the coordinator, more than forty of them had already died".

Forty people, these were no ordinary people or outer members of the guild, but adventurers that were the blood and soul of the guild, the inner members that were the foundation of this guild. Even for a top guild like them, it was by no means a small number.

Additionally, this casualty was just from clearing the first trail, one had to imagine how hard the upcoming trails would be. The forbidden grounds were a place filled with extreme riches and dangers.

According to some information that was written in some history books, the forbidden grounds was a legendary place sought by people all over the world since the ancient times. Those that were able to clear it, would find unimaginable strength and treasures capable of making you stand at the pinnacle of this world.

There was no way anyone wouldn't droll in front of such an alluring prospect. Benny Beckerman who sought strength all his life, was no exception to this. For this opportunity, he had even dedicated most of the capital his guild had amassed over the time into getting the coordinates and even going as far as to collaborate with those hateful people from the Cerberus.

All of it was for a chance to explore the legendary forbidden grounds mentioned in those texts. However, as with everything, how could a place that contained extreme treasures not be laden with dangers?

He thought that as adventurers who were used to risking their lives and fighting monsters inside dungeon, they would be somehow able to cope up with the dangers in the early trails of the forbidden ground.

But it seemed that he had underestimated the dangers of the trial grounds too much. The death toll just from clearing a single trial was already that high, it didn't take a genius to know that the future trails would only be more harsher and difficult than before.

"I see... By the way who is currently leading the exploration?" Benny asked turning towards the assistant.

The latter sorted the reports in his hand before passing him a paper that showed the list of adventurers currently engaged in tackling the forbidden grounds.

448 Chapter 448

"So Kemper is the one leading the charge huh. Good, assign him the adventurers he needs. Our top priority right now is to explore as many trials and pave the way for those two. I'm pretty sure, the one that the forbidden ground is waiting for is Godwin. After all, he was the only one who managed to activate the coordinator".

Benny Beckerman said envisioning a bright future for their guild.

"It will be done as per your command" the assistant bowed similarly thrilled at those words.

"Ah right, I'll be staying in the capital in the meantime, arrange for a meeting with 'Them'".

STEP... STEP... hearing sounds of faint footsteps approaching closer, it raised its head and glanced outside. The Lightning draconic Serpent who peeked its head out of the cave from the top of the mountain, was delighted to find its master walking towards it.

"My lord, you are here does that mean that the Deep Sea Alligator King has been subdued?".

"Yeah, because of the information that you provided, subduing the Deep Sea Alligator king went much more smoothly, you have my thanks," Simon replied standing on the mountaintop of the now forty-seventh floor.

"My lord I don't deserve words of appreciation from you for something so trivial. If anything, I'm grateful to be of use" The Lightning Draconic Serpent fidgeted in panic and hurriedly stopped his lord from bowing his head.

"Even if you say that, your advice did seem to have saved my life quite a few times. Let me at least thank you for that".

Even though he was addressed as Lord, Master and other various forms of respect, Simon never saw himself as some kind of ruler. Counting his previous and the present life, he was only an ordinary person.

Even if his circumstances have now changed, it did not mean that he had become accustomed to being someone who was used to sitting at the top. After thanking the Lightning Draconic Serpent, he asked the latter a question he had been meaning to ask for a long time.

"By the way, Lightning Draconic Serpent. I'm sure you know by now but your change in attitude towards me is something that was induced by the technique that I used on you. I don't know how you feel about that?".

It wouldn't be wrong to say that the loyalty and the favourable attitude the Lightning Draconic Serpent showed towards him, was all due to the effects of the [Ancient Draconic Compel].

The eyes of the Lightning Draconic Serpent glowed a brilliant purple as it glanced towards the phosphorescence lit ceiling. It looked in a daze at seemingly nothing before shaking its head and saying—

"My Lord might be right, this favourable attitude might be because of that technique. However, now that I think about it, that statement is not entirely true. My devotion and loyalty isn't just because I'm affected by that technique but because I myself hold that ideology now".

