

D. of Pride 511

Chapter 511 511- Laying Out The Array

"Thank you Miss Irene, My Lord" Fennel thanked them.

Cecilia who heard what Irene said, asked curiously "Big sister, what are you going to do?".

"I will create an array here that will nurture itself from the excess energy of the exuders. That way, the energy won't go to waste and there will be no shockwaves coming out".

Irene stated but when she saw the clueless look of everyone around her, she sighed and explained further.

"Arrays are what you can call a complex set of runes that are constructed in a way to achieve the desired effect. There are different kinds of arrays, Mana Gathering Arrays, Explosion Arrays, Prison Mist Arrays and such".

"Each array has its own uses and requirements to work. For example, the array that I am going to lay down is called a Grand Protection Array. Its purpose is to create an enormous barrier that will protect the things inside it from the outside".

"During that duration of time, nothing can go in and out. If somebody wants to enter it forcefully, they would have to break the barrier first. This one is the most basic of protection arrays that I know of. The durability of the barrier of this array depends on the material used to create it and its power core. Since this array would be run by the Obsidian Energy Exuders, we have no problem with that part. However, we still need a variety of materials to lay out the array".

With this lengthy explanation, all of them finally understood what an array was. Especially Simon who did not inherit a complete memory due to his low birth. Hearing Irene's explanation he finally understood the purpose of the many arrays that are listed on the [Shop].

"In that case, what are the materials you would be needing?" Simon asked. If the issue can be resolved by laying down an array, then by all means he wanted to settle it. Plus, he was also very curious as to how an array is laid and its usage.

"First of all, I would need the blood of at least two disaster class beasts, the sternum of at hundred Super class beasts, powder of the caudal bones of Cerebrea, Stormwolves, Pliatros and Anemodactyl. Extract from the Moonbud, Sun plant, Xelerias and..."

Irene listed various materials that made Simon's head spin. There were more than a hundred types of different materials needed just to make out the ink for the array. They still needed thousands of core stones and various ores amongst which even Mythril was listed to make the structure of the array.

And last but not least tonnes of mana crystals as the base. All of this was just the expenditure to create the array.

"For the blood of the disaster class beast, we can have the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse and the Lightning Draconic Serpent donate some. For the other materials check if this space has what you need".

Simon took out the space rings that he used to store all of the treasures from the orc territory. He remembered that there were many monster materials and plants and herbs amongst the treasures. It was a good thing that they did not throw it and stored it in a different space ring.

Irene extended her hands and quickly skimmed through the contents of the rings with her senses. Finally, she nodded her head and said—

"The monster materials are enough, the ores in this space ring can be used to substitute for some of the materials needed for the structure. The core stones are enough too. However, we still need a few more varieties of plants and mana crystals".

Simon frowned, he was worried about that part. He had already handed all of the treasures that he had emptied from the orc territory to Irene, but it seemed like the materials were still not enough.

Particularly the mana crystals. The ones produced by the trees on his [Main fFloor] was already used by him. Even if they produced a few more, there wouldn't tonnes of them.

As if reading Simon's mind, Irene notified him of something "You don't have to worry about not having enough mana crystals since a few quandaries have been discovered on the [main floor] and in the workshop".

"What?!" Simon couldn't help but utter out.

Irene pointed at the smugly smiling Cecilia and said "Thanks to this girl, many more mineral mountains have surfaced on the main floor, amongst those were even quandaries for mana crystals".

So it was like that... in just a few days of time while he was not here, his dungeon had seen rapid changes once again.

"For the plants that are needed, Miss Irene can leave it to us," Fennel said pitching in at this moment. Many of the herbs and plants that Irene had listed were something that he knew of.

"In that case, can you ask the wisp to smelt these ores and get the blood from the two disaster class beasts?" Irene passed him the space ring that stored the ores.

"No problem... but where is that guy anyway, I did not see him on the [main floor]".

The guy he was talking about, was none other than the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse.

"It's on the forty ninth floor".

Forty-ninth floor? Hearing Irene's reply, Simon frowned his brows. Standardly, the dungeon had fifty floors not including the main floor, workshop and forest spirit village and the three floors that were yet to be completed by him before he left to deal with the issues of the orc.

Anyways, taking the fifty floors as the standard, the forty ninth and the fiftieth floor was not like your other floors in that it was the dungeon's last line of defence and the strongest floors meant to stop the intruders at any cost.

These floors are also coined by another name, 'Boss Floors'.

What made them 'Boss floors' is that residing in them are the two of the strongest monsters currently in his dungeon, the Lightning Draconic serpent and the Deep Sea Alligator King.

The forty ninth floor was precisely the floor he designed for the Deep Sea Alligator King. For the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse who usually stayed on the main floor to go up to the fifty first floor, there was definitely something going on.

Simon decided to go and check it out. He turned towards Fay and Maya who were here to give him a report and asked them to wait for a while. Irene needed to be here to lay the array down and help the forest spring spirits to get the materials ready.

Forty ninth floor... previously a vast plain now had many trees and mana trees growing on one part of the floor which was like a marshland. The other part of the floor was an enormous lake and the home of the Deep Sea Alligator King and the hundreds of Elder Lizardmen.

Usually, they would be hiding deep inside the lake surfacing only occasionally. However, at this moment, something incredible was happening on this floor.

All of the lizardmen and the former king, the Deep Sea alligator king were on the side of the marshland lying flat on the ground with numerous wounds on their bodies.

Facing them, standing on its six powerful feet, and bearing down on the Deep Sea Alligator king with its six demonic eyes, was the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse.

No matter how many times Simon blinked or rubbed his eyes, the scene in front of him looked as if these guys were worshipping the warhorse.

What was going on? Why are they acting all submissive towards the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse all of a sudden? Simon had a guess, but he didn't want to jump to a conclusion thus he approached them and asked the party involved himself.

Feeling his presence on the floor, the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse turned towards Simon and immediately walked forward to greet him.

"My lord you are back from the journey," it asked.

"Yeah, we will have some new subordinates joining our ranks" Simon stated caressing the flaming mane of the warhorse. The mane although made of fire, did not hurt anyone that the Bloodthorn Demonic warhorse didn't wish to.

"New subordinates?" the warhorse repeated.

"Yeah, they are from the orc race. Anyways, what is going on here?" Simon changed the topic back to what was going on over here.

"You see, I was teaching the Deep Sea Alligator king and those lizardmen some of the rules of our dungeon that one must follow to live here" The warhorse replied.

'By beating them?' Simon wanted to retort; nevertheless, seeing that there was no one dead, he did not raise any issue.

"Well keep things moderate" he could see the pleading eyes of the Deep Sea Alligator King and the lizardmen...

"I understand" the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse nodded in understanding.

"Since my lord came all the way here, does that mean that my lord has some task in mind for me?".

"That's right, Irene is creating an array on the forest spirit floor. In order to do that, she needs the blood of at least two disaster class beasts" Simon explained, the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse was quite perceptive.

"My life belongs to my lord, it is not a problem to give you my life, let alone some blood". Hearing that overenthusiastic and devoted reply, Simon's brows twitched slightly.

'It's as I thought, getting used to its voice will still take me some time' Simon thought internally. The character of the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse that was in that game, was never meant to talk. Which is why the deep warrior-like voice of the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse came as a surprise to him every time he heard it.

"Y-Yeah... thanks. Also if you are done here, would you inform the same to the lightning draconic serpent too".

Right after he said that, he felt like those pleading eyes that were directed at him by the inhabitants of this floor, brighten up for a moment.

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Really what kind of beating did they have to go through to become so docile?

Simon teleported from the floor and arrived at the workshop next to smelt the ores. A couple of hours later, he arrived at the forest spring spirit village again.

"Did you bring over the materials that I needed?" Irene asked after he approached the area where the Obsidian energy exuders were.

"Yeah" Simon passed her the space rings that contained the smelted ores and the blood of the two disaster class beasts.

"What about the herbs... do you have all of them?" he asked.

"Elder Fennel and some of the Forest Spring Spirits are gathering that as we speak. They will be bringing it soon".

Simon nodded at Irene's reply. The forest Spring Spirits were a race that was closest to the nature, it wasn't surprising that they had information about every plant.

"By the way, do you really believe that a danger would befall Cecilia or on the forest spring spirits?" as they were waiting, Simon asked all of a sudden.

"What do you mean?" Irene's crystal blue eyes trembled ever so slightly.

"The look of surprise you had when Cecilia mentioned the words that the spirit tree said and your sudden interest to lay a protective around their town. Are you telling me that you want me to believe nothing is going on?"

Although Irene hid it well at that time, Simon still noticed Irene's unusual behaviour at that time.

"What are you hiding?" Simon asked without masking any words.

Irene fell silent... this lasted for a while before she finally opened her lips to speak—"Do you remember what I mentioned to you when the spirit tree first appeared on this floor?" Irene glanced straight at Simon.

The latter recalled his memories before nodding his head. She had told him that the spirit tree was an incredible treasure and that he had lucked out incredibly to have one of them grow in his dungeon.

She also mentioned how it had many functions one of which could even communicate with the spirits.

"At that time I said that I only knew one of its abilities, but that was not the case. I indeed did know of another one of its abilities but seeing that the spirituality of the spirit tree was just at the infant stage, I felt like it was too soon to even mention it. Thus I did not tell you about it. Another ability of the spirit tree besides communicating with the spirits is to see the future".

