

## D. of Pride 621

Chapter 621 621- The Queen Of Harpies

The nightmarish training continued every day. The only time Simon got breaks was when his tasks as the dungeon master caught up with him or during the time he spent diving inside the serenity pond.

Even the mind numbing pain of the serenity pond became something of a delightful escape for him. One could imagine what sort of hellish training regime Irene had prepared for him.

It was not only Simon that was training wholeheartedly, all of his subordinates were affected by this atmosphere and devoted themselves to get stronger. Whether it be the Valkyries or even the unsuitable for combat [Helpers], they all came to Irene for guidance and polished the skills and gifts they received from the dungeon.

They trained diligently not for themselves but for the sake of one person, Simon.

Days passed by with the dungeon transforming every day. New floors, new rewards popped up attracting more and more adventurers even from the distant kingdoms. With the rise of the fame of the dungeon the tower town along with the neighbouring cities flourished.

Ten months later...

Deep inside the western region of the Gashly Winding Forest, a group could be seen fighting a horde of Harpies that came swarming at them from all directions.

Harpies were one of the top predators of the Gashly Winding Forest, having a body that was half-human, half-bird. They had razor sharp talons and feathers that could even pierce an armour made of BlackGold like it was butter.

With a flap of their wings, they generated intense gales and were called the rulers of the sky. They were also known as the personification of the storm winds and although they had beautiful bodies, their face was like an evil, malign ghost.

Fighting these hordes of harpies that could tear even an adventurer above level 500 with their talons and feathers, were none other than Simon and his party. He was currently accompanied by three of the five valkyries, Annette, Bianca, Emma, the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse and several Mk8 Andromedas.

Not only that, flying in the sky with their raven black body and breakneck speed, were the Revenant Crows edition 5. They were surveilling the area from high up in the skies and helping Simon clear the Harpies.

With the expansion of the [Workshop], it became possible for the Third Guardian to create more variations of the warmachines from the game [Rise of the Demolishers]. The Revenant Crows were just one of many warmachines that were currently being mass-produced in the [Workshop].

During this period the industrial floor that was the [Workshop] had seen a revolutionary growth. With Wisp unlocking more of its spirituality, the Null Elemental was starting to showcase some of its logic breaking powers.

The wonders could be seen on the floor it monitored. Factories producing war machines 24X7 lined up the floor with more and more popping up every week and the Revenant crows were just one of the many wonders that came out of the [Workshop].

Revenant Crows, a high-tech drone equipped with wide area destructive weapons, powerful sensors and stealth. In the game, they were a powerful force that often backed the [Gigantomachia]. T

he current Edition 5 although not as powerful as Edition 1, was still quite a help. Not only can they fire powerful wide area ammunitions, they can also spy on enemies.

Learning his lessons from the orc invasion, Simon had deployed quite a number of them around his dungeon and even across the ghastly winding forest. Everything that the drones saw, was transmitted back to Wisp who then compiled and summarised the information back to him.

Now that the Revenant Crows were surveilling the area around his dungeon, Simon was now quite at ease. He would immediately be alerted if any enemy or a group trying to harm his dungeon approached ten kilometres area around his dungeon.

"Master, all the harpies that were sent as a part advanced scout unit have been eliminated" Annette reported finishing clearing the harpies from the skies.

Simon nodded his head, activated his skill mental map and ordered. "Let's proceed forward, the nest of their queen shouldn't be very far from here".

As was obvious from his words, Simon and his party were currently inside the Harpy's territory and have already fought with several hordes of Harpies.

This begets the question, why were they fighting with the harpies? The reason for that was simple, a few months ago Wisp appeared on the [Training Floor] to report something to Simon.

Even though it was super busy remodelling the floor and mass producing all those war machines, it still took the time out from its busy schedule to appear personally. One could clearly tell that something was wrong and it was indeed as such.

According to the reports that Wisp gave him, one of the races living inside the western region of the ghastly winding forest, the Diluvian High orcs were completely wiped out by the Black Ogre clan.

All the Andromedas mk11 that were mining the territory at that time, were destroyed. Not only that, but from the partially destroyed Andromedas who were still somehow able to send a transmission back, it was able to learn that the clan of black ogres were acting peculiarly.

Their high ranking members like the crimson horns repeatedly travelled to the territories of the other clans residing within the western region. And slowly, a large mob comprising of different races of monsters, was starting to gather inside the black ogre's territory.

What's more, their objective was none other than the dungeon in the eastern region of the forest.