"To be honest, when you subdued me using such means, I was utterly upset and even thought of ways of how to escape from this binding. However, when I was brought into this dungeon and saw how narrow my thoughts were, I realised it might not be a bad thing to be subordinated by you.

Additionally, thanks to the blessing that my lord had bestowed upon me, I was able to step into level 500 threshold and become a true disaster class being".

"Is that so..." Simon sighed in relief hearing the words of the Lightning Draconic Serpent. He thought that the latter might now have a good impression of him who forcibly subdued it and even forced it to work inside his dungeon.

Even though Simon knew that as long as it was bound by the technique it won't be able to rebel and stay forever loyal to him, it still bothered him. Nevertheless, now that the Lightning Draconic Serpent had confessed that it had accepted being his subordinate, Simon was relieved in some way or other.

He did not know what brought that change or what kind of blessing it was talking about, but he was glad to hear the true thoughts of his subordinate.

"My lord, now that you have subdued two out of the three overlords of the north, are you looking forwards to the last one?" the Lightning Draconic Serpent asked. It remembered the declaration that Simon had made about subduing all of the overlords of the north before claiming the entirety of this forest as his own.

As farfetched and absurd it sounded, the Lightning Draconic Serpent had witnessed the miracles brought forth by his lord himself. It believed that if it was his lord, it might be possible to even subdue those insanely strong being residing deep inside the western region of the forest.

"Yeah, this was also one of my reasons for visiting you. I was hoping if you know some information about the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon" Simon asked, his eyes reminiscing the events from the past.

During the first few months after he was reincarnated into this world, he was like an ignorant demon with incomplete memories. He viewed the world like a frog inside a well unaware of its vastness.

It was only after he was chased inside the territory of the Deep Sea Alligator king by those Killer worker Bees and later forced to confront the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon, that he knew that he wasn't the top predator in this food chain.

All of the conceitful thoughts that he held about him being the strongest in this world were thrown out of his head. His reincarnation wasn't like the protagonist from those novels who are born or

reincarnated into a different world with cheat-like abilities that made them insanely strong from the start.

Yes, Simon did have something similar, the Menu of Laplace that transmigrated with him. However, it was still not something that could make him powerful early on. If he wanted to become strong in this world he had to endure and go through each and every trails and tribulation that fate threw at his way.

The incident where he was forced to run from the Earth Shattering Ground Dragon made him realise that he cannot underestimate his enemies, the world was much more vast than he had thought.

"My lord, please forgive me if I sound insolent but I think it would be best not for my lord not to confront it right now. That is before you become more powerful" The Lightning Draconic Serpent said choosing his words very carefully.

Seeing that the latter was hesitant to speak freely, Simon asked him not to worry and speak his mind. In any case, he came here with the intention to know what the Lightning Draconic Serpent had to say about this.

"My lord, amongst the three overlords of the north, the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon was someone who joined us latter. In fact, the three overlords were initially just two overlords, me and the Deep Sea Alligator king who were chased out by the other powerful inhabitants of the western region of the forest".

"The Earth Shattering Lower Dragon showed up all of a sudden in the northern region of the forest and in a few years rose up to become one of its overlords. My lord, if I may be blunt, out the three of us, the Earth Shattering lower Dragon represents the highest level of danger to you".

"Even though it is just a lower dragon, it is from the dragon clan nonetheless. The bloodline it contains is much purer than mine. In fact, I once coveted its dragon bloodline and tried to bring it under me. However, in the end, even though its level was so much below me, the me at that time wasn't able to deal it much damage".

"If I had to compare, its defence is much higher than the likes of Deep Sea Alligator King. Even now, after becoming a genuine disaster class beast, I still do not have the confidence to fight it".

Listening to the Lightning Draconic Serpent's recollection, Simon remembered the time when he stumbled upon the territory of the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon. At that time its level was around 370, which is to say that even though the Lightning Draconic Serpent had such a large gap in levels, it was still not able to win against it.