See the future? Simon's eyes immediately went wide. What kind of ridiculous concept was that? If the other ability of the spirit tree was that, then wouldn't it make the tree quite broken?

Nonetheless, what intrigued Simon was why Irene was telling him about this ability now when she thought it was too soon to reveal it before.

Could it be that the words said by the spirit tree weren't just some dream but what it had seen in the future?

The moment Simon realised that, he immediately understood why Irene was so eager to set up an array here. However, the term danger was a very vague word, they needed a little more context to better understand the nature of this danger.

"Can't we just ask the spirit tree what it saw when it wakes up?" Simon suggested, instead of just fumbling around, he thought that it would be much better to ask the spirit tree directly about its dream.

Nonetheless, Irene shook her head—"The Spirit tree is still a child, do you think a child remembers what it saw in its dream? Probably it has already forgotten about the events that it saw. We can only wait for it to grow up and develop its ability".

So that was the case, indeed she was right. While Irene and Simon were discussing countermeasures as to how to better tackle the danger, Fennel and the group arrived. In their hands was a basket with many different types of plants with unusual shapes and colours.

After they arrived with the plants, they all became busy extracting the plant's essence into a bowl and mixing it in different ratios as per Irene's instructions.

One might think that it was easy but it was not the case, these simple processes required extreme precision and the ability to control one's mana. A human alchemist would need years of practice and knowledge to even begin something as complex as mixing different essences together and even then they wouldn't be able to achieve the perfect ratio.

As could be seen by looking at Simon, he had no prior knowledge of herbs and alchemy and thus was a huge hindrance in their work. Many a time, he burned the entire plant to get the extract, other times he mixed them in the wrong ratios.

From his failure, Simon at least learnt that he was not suited for alchemy. The realisation was not very painful for him to accept, after all, looking at the ones beside him who were the best of the best in this field, even he couldn't help but marvel at their work.

"Hehe... big brother does not need to be so upset, our forest spirit tribe are born with this gift" The last nail on his coffin was the consoling words from Cecilia.

Pffttt... from the corner of his eyes, he saw Irene, Fay and Maya covering their mouth and smiling, it seemed that they enjoyed his suffering and struggle as he arrived at that realisation.

"Don't worry you might get better at it if you practice" Irene said.

What was that? Was this ice cold beauty who was ever so emotionless, was cracking a joke? Simon didn't know if he should laugh or cry.

Since alchemy was not his forte Simon tried his hand at making the structure for the array. This was much easier for him as all he needed to do was mould the smelted ores using the diagram that Irene had provided him.

The other forest spring spirits helped him and soon a unique looking structure more than five meters big, was formed.

After the structure was formed, fennel and the other brought over the mixture that was to be used as ink. Next, Irene took out something from the gap between the space.

Looking carefully, Simon noticed that it was a silver coloured pen which she used to dip it in the ink and draw mysterious runes on the structure. It has to be mentioned that the structure was made of many different types of ores amongst which Mythril was also in the mix.

It wouldn't be wrong to say that the structure was incredibly hard and sturdy so much so that it would even be able to withstand his AOE intermediate magic. For Irene's pen to easily carve runes into it, it was definitely not an ordinary item.

And he was right... "This pen is very precious to me. It is made with the coldest and hardest of ice that could be found in this universe. Even adamantium doesn't stand a chance in front of it" Irene explained.

No wonder it was able to carve runes in a structure made of Mythril. Irene drew one complex rune after another, she kept on at it for several hours. During that time, the Valkyries, [Helpers] and the other forest spring spirits visited them.

"Master... I have brought over the mana crystals that we just finished mining" Annette who was tasked to ask Wisp to mine some mana crystals from the quandary using the Andromedas came over with the space ring.

Simon nodded his head and checked the contents of the space ring with his senses only to feel a little shocked inwardly. There were tonnes of them inside releasing waves of pure mystical energy. Most of the crystals were grade [1] with a few grade [2] in the mix.

Since Irene said that the durability of the barrier of the grand protection array depends on the quality of the material used, Simon did not spare using the grade [2] mana crystals too. Even though his heart bled a little, knowing that what the spirit tree had referred to was not a dream but a future, he still put all the grade [2] mana crystals into use for the array.

A grade [2] mana crystal was a precious item that many people in this wouldn't dare to splurge like that. However, if it could ensure the safety of the forest spring spirits, Simon felt like it was worth it.

Time passed by swiftly, one day... two days, on the third day, Irene who had been at it non-stop finally slowed down her pen.

"Huff... it's finally done" Irene said tucking her bangs behind her ears.

"Thanks for your hard work" Simon encouraged walking beside her.

"But I have to say, I didn't expect it would take this long to create an array". It took almost three days just to complete the structure of the array. One had to wonder how long it would take to create the whole thing.

"What are you saying, this one is just the most basic of the protection array. If you were to lay out more advanced and powerful ones it would take a few months to a year at the very least".

Hearing what she had to say, Simon was at a loss for a word.

"Anyways, we are almost done with this array. After I use the mana crystal to solidify the ink to make it one whole thing and link it at the end with the Obsidian Energy Exuders, the array would be completed. After that, it would slowly absorb the mana shockwaves from the obsidian energy exuders and grow strong".

Irene explained amazing everyone with her knowledge. Now that everyone knew what else was to be done, all who were present there at that moment got to work and pitched in to complete the array.

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All in all, the grand protection array that will protect the Forest spring spirit village, took three days to create.

After the array was placed and ready to operate, Simon along with his group, teleported back to the main floor.

"Phew..." Simon slumped on top of his couch and released a deep breath. Although Irene had done eighty per cent of the work, it was exhausting just to watch her carve so many complex and incomprehensible runes.

"Miss Irene would like to have a bat?" Annette asked Irene who was a little sweaty.

"Ah, yes... I would like to change out of these clothes" Irene replied walking out of the hall.

"Understood"...

"Big sister I would like to bathe too"

"Alright, you can enter with me then"...

Their voices from the other end of the hall. 'Bath huh..' Simon's mind subconsciously started wandering after hearing that word. He couldn't help but imagine a scene that evoked nefarious thoughts inside his mind.

Simon quickly dispersed such thoughts and focused on other things at hand. Three days had already gone by while they were busy creating the array, the orcs would be ready to move by now.

Before coming back to his dungeon, Simon had given clear instructions to Berigard and the orc to finish up all their pending tasks and be ready to move in a few days. He would be bringing them back to the dungeon as its new inhabitants who would guard it against intruders and add to its increasing defence system.

An orc's strength couldn't be discounted especially the high orcs and the Diluvian High Orcs. Although in the war they looked weaker than the ogres, it was because of the environment and the lack of resources that slowly put them on the lower hierarchy than the ogres.

Inside his dungeon, they would have a far better environment than they were used to and the ever-present dense mana to make them stronger. Plus, just like his all other subordinates that he brought inside his dungeon, if they served him loyally, they would be able to enjoy the treasure of the nature.

In an environment like that, it would be a miracle if their strength didn't advance.

The Andromedas brought by Alice which he sent to mine the many mineral mountains present in the orc's territory, sent a message back to the wisp that the orcs had already started gathering near Berigard's territory.

Simon would have liked to bring them back; however, Irene had already worked non-stop for three days, he didn't want to burden her again.

As she was the only one with mystery in advanced space magic around, Simon had no choice but to wait for some time. During that time, he decided to visit the pond of serenity and train for a while.

Now that he had jumped 55 levels and have reached level 473, the density and quantity of mystical power within him had taken a big leap all at once.

From how unsteady and turbulent the mystical energy within him was, Simon knew that he needed a few days to stabilise his newfound powers and familiarise himself with his increased stats. If he did not do that and continued to level up wily-nilly, the solid foundation, the base for the future he had been building would be severely affected.

This might lead to him being weaker than those around his rank and the condition of his physical body slowly deteriorating. Simon knew the importance of having a solid foundation as he had encountered many enemies with unstable or borrowed powers.

The powers that they used, raised their levels all at once resulting in their base becoming unsteady.

In a clash between two people around the same rank, or level, the one with the unsteady foundation will always have a disadvantage as they would be unable to bring the most out of their level.

Therefore it was extremely important to have a steady foundation after each big level ups and something that Irene had stressed quite a few times.

Simon came near the shore of the pond which was surrounded by a thick mist, rich in mystical energy that soothes your heart, and calms your mind. He found a big rock to sit cross-legged and meditated for a while.

Time ticked away and soon a few hours passed by... during that time, quite a few subordinates visited but seeing that he was training, they all left silently.

Simon opened his eyes, propped up from his seat and did some light stretching. He could feel that the energy inside him had settled down a little, if he continued like this for a few more days it will fully stabilise.

Now that he was done with his training for the time being, Simon did not immediately leave but instead sat there for a while. He opened his [Main Menu] and clicked on the [Dungeon] option and enlarged the three new floors that he had been building.

The reason why it was left incomplete the last time was because an emergency had come up. Yes, it was none other than the event where the orcs had invaded his tower town.

Additionally, because of the slowly decreasing DP income of his dungeon, Simon was a little concerned about splurging his stockpiled DP. Thus he stopped at that point.

Now that the adventurers were diving back inside his dungeon once again, his income was back to normal. Perhaps it had even increased a little due to the new adventurers that arrived in the town after the distress call.