Simon who heard Wisp's report immediately deployed the Revenant Crows towards the western region of the ghastly winding forest to spy on them. And after a few months, he was able to learn more about this movement of the several clans residing inside the western region of the forest.

It appeared that some kind of alliance was being formed to topple the still budding threat of the east which was him.

The leader of this alliance was the Black Ogre clan who he had already antagonised by interfering in their war with the Diluvian orc race. At that time, Simon aided Berigard and his faction to wipe away the army of black ogres after they were betrayed by the orc king.

Since he failed to completely wipe out the remnants of the ogre army, he knew that a day like this would come when the black ogres would attack him. He didn't think that a clan that was led by one of the seven kings of the west, was going to let this humiliation lying down.

The counter of the black ogre race was something that was bound to come, Simon had already expected it. Though what baffled him was them trying to gather allies to besiege his dungeon.

The king of the black ogres who he had spied on with the Revenant Crows, was a powerful ruler commanding great respect and authority from his subordinates. And from the way, he handled the situation slowly gathering allies, and formulating plans, the crimson haired ogre seemed quite intelligent too.

He wasn't someone that Simon could take on lightly. Hence from then on, he kept a close watch on the movement of the black ogres, especially the red haired one who had a single purple horn on his forehead.

He wasn't very bothered by the movements made by the other clans since he knew he would be able to handle them. However, that was up until a few days ago when another clan joined the alliance.

Had it not been for this clan, Simon wouldn't be here right now, hunting the Harpies. That's right, the other clan that joined the alliance of the black ogre was none other than the Harpies, one of the seven king clans of this forest.

Just like Aldebaran and the king of the ogres, the queen of the Harpies was also one of the seven kings.

It was one thing if it was just the king of the black ogres, Simon believed he would somehow be able to handle him. However, the matter completely changed once the queen of the harpies also got involved.

Not to mention the individual strength of two of the seven kings, just their combined forces were a huge threat to his dungeon.

From the Revenant Crows stationed near the territory of the black ogres, he saw the messenger of the Harpies arrive a few days ago and spied on their subsequent talks.

It seemed like the king of the ogres was somehow trying to pull the clan of Harpies to his side by bribing them something. Although he wasn't able to spy in detail about their plans and if their talk had gone successfully or not, what he knew was that he couldn't allow this alliance to form.

Because once this happens, their forces would increase to a size big enough to pose a threat to his dungeon.

"How are the movements of the other kings?" Simon asked after seeing the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse who had been sent to scout the areas of the other king clans, return back.

"Reporting to master, the other king clans seemed to be oddly quiet. It doesn't look like they have any plans to answer the call"...

"Hmm... that's good then" It wasn't only the harpies, the other king clans were also invited by the kind of black ogres to join the Alliance.

Had all the king clans joined their forces against him, the level of threat they would represent would be unprecedented. Fortunately for him, the seven kings weren't a unified group.

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The seven kings each had their own agendas and territory they ruled. Of course, since their power was so great, they kept each other in check. No one was willing to fight the other and abdicate their throne.

Because of this, a unique equilibrium has formed among the seven kings. But that was before the alliance, the balance was thrown out of the window with the king of the black ogres and the queen of harpies making contact.

"Master, it looks like we are being surrounded once again. The queen must be planning to exhaust us by besieging us with their numbers" Annette reported landing beside him.

Simon nodded his head, he could already see the hordes of monsters encircling them from the Revenant crows who were acting as his eyes. As this place was the territory of the harpies, they had the territorial advantage.

Not to mention being one of the king clans, they have many subsidiary clans under them. Trying to cut through their sheer numbers while trying to reach their queen who was probably sitting at the centre of their territory, would be quite tough.

If they tried, they might be able to reach her; however, doing so would not only leave them exhausted, but it would also reveal their cards to their enemies.

Right now, the advantage they had over their enemies, was that they are unaware of their exact strength. The queen of the harpies sending hordes of her subordinates towards him, was also to measure his strength. There was no way Simon was going to feed that information to her.

As such, their only option right now was to... "Clear our path behind, we will retreat for now. Once their numbers spread thin, we will mount the pressure again" Simon ordered.

The Andromedas and the Valkyries immediately started clearing the monsters that were trying to encircle them from behind. Once they were out of the encirclement, they discreetly entered the Ancient Treants territory.

The ruler of the Ancient Treants was an ally of Simon and after he passed the first trial of Aldebaran, he had been declared the friend of the ancient treants and given free reign to enter and exit their territory as he wished.

As such, when the Ancient Treants saw who the invader was, they did not make things difficult for him. And taking leverage of their ample presence, Simon and his party was easily able to hide from their pursuers.