This fact alone was enough to tell Simon how powerful the Earth Shattering Dragon was. Unlike all the enemies he had faced up until now, the latter was in a league of its own. Even if it is a lower dragon, it is from the dragon clan nonetheless.

Now after a year, the earth Shattering Lower Dragon was bound to be more powerful than before. Even the lord of the Ancient Treants warned him to be careful of that one. It told him not to underestimate its strength.

"My lord, I have lived most of my life inside the Ghastly Winding forest, that is why I can assuredly tell you that it is a foreign entity to this forest. My guess is that it was sent here by someone or something. Even though it is just a lower Dragon, its power... if it is allowed to grow like this in the future would be enough to match some of the Seven Kings. A dragon is a dragon, their bloodline is much purer than any other beasts here".

The Lightning Draconic Serpent said a little embarrassed thinking how it was foolish enough to challenge such a being in the past.

Simon took a deep breath and nodded his head.

"You don't have to worry, I don't plan to challenge it right now. I still have a couple of months before the end of the agreement draws. It is plenty of time to raise my strength" No matter how powerful the earth Shattering Lower Dragon was, Simon had to confront it one day.

449 Chapter 449

He believed that even if his opponent was a part of the dragon clan, he would still be able to prevail if he played his cards right. Currently, Simon had no intention of fighting an enemy he had very less chances of defeating.

In the first case, he had decided to subdue the Deep Sea Alligator King because of the information he had on it. He knew that he would be able to beat the latter even if he fought it head on.

"By the way, what do you mean it was sent here by someone?" Simon asked noticing that the Lightning Draconic Serpent was aware of something.

"My lord, a dragon no matter how weak, is still a ruler class beast. They are different from other beasts with ordinary bloodlines. Not only are they from an incredibly powerful clan, their history is also very long".

"A dragon is a ruler class beast that stands at the top, even the weakest of their members easily reach the cataclysmic class. Most of the powers of a dragon reside inside their bloodline and core stone, even their body is an incredible treasure that is coveted by many. But the power of a dragon and how hard it is to defeat one also makes them a fearsome opponent".

"In this day and age, it is very rare to see a dragon since most of them live in the Draconic continent. Sometimes you might be lucky enough to see a dragon roaming around the world. However, those beings have already reached a mature stage and are able to transform their body into a more humanoid form".

"They are incredibly powerful and are at the very least a cataclysmic class. A dragon usually has four stages of evolution. From an egg, they evolve to a juvenile stage and then later grow up to evolve into a mature and then elder stage. Each stage brings about a drastic change both in terms of power and growth in a dragon. By the time they reach the mature stage they become so powerful that it is very much impossible to kill one unless they are some oddity or similarly powerful being".

Simon nodded his head, he understood that unlike other beasts, a dragon is already a race that has reached the peak of its racial evolution. The only way for them to progress is through their growth.

Their development from an egg to a mature dragon marks their evolution stage. Simon understood that, he even knew that the Elder Stage is not the last evolution a dragon can reach since there was also the Dragon Lords. Beings that stood at the pinnacle of this world.

"Are you trying to tell me that the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon, is about to reach a mature stage?" Simon asked.

The Lightning draconic Serpent gave a bitter smile and said "How can that be my lord? A mature dragon is equivalent to a cataclysmic class or to be more precise, as powerful as the seven kings of the western region of the forest. There is no way that Earth Shattering Lower dragon has reached that stage or else there would be a need to call the seven kings, the eight kings".

"At most, I would say it has reached the middle phases of its juvenile stage. What I'm trying to explain to my lord is that a juvenile dragon is never left alone, there is always a mature dragon around to protect it".

"A juvenile dragon if left alone would attract endless amounts of greed towards itself since its every body part, starting from its blood to its bones, is an incredible treasure. Also since it hasn't reach its peak evolution, it is vulnerable to other high level beings that covet its power for themselves. After all, it is far more easier and viable to defeat a juvenile dragon rather than a mature one."