Simon moved the boss floors (49th and 50th) down and placed the new floors up. These new floors were going to be the new inhabitants for the orcs.

On that note, Simon had noticed that he could move the floors that were already inhabited by the monsters, up and down. Like for example, if he wanted to bring the 40th floor down and switch it with the 50th floor, he could do so.

Although that would take DP equal to creating a new floor; plus, one also had to keep in mind that the more higher the floor one wants to switch, the more larger the DP required.

Switching the 30th floor was many times costlier than switching the 40th floor. However, when it came to switching the empty floors like the three he had created, the 51st, 52nd and 53rd can be switched amongst themselves without any DP.

Another thing to note was that it was fundamentally impossible to move the floor where the dungeon core was located. It is also impossible to move the floors where the intruders are. That is to say, the floors which are currently occupied by the humans cannot be switched.

Most of the high ranking demon nobles who created their own dungeon are already aware of such knowledge; however, Simon who was of low birth, had to learn all of this through observation and experimentation.

Anyways, the boos floors were switched to become the current 52nd and 53rd floors while the new floors he had created, became the 49th, 50th and 51st floors. (He switched the 49th and 50th floors with the three new empty floors)..

By the time he was finished modelling the floors and installing the necessary things, a day had already passed by.

Simon closed the [Main Menu] inhaled and exhaled the refreshing air rich in mystical energy. He was just about to move from the rock and go back to his palace when he noticed that tiny droplets of water were falling down from the sky.

No, it would be inaccurate to say that it was water since the liquid that dropped from the sky was the highly pure mystical energy.

TIP.. TIP... SHAAA... at first, it was a light drizzle before it turned it a downpour of rain.

"So this is the mystical cycle huh" Simon muttered allowing himself to get wet by the rain.

The dungeon Laplace was not a high ranking dungeon, there was no weather or seasons installed on the [Main floor]. So how come it was raining here?

The answer was because of the mystical veins and the density of mana on this floor which had reached a degree that allowed the mystical energy to form clouds as part of condensation and then rain in a cycle of precipitation.

This was the first time that Simon was experiencing the mystical energy rain. Sadly enough, Simon was not a monster and couldn't take advantage of the mystical droplets. He couldn't absorb the pure mystical energy that was dropping as rain.

Though it was not like it was going to waste since the many mana trees, trees of mana crystals, the minerals mountains, quandaries and the many different treasures on his main floor were able to nurture because of the mystical rain.

Satisfied by the growth of his dungeon that even outclassed some of the intermediate ranked dungeons, Simon slowly walked towards his palace.

"Master!!" When he neared the gate, Bea came running towards him with an umbrella in hand.

"Master, you are all drenched. Shall I prepare a warm bath for you?" She asked covering him with the umbrella.

"There is no need, I was just enjoying the ambience of mystical rain" the mystical water wasn't cold, so there was no need for him to take a bath. He accepted a towel from her and walked inside the palace.

Name:- Simon

Race:- Demon Viscount

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

Level:- 473

Stats:-

HP:- 80,951

MP:- 100,120

Strength:- 3319

Defence:- 3519

Agility:- 4265

Magic:- 4665

Endurance:- 3792

Luck:- 2446

Skills:- Language Comprehension, Analysis, Mental Map, Infernal Magic Mastery, Gale Magic Mastery, Lightning Magic Mastery, High-Speed Thought Processing, High-Speed Regeneration, High-Speed Flight, Super Enhanced Strength, Body Enhancement, Flame Resistance, Wind Resistance, Electro resistance, Pain Resistance, Blunt Damage Resistance, Sense Presence, Hide Presence, Demonic Eyes, Super Enhanced Agility, Super Enhanced Endurance, Super Enhanced Magic, Super Enhanced Defence, Minimal Mana Consumption, Sharpened Senses, Mana Lines, Sword Mastery, ??????, ??????

Amalgamation Skills:- [Flame-Gale Mastery], [Electro-Flame Mastery]

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

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Simon changed out of his wet clothes before looking for Irene and Cecilia in one of the big halls they always used.

When he opened the door and walked in, he saw them soundly sleeping on the couch. Not wanting to disturb them, Simon silently closed the door back and walked out.

"Master, Maya and Fay have visited quite a few times while you were training. Since you were busy, they left a message with me. They told me to tell you that the Hidden chambers are ready" Bea appeared before him and reported.

Hearing this, Simon remembered that he assigned those two to create the hidden chambers. Now that he thought about it, those two have been wanting to give him a report since the moment he arrived back.

"I'll see them now," He said and messaged them to come to the Main Floor.

After a while, Maya and Fay entered the hall where Simon and the Valkyries, were waiting for them.

"My lord" they bowed their heads.

"Un... raise your heads up" Simon nodded, even he himself was astonished by how calm and adapted he got to this form of address.

"I heard that you guys have visited the main floor quite a few times. Accept my apology, I got quite busy with the training" he felt a little guilty since the circumstances made him completely forget about it.

"No.. No... Lord Simon does not need to apologise. You are the ruler of this place and there are many responsibilities on your shoulders, it is only just natural that you would be busy" Fay and Maya hurriedly shook their head not wanting to accept his apology.

"Is that so... Well, anyways, I heard that you guys have completed the hidden chambers?" Simon asked getting straight to the point.

He had given them the exclusive right to alter certain areas of the floor to their wish, the right to spawn a few kinds of monsters and a certain amount of DP for the cost. All so that they could complete the task assigned to them.

He remembered that it hadn't been very long since he gave them this order, probably two or three weeks ago. However, they have already finished creating the chambers while side by side completing their duty as the [Helpers].

"Yes my lord, the Hidden chambers are complete. Using the DP that lord Simon has given us, we have installed a total of five hidden chambers. One on the 15th floor, one on floor 20, floor 25 and two on floor 33. The rewards have already been placed and the monsters assigned to guard that place are, Battle Grizzly, Savage War Lion, Aerodactylus and Fire Demon Ape respectively".

Fay reported. Since it was her idea to create something like this to begin with, one could see the enthusiasm and the effort she had put into this.

The hidden chambers were created on the upper-middle floors and the middle floors with an average of one chamber on each floor. The strength of the monsters assigned was also appropriate, the Grizzly Bear was the perfect monster to guard treasures on floor fifteen, the territory of the Direwolves and Stromwolves.

Battle Grizzly was not too powerful that the adventurers couldn't tackle yet not an easy opponent that just anybody could defeat. It provided a sufficient level of challenge.

The same went for the Savage War Lion, Aerodactylus and the Fire Demon Ape. The Fire demon Ape was an entity that Simon had mutated from the demon ape that he had summoned from the [Ga?????] while the Savage War Lion were monsters brought in from the southern side of the forest.

The Aerodactylus on the other hand was a monster mutated from the species of a monster called Anemodactyl that occupied the 13th and 14th floors.

Aerodactylus was the result of Simon using the Viridescent Mutation crystal on a colony of Anemodactyl.

"Hmm... you two did a good job. So how are the chambers going off" Simon praised, he opened the [Dungeon] function of the [Main Menu] and scrutinised those aforementioned floors. There was no point in creating something new if it was not providing any yield.

Fay reported—"We have been monitoring those areas, the hidden chamber on floor fifteen has already been found and cleared a few times by a bunch of groups. Whereas the ones on the 20th and 25th floor only one adventurer party has found them yet".

"Since I noticed a few more adventurer's groups loitering in that area, word of mouth must have spread. It won't be long before they find it. As for the two chambers on floor 33rd I deliberately chose to create them in places that are difficult to spot or traverse".

"Since the monster guarding them are strong, I believed that the path that led towards the chamber should also provide a hurdle and test the adventurer's strength and courage. Of course, I also made sure that they get rewards matching the danger".

Simon had no complaints, she had put a lot of thought into each and every element of this task and achieved it to perfection. He spared no efforts to praise her and Maya as that would keep his employees.. ahem subordinates motivated.

He also agreed with Fay's take on making the chambers guarded by Aerodactylus and Fire Demon Ape a little difficult to find since these monsters were strong and not just anybody could beat them. It would need an elite adventurer or a strong group of adventurers with a more than good synergy to defeat these monsters.

Apart from that, a hidden chamber won't be a hidden chamber if they were discovered so easily. So it was good that the last two were a little difficult to find

Satisfied by the work of his subordinates Simon offered Fay and Maya a lump sum of DP as reward for their hard work.

"M-My lord we cannot take it. It was our duty as the [Helpers] and besides I truly enjoyed my task" Fay hurriedly rejected the reward.

However, how could Simon who was not even providing his employees with a salary not give them any bonus for their work too? Wouldn't this completely make them out to be a black company?

An employee's motivation was directly related to the job he or she did in the company, if they weren't motivated, naturally the work they did will also lack efficiency. Besides, Simon believed that one needed to be sufficiently rewarded for their efforts.

"Well, don't be so hasty to reject. This reward is not something that I'm just handing over just like that. It is something that you deserve and have earned it. Think of it as a price for your hard work" Simon pressed.

Fay and Maya fidgeted for a while, it was not like they were acting or were hesitant to accept a reward. They simply thought that what they did was given since they were a resident and a [Helper] of this dungeon.

Simon's grace was already as big as a mountain for them, to accept anything else from their lord would be too much.