Although the Ancient Treants led a slow ascetic life, they were nonetheless a dominant race and if placed in the food chain of the western region of the ghastly winding forest, they would rank at the very top.

There weren't many races that could shake their position. Because of this, the other king clans usually avoided the ancient treants territory.

Additionally, situated in an advantageous location, there couldn't be any place for Simon and his party to avoid the eyes of one of the seven kings. The territory of the Ancien Treants was located in the middle of the western region which connected with the territories of all the other clans.

That is to say, he who could enter and exit the ancient treants territory as he wished, can traverse to the territory of the other seven kings without much trouble.

Can there be any more advantageous position than this? Of course, as a form of courtesy for letting him do as he wants, Simon did not forget to visit the Ancient Titan Treant to thank the latter for his assistance during the incident with Valdris. And also to ask him what he thought about this whole alliance situation.

Aldebaran simply laughed at his concern and told him not to worry about it too much. The ogre king's alliance was nothing but a joke. many of the seven kings did not have a good relationship with the Ogre king as such. Hence it was foolish of him if he thought that he can pull the other seven kings into his banner.

"Oh?! The Queen of the Harpies accepted the invitation? Hmm, it is difficult to predict what that woman is thinking. Melinda was always a frivolous and calculating woman. I'm sure she has her own motive behind joining the alliance or is scheming something" Aldebaran murmured.

Hearing his musings, Simon couldn't help but recall the information he gathered from the Revenant Crows.

"Could the King of the Black Ogres have something that the Queen of the Harpies desired?"

"Something that Gil-Garna possessed? Could it be the Six Nether's Flower? Hmm.. if there is anything that could entice that woman to move at this point, it would definitely be that flower. But that's odd, I felt the pulse of that flower going out a few months ago which other means the flower was absorbed or destroyed. so how is he planning to... interesting..."

Aldebaran who was muttering some stuff suddenly came to a realisation and made an amused face. His eyes then moved towards the demon as he made a crafty smile.

"If it's as you said, then listen carefully. This piece of information will definitely help you to break their alliance"

Simon locked his brows and carefully listened to Aldebaran's words. After a while, his frown loosened and a similar crafty smile crept to his face.

"This is really an excellent piece of news. I thank Alder for the information" Simon thanked Aldebaran and passed him a space ring.

"This is?"

"I heard from Elder Fennel that Alder likes booze. The space ring is filled with various kinds of alcoholic drinks from my dungeon... a small gesture of thanks on my part" Simon replied.

Aldebaran did not reject the gift and manner of factly opened it and started drinking. Seeing him already getting busy while muttering 'A nice gift', Simon turned around to leave.

He didn't know that this old treant was very fond of drinks. Fennel's advice to bring some booze for the Ancient Titan Treant when setting out on his journey proved to be quite helpful.

Simon was just about to leave the area when an old ancient voice rang beside him.

"If you are going after Melinda first, let me give you a piece of advice. Never let your back down around her. She is a very scheming person, so stay on your guard until you seal the contract. Also, avoid looking at her eyes at all costs".

"She might be the weakest of the seven kings when it comes to pure combat. All of her strength lay in her eyes. You might have already guessed what I'm trying to hint at yes? She is an Evil Eyes user and is well versed in ocular powers and seducing her prey to do her bidding"

"Stay careful. That is all from me, I wish you all the best" Aldebaran gave him a few piece of advice before he left. Looking at his departing figure, the old treant gave a satisfied smile.

"He is a Demon Earl already. Haha, he is growing at an unprecedented rate. Not to mention he has already gathered some powerful subordinates by his side. I can finally see why he was chosen, I believe it wouldn't be long before he steps into the Demon Duke rank. At that time, it would finally be the time to open that realm".



Aldebaran's eyes which were on the demon, shifted towards his original body standing at the centre of the territory. Although the tree looked majestic and grand, like a pillar connecting the heaven and earth at first glance, it was in fact slowly withering away.

There were no leaves on its branches and a part of its trunk was cracked.

"Lord Samael, Master... I now know how you guys felt at that time. Just like you have done for me, I shall do the same and support this young shoot who is yet to grow. Let me carve his path ahead so that he can inherit everything. This is the least I can do before my life comes to an end".

Haha... Aldebaran laughed as he drank the bottle of liquors that Simon gave him.

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"Master you are back"

Once Simon was back the Valkyries immediately surrounded him and started observing his body for any scratch or wounds.

"I told you, the Ancient Titan Treant is an ally. He will not try to harm me".