"As far as I know, the dragon clan have this harsh tradition of sending their juveniles far away from the comfort of their homeland to gain strength. They are left in a brutal environment to hone their skills and strength until they reach the mature stage. Once you are a mature dragon, you are free to return back to your home".

Simon's face was grave as he mused over those words. If he were to believe the Lightning draconic Serpent, didn't it mean that even if he defeated the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon he cannot subdue it because of the hidden cataclysmic class protector protecting it from the shadows?

"Are you sure?" There was no reason for the latter to lie to him, even then he still asked the question.

If it was as the lightning draconic serpent said, his whole plan and especially the agreement he made with the Ancient Titan Treant would come to a halt.

"My lord, I'm absolutely sure. The reason why the seven kings haven't attacked the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon yet is precisely because they are cautious of the mature dragon" the Lightning Draconic Serpent replied.

Even though it was unable to defeat the Earth Shattering dragon, at that time it still vaguely felt a much stronger presence looming around.

Since the Lightning draconic Serpent was so sure, Simon had nothing else to say. He could only frown his brows and think of some way to subdue the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon.

Given that the other party was from the dragon race, the [Ancient Draconic Compel] technique was sure to be even more effective. However, if he cannot do anything about the mature class dragon, there was no way they would allow him to place a seal on a juvenile dragon like the Earth Shattering Lower Dragon.

Was Aldebaran aware of this and still gave me this trial? Or was he unaware of the presence of the mature dragon? Simon thought of the possibility of Alderman being oblivious of this. However, he soon discarded that thought process when he recalled how the latter mentioned he was watching his fight (more like his one-sided struggle to escape) with the earth shattering lower dragon.

According to what the Ancient Titan Treant said, it was able to watch everything that is going around the ghastly winding forest from the eyes of the trees.

Given the fact that the Lightning Draconic Serpent also said that some of the seven kings were aware of it, Simon cannot believe that someone on the level of Ancient Titan Treant would be unaware of such a powerful being residing in the ghastly winding forest.

"So the Ancient titan Treant deliberately gave me this trial of subduing all the overlords even while knowing one of them is secretly protected by a mature class dragon?..."

There was no denying it, Aldebaran gave him this trial while fully being aware of it. But why would he do that? Does he still believe that I am incapable of protecting the Forest spring spirits?

Simon felt a little frustrated, no matter what the reason behind Aldebaran doing such a thing was, it had drastically affected his plans for the future and the agreement that he must fulfil to keep the Forest spring spirits inside his dungeon.

Since he couldn't come up with a solution immediately, Simon took a deep breath before teleporting away from the floor.

Three days later, Simon mounted atop his Bloodthorn Demonic warhorse and Bea who was seated behind him, were flying at a high speed above the forest. Mountains and meadows quickly disappeared below them and before long they had arrived at their destination.

An enormous lake that spanned for more than ten kilometres and whose depth cannot be measured at a glance, was in front of them. The lake was in the middle of the forest and since a dangerous aura loomed around this part, no ordinary monster dared to come anywhere close to the lake.

The destination they have arrived to, was none other than the territory of the Deep Sea Alligator king, one of the three overlords of the forest. Or should he say a former warlord since they are now subdued by him?

FLAP...

With the flap of its draconic wings, the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse gently landed near the lake.

"How long do you plan on snuggling me?" Simon asked Bea who was tightly hugging onto his back since the time they mounted the warhorse and flew all the way from the eastern region of the forest.

"Ehh... we arrived already? I wanted to enjoy riding with master a little longer~" Bea murmured in a low voice that only she could hear.

Simon wanted to comment on what was she so discontent about but restrained himself when he felt there were movements in the lake.

Simon along with Bea got down from the warhorse and stared at the numerous ripples that was forming on the calm surface of the lake. Before long, hundreds of Elder Lizardmen (Standard Evolution of Lizardmen) surfaced out of the water along with the enormous Deep Sea Alligator King.