"Since Master is insisting so much, you should take it. Besides, wouldn't it be like you are not giving him face if you keep on rejecting the reward?". '

Nice follow Annette' Simon muttered internally in his heart. With those words from Annette, those two wouldn't be able to reject it anymore. Once they accepted his reward, their motivation will also stay high and his dungeon will function as efficiently as ever.

Fay and Maya looked at each other, now that even Annette has spoken up, it would be rude to reject the reward. The two accepted the DP that Simon had transferred to them.

Being a [Helper] and all, the two girls had the authority to open a part of the [Main Menu]. Although the option on their menu was limited to only a handful of functions necessary for their role.

After the two girls bowed their heads in thanks towards Simon, they were just about to exit the hall when Annette approached them. She then whispered something into their ears.

"You know this DP is something that master has given you to splurge on yourselves. So don't go keeping it or using it on the dungeon. This will greatly upset him. Why don't you guys open the [Shop] option I believe there are quite a few sections that might interest you guys".

The [Shop] option besides having the important sections that only a dungeon master could access, it also had a few sections for extravagance like the clothes section, food and beverages, beauty section and so on so forth.

Demon nobles are a race that are the incarnation of desires, naturally, there were many sections for self-indulgence on the dungeon menu.

After the two [Helpers] exited the place, Simon turned towards the Valkyries who were standing beside him. While he was giving the rewards to Fay and Maya, he suddenly remembered that he had given no rewards to the Valkyries who had worked so hard for him since the time he had summoned them.

Since they were his creations, it skipped his mind that they were an employee of the dungeon too. They are also entitled to gifts and rewards. It was not only them, all of his subordinates deserved that.

"Annette, Bea, Emma, Bianca, Alice.. do you guys have something you want? You all have worked so hard for me but I never got the opportunity to ever thank you". Simon's words immediately shocked the Valkyries and they immediately got on their knees.

"Please don't say such things, master. Our only joy and happiness lie in helping you. We never considered your orders as work ever much less think about a reward".

"Eh?!" Simon muttered dumbfoundedly.

Chapter 515 515- Planning Out A Surprise (3)

"For us, there cannot be any greater joy other than serving you" Annette pleaded dramatically making Simon gobsmacked.

'Eh?! Ehhhh..a-are they crying? But I only wanted to reward them for their efforts. Where did I go wrong' he panicked internally.

"I-Is that so... then forget about it" Simon hurriedly said. The Valkyries wiped their tears and picked themselves up once again leaving Simon to agonise over what happened internally.

'Should I have just given them DP. Hmm, now that I think about it, I could use the DP as the currency to pay my employees. Damn isn't that a good idea? With DP they can buy anything they want from the [Shop] and I won't have to agonise over not rewarding them. I can't believe this never came to me before' Simon contemplated.

He was thinking about adopting this reform to his dungeon and how he should go on about doing it. While Simon was thinking all that, other subordinates also visited him one after the other giving their reports.

He listened to their reports but most of the contents went over his head as he was busy thinking about the reforms he had on his mind.

Quite a few hours must have passed... "My lord is that fine?" Fennel asked. These words finally snapped Simon out of his thoughts and he tried to make sense of what the person in front of him just said.

"Eh? Umm.. sorry I was not listening, what did you say?".

"I was saying that Cecilia's birthday is coming soon and we wanted to celebrate it in our village. She is the daughter of our patriarch and we always used to celebrate her birthday as a big event. I am here on behalf of the village to ask for your permission".

Hearing his words, all the afterthoughts that Simon was having disappeared from the back of his mind.

"Cecilia's birthday?!! When is it?" he asked.

"It's on the fourth of the Dalias month" fennel replied. 'That's close' there was only a week left for the Nevolas month to end and the Dalias month to come. "Why didn't Cecilia say anything to me then?" Simon muttered, such a big event was coming and he had no clue about it.

"Haha... I'm sure that girl is trying to hide it. She knows how busy you are and is trying not to celebrate it this year. Now that her parents are no longer there, I'm sure Cecilia is struggling internally".

"Though she never lets it appear on her face, whenever she looks at children who still have the mother and father, I'm sure that hurts hers internally. Nevertheless, she always wears that smile around her face. Usually, around this time, she would be running around the village telling everyone not to miss her birthday till the point that we get annoyed".

"But this year... sigh. We have never once missed her birthday and I'm sure that patriarch too would be upset to not see his daughter celebrate her birthday this year from heaven. That is why I came here specifically to ask for my lord's...".

Fennel explained his motive behind coming here, but before he could ask for Simon's permission, the person in question got up from his seat and stated in a clear voice that left no doubts.

"You do not need my permission for something like that. Cecilia is like my sister; No, she is my sister. As you all have celebrated her birthday every year, this year too we shall not miss it. Make preparation for her birthday, make it big: Nah, make it grand. I want her first birthday that she celebrates inside this dungeon to be memorable, one that she never forgets about. I want that fake smile to disappear from her face replaced by a genuinely happy one".

After declaring that, Simon turned towards Fennel and suddenly revealed his wicked smile—

"Fennel, you said that she was trying to hide her birthday from us? So be it then, we shall conceal this fact from her too and surprise her when the day comes. She shouldn't get even a little whiff of it do you all understand".

All of the people present in the hall nodded their heads in agreement.

"Fennel if you need anything do not hesitate to come and look for me. Valkyries, you shall be assisting the forest spring spirits on this event and also keep her so busy that she cannot leave the Main Floor".

"Leave Princess Cecilia to me" Alice immediately raised her hand to volunteer "Hehe... we are good friends now, master can leave her to me".

"Alright, I will leave her to you" Simon knew that the two of them had hit it off and had bonded quite well in this short period of time. Leaving Cecilia in Alice's care should be alright.

'Is it because both of their races have a little similarity to one another?' Simon questioned internally. Technically, Alice's race was Wood Elf who are said to be close to the nature like the elves and the high elves.

The forest spring spirit are said to be a race that is born from the blessings of the nature and has a strong affinity with it. Simon couldn't discount that it wasn't because of this fact that the two became good friends in such a short time.

While Simon was handing out orders and giving some ideas that he had from his previous world, he suddenly heard the door open. Thinking that it was Cecilia, everybody stopped talking and glanced towards the door only to see a peerless beauty walk in.

Her hair was a little messy probably because she had just taken a nap but that flaw seemed to have enhanced her beauty even further making everyone enamoured just by her presence. Her skin glowed a milky white from the bath she had taken and a nice smell wafted around her.

"What are you guys talking about?" she slowly approached closer and asked.

Simon glanced at Irene and then looked at the door behind them. Seeing that there were no signs of Cecilia, he shifted his gaze back at Irene and asked "Where is Cecilia?".

"She is still sleeping" the woman replied.

"Why are you asking that?" when questioned by Irene, Simon revealed his plan and told her how the little girl was trying to hide her birthday from them.

When the phoenix lady heard that, her crystal blue eyes narrowed a little "So that girl was trying to do something like that huh!! She calls me big sister but hides something so important from me. Good, I like your plan. Allow me to help too, we shall give her a surprise that she will never forget".

Since Irene had that icy expressionless face, it was hard for others to know what she was feeling. However, given that she had always cared deeply for the forest spring spirits and especially toward Cecilia, it was only natural that she would be a little angry after such an important thing was hidden from her.

Now that all of them had assembled here, they solidified their master plan that was Cecilia's birthday. After Fennel left the palace, Simon turned towards Irene and asked her a question out of curiosity.

"By the way, when is your birthday?".

He knew very little about her and it was not very long ago that he felt like she had opened up to him a little. She always had that mysterious aura shrouding her that barred Simon from getting to know her. He thought that maybe knowing her birthday would allow him to close this distance.

Irene glanced at him with her crystal blue eyes, her two cherry red lips opened and closed a few times.

"Hmm... why do you ask? Well, it has already gone by. It was on the 15th of the Virnix month"

The Virinix month had gone by four months ago. At that time, he was stuck inside the forbidden trials toiling away his days in training and trying to find an exit.

"I see..." Simon didn't have anything else to say.

"Right, I heard what happened in the orc's territory from Annette. Don't you need my help to bring those orcs inside the dungeon?" Irene asked changing the subject.

Simon nodded his head, he wasn't able to ask for her help before since she looked tired. But now that Irene had brought it up herself, Simon told her how he had managed to gather new subordinates.

"If you open a teleport portal like the last time, I can bring them back".

Irene mused and nodded her head at Simon's proposal. From what she could tell, that orc named Berigard seemed to be somewhat trustable. They might end up becoming a crucial force that guarded this dungeon in the future.

Although one still needs to be careful and made adequate preparations in case they tried to revolt; after all, they were beings brought from outside the dungeon and not its native inhabitants. One cannot be too careful against them.

"When are you planning to go?" she asked.

"Right now" Simon answered, he wanted to wrap up everything before Cecilia's birthday. Although the Valkyries and Fennel would be able to sufficiently good job, as her brother he had certain responsibilities that he must keep.

As such, he wanted to free his schedule and complete the tasks that have been in the back of his mind for a while. Irene did not stop Simon, she could see that he had already stabilised the mystical energy within him that had become unstable after the rapid increase in his levels.