It was because of this very reason that Simon had to order his subordinates to stay here while he visited Aldebaran alone. The Valkyries who had seen him go through the trial set by Aldebaran from that unique realm, were showing faint hostility towards the latter.

Even when he tried to tell them that he was an ally, they weren't convinced. Thus he had no choice but to make this trip alone.

"If you say so"

Annette breathed a sigh of relief after seeing there was not a single scratch on his body. Knowing that the Valkyries were concerned on his behalf, Simon could only smile helplessly and change the subject.

He relayed the information he got from Aldebaran and prepared plans on how to better deal with the queen of harpies.

"So we have to make sure that we don't look at her eyes?"...

"That's right, according to Aldebaran she is able to manipulate her prey. It would make things unnecessarily difficult if one of us were to fall prey to her eyes and gets controlled. So let's avoid that"

"Other than that, it is also unknown what other kind of Evil Eyes she has. Make sure you guys use your skill to read the enemy's movements instead of looking at them" Simon cautioned.

Having information on your enemy even before they clashed, put them at an advantage. Simon did not want to lose that edge over a mistake.

That being said, the value of such information couldn't even be measured.

Chapter 623 623- The Queen Of Harpies (3)

Even though Aldebaran could have provided him with no information about the enemy, as this was a trial for Simon and something that he needed to do with his own strength, they still chose to do so.

From this one could tell how much Aldebaran favoured him. Although they did not say that themselves, providing information on the enemy could only mean that they wanted him to succeed.

And frankly, Simon had no complaints with the trial since it was continuously pushing him and helping him to grow stronger.

Because of the promise he made with Aldebrana and the forest spring spirits, he felt the need and urgency to get stronger every day.

Subjugating the Seven Kings of the west, once he completed the trail, Simon wondered how stronger he would become by then.

"By the way, why is that treat all messed up and bruised?" Simon pointed.

Not far away from their resting spot, was an ash black ancient treant with its branches broken and trunk cracked, making a sorry sight. For some reason, Simon felt a familiar aura from that treant.

"Hmph, Master does not need to worry about that old tree. He got what he deserved" the Valkyries replied fuming at the treant.

Simon sighed, he did not know what happened while he was gone; however, they were on foreign territory, it wasn't a good idea to beat someone else's subordinate.

"Are you alright?" Simon approached the ancient treant and asked.

"Yeah... don't worry about it" The ancient treant replied sluggishly. Although the injuries on its body were heavy, it was slowly recovering from them using its [Root] skill and absorbing the mana from the mystical veins underneath the ground.

"Your voice seems familiar, have we met before?"

From Simon's point of view, all the ancient treants looked the same. Maybe it was possible to differentiate them a little with their colour; however, one needed a discerning eye for that.

"I'm Balsa, a loyal servant of the king of the ancient treants. You met me some time ago when you visited the Ancient Treants territory with a forest spring spirit girl".

Simon made a knowing nod after the ancient treant introduced itself. He finally understood why he felt a familiar aura from this treant and why the Valkyries beat the crap out of him.

It turns out that the Ancient Treant was the exact same one that fought against him and blocked his path when he visited the Ancient Treant's territory for the first time. No wonder the Valkyries flipped out at him after all this guy used his high level at that time to suppress Simon.

It appeared that the Valkyries didn't forget about any of the grievances that their master had suffered in the past.

Now that Simon knew who this guy was, Simon gave a bitter laugh and helped the treant. at that time, it couldn't be said that either of the party was wrong. Balsa was just doing his duty, hence Simon did not have any negative feelings towards him.

"I'm amazed!!"

"Hm?"

The Ancient Treant suddenly started talking about the past.

"I'm amazed that you became so strong so fast. It has only been a few years since the last time you visited this place. At that time, it took all you had just to stay on your feet under the pressure of my aura. However, now your strength and increased to a level where even I feel a faint pressure from you"

"Well yeah, a lot of things happened since then" To Simon, this level of growth felt normal considering the things he had to go through. However, to a third person, his growth was nothing short of extraordinary.

Even if one searched the entirety of Althaea, one wouldn't be able to find a single being capable of growing at a blindingly fast rate like Simon. After all, there are several factors to levelling and numerous barriers and bottlenecks in the way.

It shouldn't be possible for anyone to level at such an insane rate. Considering that, Simon was truly an exception among the exception.

Of course, this astonishing growth was only possible because of the numerous circumstances he had to face. But the large part of it was due to the effects of the First Fragment of Pride.