The lizardmen that came out of the water glared at Simon with hostility. Even though he subdued their king it did not mean that he had subdued them too, it was only natural that they would show their discontent at a member of another race.

"You low class beings dare show you hostility towards master!!" Bea erupted out in rage, but before she could do anything, she was stopped by Simon.

The latter stood unfazed in front of their hostile gazes directed at him and simple activated his [Demonic Eyes]. A deadly bloodlust assaulted every lizardmen that dared to stare at him and quickly covered them into submission.

450 Chapter 450

Even if they were they were an evolved race of lizardmen, they were only around level 390. Thus when they felt the aura and bloodlust of a being who was above level 400, they were immediately suppressed.

"Haha... my lord, please excuse my ignorant subordinates. Even though I told them your power beforehand, it seemed like some of them still doubted it" The Deep Sea Alligator King said.

Since it was hard for Simon to make out what expression it was making, it was hard for him to tell what it was thinking.

"Guhh... you dare... you dare..." from behind him came a tidal wave like killing intent. Needless to say, Bea was at her limits seeing their arrogant behaviour towards her master.

Before she really lost it and started massacring them, Simon stepped forward and calmly declared to solidify his position.

"If they are dissatisfied, then there is only one thing I can do" Simon stepped forward, summoned his sword and inserted it on the ground.

"From now on, I am your ruler. If anyone has anything to say about it, step forward" Simon declared putting more volume to his voice. The lizardmen who heard him loud and clear, looked amongst each other.

At this moment, one of the well-built Elder Lizardmen whose body bore marks of its numerous battles stepped out of the lake and approached Simon. It stood around three meters tall and was taller than Simon, its eyes held a disdainful look as it glanced at latter.

After stepping onto the shore, it did not stop and kept on walking and crossed the area where the sword was inserted. Its action was clear, it was saying that it did not agree with Simon's rule.

Simon calmly took a breath, his indifferent crimson eyes held the figure of the approaching lizardman.

"Super Enhanced Strength, Piercing Enhancement, Body Strengthening... Lightning Magic Mastery- [Lightning Halberd]" Blue lightning that was compressed into the shape of a halberd was conjured in Simon's hand and with a deep booming noise, he hurled it towards the lizardman.

RUMBLE... the lizardman did not even have the time to react and was pierced by the halberd. Not only that, the Lightning halberd was hurled by Simon using all of his strength after being buffed by his skills.

Therefore, the magic contained enough force behind it to carry the three meters body of the lizardmen into the air and to the other end of the lake where it lay motionless after that. It had a gaping hole in its chest and its entire body was releasing black smoke and a roasted smell from being electrocuted by the lightning halberd.

It took place in the blink of an eye, a single attack from the demon was enough to kill one of their strongest warriors. Seeing this the other lizardmen that were thinking of jumping into the fray, had to reevaluate the power of this demon once again.

"Who is next?" Simon asked in a cold voice, his glaring crimson eyes boring down on each of the lizardmen.

He knew why the Elder Lizardmen were discontent to be ruled by him. They have never seen his power thus being told to submit to another ruler by their current king, as a beast how could they simply accept it?

The Ghastly Winding Forest is a place where might ruled supreme, there was no place for weakling here other than being the food of the powerful ones. The fact that Simon was from a different race wasn't the problem, the lizardmen would only bow down to the one that was stronger than them.

It was because Simon knew this, that he decided to showcase his power right now. Additionally, if he didn't do anything, the woman behind him might just eliminate every single one of them.

The lizardmen that witnessed one of their strongest warriors die just like that, were convinced that the demon by no means was someone they can look down upon.

'Who was going to go next?' what a joke, there was no after being shown that power there was no way that they would step towards their death.

"Haha... My lord, I believe they are fully convinced now. Also, I would like to apologise for my previous behaviour. A few words of mine aren't enough to convince them that I lost, thus I wanted my lord to show them your strength. After all, we from the beast clan will only take someone as our king only if they are stronger than us".