"Take Bea with you, even though I have been to the orc territory once, with her sending me the spatial axis it would be much easier for me to create a gate near your position," Irene said making Bea who listening from the side, ecstatic.

Chapter 516 516- Two Leaf BloodTrap Plant

Simon dilly dally longer, he was about to teleport out of the dungeon along with Bea when suddenly he saw the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse coming in.

"My lord if you are going to the orc territory to bring in those orcs, please take me with you," the warhorse asked.

"What will you do there?" the last time he had brought the warhorse because he needed someone to divert the attention of the Elder Lizardmen from the Deep Sea Alligator Kings. Now that he had already subdued the orcs, there was no need for him to bring the warhorse along with him this time.

Besides that, due to the recent incident with the orcs, the people of the tower town were much too guarded against the monster and the appearance of the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse was much too conspicuous.

Well, he was not the one to talk being a demon viscount and all after all; however, he had the aid of the Grimlock's trinket with him.

"My lord, I want to see the ones who are going to be the new defenders of this dungeon with my own eyes before you bring them in here" The Bloodthorn demonic warhorse replied.

Simon understood the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse the most, he could tell that the latter wanted to check out the soon-to-be new additions of this dungeon and see whether they are worthy to be living in this dungeon.

It was a warrior through and through and would never accept a comrade who harbours a traitorous heart. Because of this, he wanted to go with Simon to the orc territory. Simon mused at the end, he did allow the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse to tag along with them.

The group was the same one that went to the northern region of the forest to subdue the Deep Sea Alligator king.

WHOOSH... Simon, Bea and the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse teleported a few kilometres away from the dungeon and using the cover of the forest, they slowly moved away. As he had guessed after the incident with the orcs, there were many adventurers patrolling the forest.

Simon took out the Ice Phoenix's Sigh and using its extreme presence nullification ability, they manoeuvred around the adventurers before they were finally out of the vicinity of the town. Now that there were no adventurers around, Simon mounted on the warhorse and expected Bea to do the same only to see the latter extending her hand towards him.

"Master" Her gesture was obvious, she wanted him to help her get on the warhorse. Simon recalled a similar scene around a year ago, at that time he was the one offering the help and the other way around.

But that one didn't go well and that person chose not to share a mount with him and instead use her powers to fly away. That proud and cold individual was none other than Irene.

Now that Simon looked back to the scene, at that time Irene did not even converse with him much and it took a long time before they became able to converse the way they do now.

While Simon was having such thoughts, Bea climbed the warhorse using his outstretched hand and tightly embraced him from behind. Her two full mounds pressed onto his back but since she was wearing an armour there was nothing to be felt.

NEIGHHH... rearing its forelegs, the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse took off towards the sky. It took more than a day for Simon and the Valkyries who were flying at full speed to return back to the dungeon.

However, now that he was riding the warhorse it took them only half the time to arrive back to the orc's territory. As he did not bother to hide his scent or presence this time, the orcs were clearly able to sense him.

By the time he arrived at the black mountain, the abode of Berigard, a huge army was standing ready there.

"My lord, we have been waiting for you" Berigard bowed his head, kneeled on two legs and offered his staff towards Simon. This was the custom the orcs used to show their loyalty and respect to their king.

Simon nodded his head accepting their fealty and noticed the two orcs similarly owing behind him. If he was not wrong, they were the two orc commanders, Bellock and Belmarch.

What was surprising was that they were alive even after going through such a bashing at the hands of Gir-Rego. The presence of the two orc commanders was very feeble probably because they haven't fully recovered.

"I hope you all are done with your preparations to move to a new place?" Simon asked to which the orc general replied that they had nothing to take along other than the weapons and armour on them.

"My lord, may I be so bold as to ask you a question?" Berigard asked minding his manners, a strong pressure was currently boring down on him. Its source was the mount of the demon, the warhorse with a nightmarish look.

This kind of pressure that even made Berigard tremble in fear could only come from a powerful beast, possessing a bloodline that was far higher than theirs.

Yes, it was the bloodline suppression that Berigard was feeling right now. It was not only him that felt this difference, every orc that was present here, did so. They all couldn't help but marvel at the powers of the demon to subdue such a strong beast and use them as a mount.

Unknown to Simon, the fact that he had chosen to bring the Bllothorn demonic warhorse with him, raised his image in their hearts by a fewfold.

Simon rested his gaze on Berigard who was still maintaining his submissive posture and told the latter to carry on. "My question is regarding the future of our orcs. What will be our purpose from now on once we enter your dungeon and whether the place we are going to be able to hold all of us".

Hearing his question Simon felt like it was only natural that the latter would ask something like that. Although he had told him that he would be taking them inside his dungeon, he never mentioned what they would be doing there and what their job was from now on.

Simon looked at the huge army at the base of the black mountain and couldn't help but get impressed. It was not only just the orcs from his faction that were standing there at attention but also orcs from other factions too.

The charisma that he had shown during the war was able to win over quite a bit of orcs who had decided that it was better to follow him than stay in their territory.

From what Simon could tell looking at their numbers more than 60 per cent of the total population of orcs were ready to move inside the dungeon. That is to say, around 90,000 were assembled here out of which 40,000 were ordinary orcs, around 35,000 High orcs and the remaining 15,000 were diluvian high orcs.

Just the number of the Diluvian High Orc was enough for Simon to declare that his participation in the war and the enmity with the ogre was worth it. These diluvian high orcs would later go on to become an incredible division of his dungeon's army, one that would make even the world cower.

But that was something for the latter, right now they were just orcs who had lost a war and were forced to get evicted to a new place.

"You are right, let me make this clear before we move on to the dungeon. Now that you have submitted to me, it makes all of you my subordinates. The responsibility of my subordinates is simple, and that is to protect my dungeon from intruders".

"That would be your job and duty from now on. Of course, I'm not saying that it is an easy task, in comparison, it might be even harder than living here. Many of you would die but as I have said before, as long as you do a good job, you will be rewarded accordingly. To prove my words, I have brought something for you guys... here".

Simon passed a space ring to Berigard which the latter graciously received. When they checked the contents of the space ring, their eyes immediately became wide with shock.

"Th-This is Two Leaf BloodTrap Plant... and there are hundreds of it inside" Berigard's words were heard by the others around him and just like him, they too were shocked by what they saw.

Two Leaf BloodTrap plant, a mystical plant that only grow in the depths of the ghastly winding forest. That is to say, it grows in places filled with a dense amount of mystical energy.

Another condition for the Two Leaf BloodTrap plant to grow was the presence of other floras around it. The Two Leaf Bloodtrap plant is a type of carnivorous plant that absorbs the life force of other plants around it to grow because of which, it contain a special property that makes the plant a highly sought-after by all the alchemist who wants to create higher tier potions.

Nevertheless, this wasn't the reason why the orcs were so surprised. The special property of the Two Leaf BloodTrap plant is exactly the material the high orcs needed to evolve into a Diluvian High orc. It was their precondition for evolution.

The Two Leaf BllodTrap plants are rare due to their harsh growing conditions. Each year the orcs are only able to gather a few Tow Leaf BloodTrap plants from the depth of the forest; nonetheless, it was never enough.

So seeing hundreds of Two Leaf BloodTrap plants in the space ring offered by the demon, took them by surprise.

Chapter 517 517- Necklace Of Queen Silaska

"Where did you get all of these?" Berigard couldn't help but ask.

"There are plenty more from where that came from" Simon gave a mysterious smile. Even if they were going to be his subordinate soon, he did not reveal the existence of the forest spring spirits living inside his dungeon to them.

It took some time for Berigard to digest the information, he kept the space ring and bowed his head in respect even deeply. If earlier he was feeling a little apprehensive about going to a new place, now he couldn't help but get excited over it.

"Thank you, my lord..." Berigard thanked Simon once again, his actions was imitated by the thousands of orcs down below who were listening to their conversation intently.

"No need for that, it's not a gift... think of it as an advance reward for the work that you are going to put in soon. Now then, as per the agreement, you are going to establish a blood contract with me. As long as this blood contract is in work, you cannot ever betray me".

"Furthermore, if in the future the tribe of orcs suddenly tries to revolt, you would be my sword that would cull them first" Simon declared. Of course, what he spoke was utter bullshit and could only dupe those that did not know what blood contracts are.

The blood contract was the weakest of all the contracts that a demon noble could initiate. It might compel the other party to be loyal to the master of this contract in this case, the demon. Nevertheless, it did not have as much compelling power as to make them absolutely loyal nor could it force the orc general into doing something it did not want to.

So basically, what Simon was trying to do was deceive them into thinking such.

"Bea contact Irene and tell her to open the gate" While Bea sent the spatial axis back to Irene, Simon initiated a blood contract with Berigard.

The latter accepted the shackles without any complaint. After a while, a huge spatial gate formed behind Simon shocking the orcs silent.

"Alright, start moving in".

50th floor of the dungeon Laplace. Due to the proximity of the floor to the dungeon core, the density of mana here was very strong. Coupled with the fact that dozens of mana trees were also planted here amidst the normal trees, made that concentration go up even higher.

As soon as the orc army arrived on the floor, they were gobsmacked to see the sight that lay in front of them. The 50th floor was more than fifty kilometres big land, had plenty of flora and an ecosystem designed with the living habitat of the orcs in mind.

The territory of the orcs could be said to be one of the badlands of the western region of the ghastly winding forest. It was a barren land with the only redeeming factor that it was rich in minerals.