The Deep Sea Alligator King confessed. It bowed its head a little in apology, and the lizardmen around it followed suit.

Simon glanced at the now silent lizardmen whose earlier hostility was nowhere to be seen and recalled his sword back. Now that he was done showing his dominance over them, it was time to address the main issue he came here for.

"As I have mentioned before, I will now be bringing all of you back to my dungeon" Simon declared and turned towards Bea.

The Valkyrie knew the novice tier space magic and thus her presence was very important to execute his next set of plans.

To bring the Deep Sea Alligator King and his hundreds of subordinates inside his dungeon, he has to create a spatial gate that connected with his dungeon. It has to be mentioned that a dungeon is located in a special realm with its unique laws of space.

That is to say, if one wanted to teleport inside a dungeon they need to be extremely well versed with space magic.

Bea knew space magic however, even she was incapable of creating a gate big enough for the Deep Sea Alligator King and hundreds of Elder Lizardmen to pass through. Additionally, the distance from here to the eastern region of the dungeon was too large for her novice tier space magic to connect.

Perhaps if she was alone she might be able to use Space magic to teleport inside his dungeon. But for that, she had to be near his dungeon. The novice tier space magic of Bea wasn't enough to teleport this big of a group inside his dungeon and from this far.

However, Bea wasn't the only individual in his dungeon who was adept in space magic, Irene was also one of them. In fact, her mastery and enlightenment over space magic have reached even above the advanced tier.

It was an easy feat for her to create a spatial gate here that connected with his dungeon. When he brought this issue to her, she commented—

"It's possible, but for that, I would need another person with mastery in space magic to send their spatial axis point back to me. With their help, I would be able to create a spatial gate that connects with the dungeon".

Another person who knows space magic... Bea's image suddenly floated inside Simon's head. He send a sound transmission to the latter who immediately came to his side inside the main hall.

"Huff... huff... what is master's command? Master can ask me of anything you know" Bea said with suspicious sounding words at the end.

Simon nodded his head and made his request "It's like this... do you think you might be able to work together with Irene and create a gate?".

"No problem master, if Miss Irene is saying that she can complete it using my help there is no reason for me to say no" Bea offered her help immediately.

"Good, then take her with you when you visit the place. Also, I don't know if you are aware of it or not, but it is extremely difficult to create a spatial gate big enough for hundreds of beings to pass through on the main floor".

"Why is that so?" Simon asked.

Irene continued pointing her slender index finger at the floor; no more precisely, she was pointing at the basement.

"It is because of the presence of dungeon core. The main floor due to harbouring the dungeon core has extremely strong spatial laws that are too difficult to breach and it will keep on growing stronger as the dungeon core and the dungeon ranks up. What I'm saying is that even if it is me it would be hard to create a gate here".

If it was very much near the borders of being impossible to create a gate here, how come Adalinda was able to tear through space and arrive inside his main floor and what about the time when a spatial gate was created when the Walpurgis was initiated?

When he asked those questions to Irene this was what she replied—

"Well beings like Adalinda, you cannot measure them with the same standards you have been using against enemies of your level. She most likely has mastery over Dimensional magic, the advanced tier of space magic".

"However, I don't think even she was able to breach the spatial laws of the dungeon core and arrive at the main floor directly. She must have cut her way into one of the lower floors before teleporting to the main floor. After all, the more distant the floor is from the dungeon core, the less powerful the spatial laws of that floor become. As for the spatial gate created during Walpurgis you are talking about, since I was not there to witness it, I cannot be sure about it".

Simon had a frown on his face after Irene's explanation ended. It seemed like he needed to take precautions against the space magic in the future. Even though it was a very rare magic, there were bound to be people capable of this magic entering his dungeon in the future.

At that time, he had to take measures to counter the space magic. He didn't want beings like Adalinda invading his dungeon once again.