Even amongst all the territories inside the western region, it was one of the worst. So when Berigard and the others who saw the vast wildlands and felt the dense mana around the place, they couldn't help but freeze in shock.

"Ah right, you might think that it might be a little cramped for 90,000 orcs. But don't worry, the floor above this one is also yours and is more or less this big. I would suggest that you assign a portion of orcs, high orcs and diluvian High orcs to live up there. Well, I'll leave that decision to you".

"The floor below this is the territory of the Deep Sea Alligator King and the elder Lizardmen. Unless ordered I would like you to stay on your own floors. In any case, there are many treasures of the nature and monsters spawned here to help you all to establish your own ecosystem".

"And the last thing I want to tell you before I leave you to yourself is that I hate internal fightings. During your course of staying here, you would see many kinds of races living here and that number would only go up higher in the future. Nonetheless, remember that once you have become my subordinate, you all belong to the same side".

After Simon finished saying all he needed to, he teleported back to the main floor along with Bea and the warhorse.

Main Floor, on top of one of the Mineral mountains located at the southern side of the floor. Since the Main floor was expanded quite a bit, there were many such mountains around here. The one they were on, was one of the highest mineral mountains.

From here they could see the white palace and the eternally shrouded pond of serenity and the trees of mana crystals around it. On the western side of the floor, was the beautiful garden that Irene and Cecilia had cultivated. The east and the north side were an orchard of mana trees.

In the future, as the dungeon progresses, the main floor would have more and more features added to it. Looking at the sight in front of him, Simon sighed. At first, the main floor was just an empty floor not even two kilometres big.

He reminisced how he used to sleep and eat in the open before he installed the white palace and the pond of serenity. Then came Irene and not long after her, Cecilia who had completely transformed his dungeon into something that even Simon had sometimes difficulty believing.

The growth of his dungeon was astronomical, it had far left all the other dungeons around it into the dust and was swiftly approaching the [C] rank. Simon who was its dungeon master could feel it. Perhaps, a little more push and it will advance.

"So what do you two think?" the reason why Simon brought them here besides wanting to look at the progress of his main floor from a high vantage point was to hear their opinion.

"Well they are not bad, at least they know how to properly address Master" Bea was the first one to let her opinion know. Since she could tell that the orcs were very fearful and respectful of her master, she didn't any qualms with the newest additions to the dungeon.

As for the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse, it pondered for a moment before telling its thoughts.

"That orc named Berigard... I could tell that he does not harbour any intentions of going against my lord... that is for the time being. It is too soon to rule out the possibility of their betrayal so I would like to hold onto giving any opinion now".

The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse was much more steadfast when it came to Simon and the dungeon. Its warrior-like personality made it extremely cautious of who he should trust and the tribe of orcs who were just brought to the dungeon was yet to get his stamp of approval.

On that note, probably only Irene, Cecilia, the forest spring spirits and the valkyries were the only ones who might have gotten its approval.

Simon did not feel like it was a bad quality, thus he did not try to persuade them otherwise and left them with their own opinions.

In the next few days, Simon would get busy in the preparations for the upcoming birthday, fulfil his roles as the dungeon master, monitor the situation at the tower town and check over the orcs on the 49th and 50th floor all at the same time keeping it a secret from Cecilia.

The little girl was kept busy by Alice and her friends from the village. Since it was just for a few days, Simon allowed the forest spirit children to enter his white palace just this once.

The dungeon core was located in the basement of the white palace and was protected by multiple layers of formations. Even then, Simon stationed the Bloodthorn demonic warhorse at the entrance of the basement to be extra careful.

The preparation for the party was going in a full swing, the entire village was pitching in to celebrate her birthday and to make it a grand event. One wouldn't be able to find a single person that was free in the forest spring village.

Thanks to Simon ordering Fennel to make it a grand event, the gravity of importance he had put into it, even surpassed the Spirit Fortuna Festival, making it one of its kind.

Irene and the Valkyries spent most of their time in the village helping with the preparations. But since it would be too suspicious for Irene to be gone from the main floor for too long, she showed up every now and then and checked over Cecilia.

The latter was never given the liberty to go somewhere on her own much less to the forest spirit village. Everyone was busy doing something or the other. Simon was not an exception...

"Finally I got something" Simon mumbled wiping the sweat from his face. Currently, he sat atop a rock near the serenity pond looking at the object that was in his hand. If one asked what he was up to, then it would be drawing Gacha or as the options say [Ga?????].

Yes, Simon was using the option as a part of his daily draw; nonetheless, today was different than usual since he was spending a little more than what he usually spent.

Normally, Simon would have stopped after using the [100,000] draw twice or thrice and getting some junks. However, today Simon was hellbent on drawing something good, something that was truly worth all the money he had put into it.

He had already used the [100,000] option four times; nonetheless, all he got was items which had no value in his eyes.

5th draw- nothing other than a [c] rank halberd, 10th draw- still the usual junk, 15th draw- items that was allocated for the treasure chest or to be recycled in his [Armoury].

Chapter 518 518- Necklace Of Queen Silaska (2)

18th draw- frustration and impulse to throw the option into the drains..

 20th Draw- finally something unusual started to happen, all the mana around him was starting to congregate in one place and an item that shined with seven different lights materialised out of thin air.

It was a locket embedded with three beautiful crystals. Simon extended his hands and caught the item that took him twenty [100,000] Dp draws to get. That is to say, he sent around [2,000,000] on this item.

It needs to be mentioned that apart from the DP needed to spawn monsters, traps, treasure chests, repairing floors when damaged and basically includes every other necessary expense to keep the dungeon functioning.

Simon only spends DP on buying the Elixir of sacred sanctum every day and two-three gacha rolls. However, today he expended more than two million DP just on gacha draws. Even if Simon's DP income was increasing at a marginal rate, it was still an amount that any other demon viscount wouldn't think about splurging like that.

Forget about splurging, a demon viscount like Gelgar would need multiple months to even gather that amount. However, Simon had spent that amount in a few couples of minutes. If any low ranking demons heard that, they would go insane at the absurdity of things.

So why had Simon done that? It was because he was trying to get a good item as a present for Cecilia.

"It took me so much DP, you better be something" muttering that under his breath, Simon used Analysis on the necklace in his hand.

Item name- Necklace of Queen Silaska.

Rank- [B]

Description- Summon Queen Silaska and an army of Sea Sirens to fight for the user.

Duration- One hour

Cooldown- Ten days.

As Simon read the description, a frown hovered on his face. The necklace fell into the category of a protective item and summoned an army of Sea Sirens to fight for the user. Since it was a [B] tier item, Simon believed that the monsters summoned from this necklace won't be weak.

Although Simon would be lying if he said he didn't expect a high tier item to pop up, he nevertheless was happy with what he got. After all, a [B] tier item especially one that fell in the protection category was much more valuable than [2,000,000] DP.

Not to mention even amongst the protective items, the necklace was class above since it summoned units to protect the user. The necklace of Queen Silaska was the perfect gift for Cecilia when keeping in mind the danger the spirit tree spoke of.

As Simon hadn't seen the future, he couldn't tell what the danger was. Nonetheless, with this necklace in Cecilia's possession, he would be a little relieved. Now with the perfect gift in hand,

Simon stopped his gacha roll for the day and stored the rest of the items in his inventory. Days passed by quickly and soon the 4th day of the Dalia month arrived, the special day that everybody was waiting for.

"But granda Fennel looked like he was mad, why did he barred me from coming to the village?" Cecilia was lying on a bed in her room inside the white palace, brooding over what happened to Maya and Alice who were accompanying her.

During these few days, she wasn't allowed to move as she wished, go anywhere she wanted to go and was even scolded off by granda Fennel. The little girl had a belly full of frustration and felt wronged.

Alice and Maya who knew what was going on, tried to console her but it seemed like it had no effect, the little girl wasn't willing to listen to anything.

"Big sister too... for some reason she isn't hanging out with me anymore. Usually, she would be the first one to console me whenever elder Fennel scolded me. She would always pat my head and comb my hair like my mother. But she didn't do so this time... could it be I did something wrong?" Cecilia pondered while lying face first on the bed.

"That is not the Mistress is such a benevolent person who loves Cecilia very much. I am sure she must be busy with something" Maya commented and glanced at Alice to back her.

"Yeah, that right... that right. Princess Cecilia is thinking too much, even if you did something bad mistakenly, she would forgive you". "Unn~~ then what is it, why is everyone ignoring me? I feel like I'm in a house arrest" Cecilia protested throwing a fit on her bed.

Suddenly as if a thought struck her, Cecilia popped herself up and uttered a possibility for the unusual behaviour of those around her.

"Could it be because of the intruders? Have they managed to clear the new floors because of this everyone is trying to keep me here while they fight on the floors above".

Maya and Alice did not know how to respond to that, they were looking at the time every now and then. According to the plan, they had to keep Cecilia here for an hour more but it looked like that won't be possible anymore.

Probably because the little girl was bored out of her mind or vexed by the unusual behaviour of those around her, the little girl suddenly grew some sense.

"Oh that's right, I'm one of the Guardians like big sister Irene, I can just open the [Main Menu] and see what is going on around the floors. Let's see I think I can also teleport using one of the options around here. Big sister had taught... let's see was it [Dungeon] option".

Hearing that, Alice and Maya immediately panicked and tried to stop her from being compulsive but that only made Cecilia more doubtful of them. Just when it seemed like the little one would slip away from here and teleport to the forest spring village, Simon knocked on the door and came in.

"Big Brother" Immediately, Cecilia sprang up from her bed and rushed towards Simon and in his embrace.

"Big Brother!! You were here... sniff... sniff... everybody trying to shun me out, I felt so lonely. Elder Fennel scolded me and barred me from coming to the village, big sister does not spend as much time with me as she used any more and goes away on her own. The others are just trying to keep me here" Cecilia cried all her frustration out.

Simon who was the mastermind behind all of this, patted the little girl's head until she stopped crying.

"Nobody is trying to shun Cecilia, the others must have their own reasoning behind all of this," he said.

"But why would they scold me and stop me from going to the village anymore?" Cecilia asked, she behaved completely differently when around him and became as docile as a sheep.

"Isn't it because elder Fennel wants you to rest. You have been working tirelessly these past few days and when you got to the village, you try to work even more. I believe Elder Fennel has scolded you because he wants you to take a few days of rest. Have you heard of girls that don't grow taller if they don't take adequate rest?".

Simon tried to bluff his way out. His answer must have satisfied her but then she raised another question.

"Then where is big sister why isn't she hanging around with me? Usually she would take me along with her but these few days she has been acting distantly towards me".

"Eh?!.. um well, that... yes, Irene is busy due to a certain task that I have assigned her" He tried to lie through his teeth once again though this time it didn't manage to fool Cecilia.

"Really what task was it? Does it have to be big sister the one to do it?" she asked narrowing her eyes.

"That... It's a task only she can do. That's right, I sent her to the 24th floor to check on the newly mutated Blue Mega Sharks we spawned there for an experiment. Since it is very fast on water, Irene could quickly catch it using her ice magic that is why I sent her".

A droplet of sweat trickled down Simon's face. He had to churn his brain cells to come up with lies on the spur of the moment.

"Hmm... but [Main Menu] shows me that big sister is in the forest spirit village".

Busted... the lies that he had been spurning got caught this time. He had underestimated his sister, she had finally learned how to use the [Main Menu]. How should he respond to this?

When he looked at Maya and Alice for help, they hurriedly looked away. They had left him for sacrifice at this crucial time.

Simon churned his brain cells and the best he could come up with was to change the topic.

"You said that you were quite bored and felt restrictive inside the palace right? Good, then why don't you take a walk with me?".

If you cannot defeat the opponent in their game, just change the game itself. There was only a little more than half an hour remaining till the party, a walk would easily cover that up.

Cecilia was suspicious; nevertheless, she nodded at his suggestion and the two of them roamed the [Main Floor]. They talked about their daily life, what they have been up to these few days and if they had any problems they have been bottling up these past few days.

Even though Simon said they talked, it was mostly Cecilia doing the talking while he just heard and provided solutions every now and then. The reason why Simon brought this topic up with Cecilia was because this little sister of his was covering her anguish under that smile of hers.

Even though today was her birthday, she was still unwilling to tell anyone or bring it up. From this one could tell that she was still not over the psychological trauma that have been plaguing her.

Chapter 519 519- Birthday Celebration

Cecilia would turn nine today, a girl of her age should be carefree and smile from the bottom of their heart. Circumstances had forced her to become mature far too soon which ended up hurting her in the process.

Simon was genuinely worried about her, if she tried to keep her worries to herself and bottle it up every single day, it would lead to serious psychological issues one day. That is why Simon wanted her to speak her mind out while he just listened to her.

"Is there really nothing bothering you?" He asked in a roundabout manner.

"What is brother saying? I just told you, it's the behaviour of the others that have been badging me" Cecilia answered waltzing a few steps ahead of him.

"I meant other than that.. if there are any worries you can tell me or Irene you know" Simon did not want to be too pushy, that is why he faintly hinted at it.

"T-there is nothing. Haha, big brother is such a worrywart" Cecilia's gaze faltered for a moment and she looked away.

"Is that so... it's good if there is nothing" Simon did not continue probing anymore. He knew that she wasn't ready to open her heart yet.

"Have you been planting new trees and plants in the garden?".

Simon changed the topic. After they started walking west from the palace, they had arrived near the garden. The garden was beautiful and well maintained, it spanned for more than five kilometres and was a relaxing place to stroll in.

The gentle breeze, the winds carrying the aroma of the newly budding flowers and the sight that could calm one's heart.

"Right... I tried to create some of the plants and trees that mom and dad once told me about in stories. According to them, in ancient times the ancestors of our tribe of Forest spring spirits created many powerful trees and plants to serve the primordial demon of pride. Amongst them is a mythical creature that grows out of a tree and is called the caretaker of the forest" Cecilia pointed at a grove of trees that had a very weird structure.

"Hohh..." Simon uttered in admiration, he could tell that the trees were unique just by their appearance but he couldn't have guessed that they were a kind of mythical tree that sprouted into some creature.

"Although I have diverted a portion of the mystical veins and pulled the essence of nature near their soil as per the memories inside me, I'm still not sure when they are going to sprout. It would be wonderful to have someone to take care of the garden all the time".

Cecilia turned towards Simon and boasted, wanting to be praised by him. Simon and Cecilia strolled around the garden for a while and before long he received a message from Irene that everything was done. The preparation was over, now everybody was waiting for the star of the event, Cecilia to arrive.

"Alright, this should be enough walk for today. You told me that you wanted to go to your village right? Let's go then" Simon said halting his steps.

"But grandpa fennel had told me not to come to the village. If I go there I will get a scolding" Cecilia clutched the hem of her skirt and said dejectedly.

"You don't have to worry, I'll be going with you since I have some work there. Also didn't I say that elder Fennel is only concerned about you, he won't be mad" Simon reassured.

The two of them teleported a little distance away from the village.

"Hm? Big brother, why didn't you teleport us inside the village instead of here?" Cecilia asked. They were in the bamboo forest that was on the north side of their village.

"I don't have a reason particularly, I just wanted to take a walk around the woods and have a relaxing time watching the bamboo".

'Strange, even big brother is behaving weirdly' Cecilia muttered under her breath as she silently followed behind Simon.

As they neared the north gate, Cecilia furrowed her brows seeing that there were no villagers walking around the town nor were there any sounds of activities coming from inside. It was as if the entire village was deserted.

"Where is everyone? Uncle Irid, Aunt Dhapny.. where are all of you?" Cecilia ran ahead and checked each and every house. Seeing that they were all empty, the colour from her face started to recede and her heart started beating anxiously.

She ran around the village calling each and every one's name; nevertheless, not a single soul responded to her calls.

"Where is everyone, please come out" Cecilia shouted at the top of her lungs.

"That's weird... did anything happen?" Simon who was following her spoke out.

"Big brother... everybody is gone. They have all left me" tiny tears started appearing at the edges of the little girl making Simon a little guilty.

'I guess that should be enough' he thought internally and suggested to Cecilia that they go searching at the village square. As they arrived at the village square, one could notice that it was decorated beautifully with balloons, lamps, zig-zag streamers and other beautiful decor.

Tables and chairs were lined up around the corners and beautiful phosphorescent crystals lighted up the place. However, the place was empty.

"Where is everyone?" Cecilia dropped her shoulders and spoke in a low tone.

"Cecilia why don't you go and wait there. I'll go and see where everyone is" Simon pointed at a particular chair that was at the centre of other chairs and decorated very prettily.

Probably because she was in a very low spirit, Cecilia did not have the energy to say anything else and simply followed what her big brother had told her. She sat on the seat for a couple of minutes while keeping her down, when all of a sudden...

"SURPRISE!!!" the resounding voices of many people sounded at once. Surprised, Cecilia hurriedly propped her head up only to see her clansmen coming out of one side of the village.

"Everyone.." Seeing her clansmen and the people that she missed, Cecilia's happiness had no bounds.

"Big sister, big brother, Maya, Alice... Aunt Daphne, Grandpa Fennel.. all of you... where did you go?" She asked with a tear-stained face.

Seeing her like that, Daphne hugged her immediately and whispered a few words "Happy birthday Cecilia".

With that, everybody repeated it loudly— "Happy birthday Cecilia!!".

Hearing that, Cecilia's eyes went wide with surprise and a few seconds after, it was as if a dam had burst open, tears continued to flow down her cheeks.

"Cecilia, did you really think these old bones would forget about your birthday?" Fennel came forward and spoke on behalf of everybody. He patted Cecilia's head and personally wished her happy birthday.

After that, one by one everybody wished her happy birthday and finally, after getting teased by many people, the little girl stopped crying.

"Cecilia why don't you go and sit in your seat," Simon asked. They had prepared a big buffet for everybody to celebrate her birthday today. Cakes, foods, drinks.. various kinds of dishes were brought out made specifically for this day.

"But big brother..." Cecilia looked like she had something to say. However, because of everybody pulling her towards the seat of honour she couldn't get the opportunity to speak out.

Seeing Cecilia surrounded by people, Simon smiled and walked beside Irene who was yet to speak a word.

"You haven't wished her birthday yet did you?" he asked.

"You haven't either" Irene replied in an indifferent voice.

"Well... in my case I want her to realise what wrong she committed. I'll do wish but only when she comes out clean" Simon replied glancing at a present box in his hand.

"Is that her gift?" Irene's eyes went towards the present in his hand.

While they were having such a conversation, the party had already started. A huge cake whose recipe and design Simon had provided, made its appearance. It was made by the combined efforts of the Valkyries, Irene and Cecilia's aunt's help.

This would be the first time that the forest spring spirits were celebrating a birthday in this fashion. Usually, they only had a homemade sweet made out of the products of the nature or meat from the monster as celebration.

However, this year thanks to Simon guiding them along the way and providing them wisdom from his previous world, the birthday celebration seemed to have been a great success amongst the forest spring spirits.

"I-I have to blow on the candles?" Cecilia asked Simon who had joined the celebration.

"Don't forget to cut the cake after that" Simon reminded. After the cake was cut, a few forest spring spirits started dividing it into shares and distributing it to everyone.

"How is it?" Irene asked staring straight at Simon.

"Hmm" Simon took a big bite and relished the taste of the cake. Probably because it was their first time making a cake, the cake did not have the quality that he had in his mind. Nevertheless it was still tasty.

When Simon said that, for some reason, Irene's eyes seemed to have become colder, she gave a light snort and walked away.

'Strange' Simon muttered to himself, he had just complimented the cake, it was tasty; however, why is that she only heard the former half of his sentence, forgetting about the compliment he gave to the cake altogether.

Simon laughed helplessly before concentrating on his cake. After a while, when everybody was busy dancing, eating or enjoying the party, Cecilia was finally free to sit next to Simon.

"Big brother..." Cecilia's gaze was elusive, she couldn't look straight at Simon when talking to him.

"What is it?" Simon asked.

Chapter 520 520- Moringa Bolceae

"You haven't... I-I'm sorry for trying to hide it from you all. I thought that since mother and father are no longer there, it would be better if I do not celebrate my birthday. I didn't want to bother big brother who was already so busy... with something like a birthday... I.. I..." Cecilia apologised realising her mistakes.

'Finally willing to let our worries out huh' Simon calmly listened to her rant on.

"Who said that you can't celebrate your birthday just because your parents are not there? Isn't your big brother right here? You know I was a little angry when I heard that your birthday was coming from Fennel and not from you".

"The little sister who I thought had finally opened up to me was still keeping secrets from me. That is why I prepared a grand surprise for you. A birthday that you will always remember".

Simon patted Cecilia's head. The little girl was still a little downtrodden, probably because she was remembering her mother and father.

Seeing that, he continued "Cecilia, one has to confront many troubles as long as one is alive. They are endless but it doesn't mean that one has to get depressed over them again and again. You are strong... far stronger than any girl of your age that I have seen. Even after all that, you standing firm and looking after your clan. But you know Cecilia, you can cry. If something is hurting you, you can tell us. Don't bottle up your emotions... aren't we your family now?".

Finally, tears started rolling down Cecilia's cheeks as she repeatedly nodded her head "Un... Un".

After the little girl was one crying, Simon took out her present from his space ring and gifted her.

"Happy Birthday Cecilia!!". The words that she wanted to hear came from her big brother, came out at this moment.

Cecilia took the present and hugged it deeply to her chest.

"It's an item called Necklace of Silaska that will summon forth an army of Sea Sirens to protect you. so remember to always wear it on you.. alright?".

Cecilia nodded her head and then pulled his clothes "Big brother, big sister is avoiding me" she murmured in a low tone.

Simon glanced in a particular direction before smiling bitterly—"Your Big sister is not avoiding you. Hmm... why don't you go and talk with her. She was the one who was the most involved and excited for your birthday but she will never show it on her face. I am sure that you keeping your birthday a secret from her has hurt her. So go and talk with her".

Simon's prompt gave the little girl the courage to confront Irene. Watching them talk in the distance, Simon sighed. He felt a little hypocritical saying all that to her when he himself most of the time bottled up the emotions and worries he was feeling within himself.

However, in his case, the reason why he does something like that is because he doesn't want those dear to him to worry over anything. It wasn't like somebody had asked him to do so, shouldering all the storms by himself was something that he himself had chosen.

Trying to present a fake front of everyone, Simon did not know if it was good or bad. However, he knew that if he wanted to protect the things he had, he has to keep on enduring and become stronger.

From his seat, he saw the two of them finally patch up as Irene bent down to hug the little girl. It looked like Irene had also prepared a present for her, although he couldn't see what it was from here, given that it was from her, it was bound to be precious.

Smiling to himself, Simon enjoyed the party and had to order the valkyries to enjoy themselves too. A large bonfire was created at the centre around which people dance and sang. The young forest spring spirit couples used this opportunity to seek out their other half for a dance, everywhere you looked, it was a festive mood.

As Simon sat on his chair drinking the wine that was brewed by the forest spring spirits, Irene approached him at some unknown point and sat at the seat next to him.

"Why don't you go and join them? You are their lord, after all, I'm sure they would be quite delighted to have you" Irene said covering her mouth.

'It's rare for her to initiate a conversation?' Simon glanced deeply at Irene when he heard that. He gulped down the wine in his glass in one mouthful and said:

"With a few exceptions, all those who are dancing there, are couples. If you care to join me for a dance then by all means we can go there".

Simon smirked, traces of teasing evident in his eyes. Probably because he was slightly intoxicated, or just too relaxed at this moment, his present conduct was much ore like a rogue than his susual self.

Seeing that carefree style of talking, Irene was stunned for a moment. This was a side of him that she had never seen before. Nonetheless, she was irked by that smirk hanging at the corner of Simon's face and curled her lips.

"Why don't you take those maids of yours or Cecilia? Look at how intensely she is watching the dance, I'm sure that she wants to dance too".

Hearing those words, Simon blinked his eyes a couple of times. If he wasn't mistaken, her words had traces of jealousy. Was this block of ice who rarely showed any emotions, jealous of the valkyries who were always hanging around him?

"Are you perhaps jealous?".

When he asked that, it caused an intense reaction from Irene, it was as if he had stepped on cat's tail.

"What?! Where did that come from?" Irene asked, she herself didn't know why she was so fazed by that comment.

Her behaviour told Simon that he had scored one over her. He smiled, took out another gift from his space ring and presented it to her.

"What is this?" Irene asked looking at the gift in Simon's hand.

"It's a gift" he answered.

"Then shouldn't you give it to the birthday girl" Irene furrowed her brows in consternation, the ripple in her heart from Simon's earlier words was yet to settle down when—

"I am" Simon was quick in his reply, he reached out grabbed her hand and place the gift on her palm.

"This is a present for you... Although it has already gone by, who said that we cannot celebrate it?".

"I cannot accept this... besides my birthday had gone by four months ago" Irene seemed hesitant to accept it.

"That blood crystal that you gave me, helped me a lot during my journey. Even though your birthday had gone by a long time ago, think of this gift as my repayment for all that help you have given me up until now" Simon did not wait for Irene to speak again, he shifted his hands behind him unwilling to take it back.

After that, he flashed his trademark wicked smile and walked towards the centre of the village square mixing with the crowd there. Looking at that back, Irene's crystal blue eyes suddenly had some incomprehensible emotions covering them.

"Why does it have to be like this every time..." Nobody knew what she was talking about.

After he went to the village square, he looked at Cecilia seating on her seat of honour and staring excitedly at the people dancing around the bonfire.

"Ahem... Do you like that dance?" Simon asked, his voice seemed to have snapped Cecilia out of her daze.

"Ah... Yes, it is the traditional dance of our forest spring spirit tribe called the Moringa Bolceae. My father used to always accompany me for a dance whenever we made a bonfire like that" Cecilia explained.

'So it was a dance that she used to do with her father, no wonder she looked so yearningly at it. It reminded her of her father' Simon thought internally and extended his hand.

"In that case, my little sister would you care for a dance?".

"Eh?" Cecilia was surprised when she saw Simon ask her for her dance. Her eyes instantly shined like the brightest jewel and she immediately nodded her head.

"Since I do not know the steps of this dance you will have to teach me" Simon stated and using the trinket of Grimlock, he transformed into his human version. As Simon was naturally very tall, if he didn't do this he wouldn't be able to dance with Cecilia.

"Don't worry big brother, it's very simple. You take a step like this, position your around me like this and..." Cecilia started giving instructions to Simon and after a while they were doing the Moringa Bolceae, the traditional dance of Forest Spring Spirits albeit with some errors.

Seeing Cecilia laugh and be merry, Simon felt like his objective was achieved. After they finished their dance, the people of the forest spring village clapped for them.

"Big brother did you like our dance?" Cecilia asked.

"Of course" Simon nodded.

"Then wait here, don't go anywhere" saying that, Cecilia disappeared among the crowd and after a while dragged Irene with her.

"W-Wait what are you doing Cecilia?" Irene asked after she was dragged here against her will.

"Hehe, this is a good opportunity. Why doesn't Big brother dance with big sister?" With a mischievous smile flashing on her face, Cecilia pushed Irene towards Simon.

"B-But I don't know how to dance?" Irene protested.

"Don't worry, big brother will teach you. Hehe, didn't you say before that you will fulfil one wish of mine no matter what it is?" Cecilia didn't give up making Irene finally relent to her wishes.

"Sigh... I'm kind of regretting saying that" Irene muttered in a weak voice.