If not for it, even with Simon's superhuman perseverance and endurance, he would still be struggling to achieve the level he had now. That being said, the fragment of pride was a part of him, so it can be said that it is through his own strength that he achieved his current level.

Simon exchanged some small talks with Balsa, it turns out that this guy was quite good once you get to know him.

After a while, Simon returned back to his subordinates and got ready to move. He got a report from the Revenant Crows acting as his eyes inside the territory of the harpies that their forces have moved their search to a different side.

No was the time for them to rush towards the centre of their territory.

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On top of a tall mountain piercing through the clouds, sitting on her throne loftily, was a woman of seductive beauty. She had a pair of black wings decorated with beautiful black feathers, light purple hair, soft white skin and talons for legs.

Much of her skin was exposed displaying her alluring curves while the rest was covered by an armour that gave off a light green shine.

The woman was a Harpy; however, unlike her race which had a malevolent face, she was born with a beauty that could only be described as extremely alluring. Coupled with her desirable body, she radiated a wild sexiness whose every move and gesture carried unimaginable temptation.

The woman had her eyes closed as she lazed on her throne. Her shapely hand was casually playing with a necklace that she snatched from one of her prey. Below the throne stood numerous harpies respectfully bowing their heads.

Who could the woman commanding respect and awe from all of the harpies around her be then the Queen of the Harpies?

Melinda who had her eyes shut, suddenly arched her brows. Her body moved and she instantly appeared at the edge of the mountain gazing down at the land below.

Even though her eyes were closed, it seemed like her gaze could penetrate through the clouds and look below without any problem.

Her movements naturally caught the attention of her subordinates.

"My Queen, is there something wrong?"

A few high levelled harpies asked. They were her personal guards and different from the disposables scurrying below.

"I felt like something was spying on me"...

"That cannot be, only a few races in the entire ghastly winding forest is capable of flying at this altitude. I didn't sense any of them entering our territory" the guards spoke looking all around the sky.

"Hmm... that's weird my [Evil Eye of Clairvoyance] clearly felt something. Tell me did we find those intruders yet?" Melinda mused before asking a question.

"My Queen, the search is still on. The intruders somehow disappeared from our sight but we are searching for them everywhere" the subordinate reported shaking his head.

"Is that so? Should I use my [Limitless Seeking Eye] to find them I wonder"...

"Please wait my Queen" While Melidna was musing whether to use her Evil Eyes or not, her personal guards hurriedly called out.

"My Queen, the Evil Eyes consume a lot of your mana. You have already exhausted yourself heavily by activating the [Eight Inner Eyes] for the Six Nether flower. Please refrain from using your evil eyes for now and conserve your mana. Leave finding those intruders to your subordinates, we vow that we will soon find out their location".

"Alright, I will leave it to you all and focus on my recovery"

Melinda decided. She was just about to return back to her throne when a deep and sarcastic voice sounded out from behind.

"Sorry for throwing a cold bucket on your parade, but I don't think you will be able to rest". Several figures pierced through the cloud and materialised on top of the mountain.

"[Ice Phoenix Sigh]... release"

The moments those words were spoken, their auras flooded out and their presence could finally be felt.

The group that appeared in a grand fashion was none other than Simon and his party.

"A Demon Noble?" the high levelled harpies alerted by the presence of the demon, took to the skies and flocked near their queen as if trying to shield her from any unexpected attacks.

"How did they arrive here? What are the guards below doing?"...

"Worry about that latter, protect the queen first"...

"There are only five of them, we can easily overwhelm them with our numbers"...

"That may not be true, our opponent is a demon noble. Where the hell did they come from, and why did they invade our territory?".

Seeing the harpies busily clamouring something, Simon gave a big smile and introduced himself.

"Ah, my bad for the late introductions. You see I'm a Demon Earl who lives nearby and these are my subordinates. I was just passing by and thought that I should give the queen of harpies my greetings".

The harpies looked dumbfounded, who in their right sense would invade someone's territory just to greet them? Be that may, they were not idiots. They could see that the demon had some scheme planned in his mind.

If it was some other time, they wouldn't have hesitated to start a fight with him to chase him out. However, the demon had caught them at a bad time.

Starting a fight right now when their queen is exhausted was a bad idea. Hence even though they were furious at his sarcastic remarks, they had no choice but to tolerate it for the time being.

"You have given your greetings, now scam".

## Chapter 624 624- Bringing An Army Along

"How can that be? After greetings isn't it proper that we have a discussion? Haa!... you have guests who came from far away wouldn't you even ask them for a glass of water" Simon shook his head and spoke in a manner that suggested he was exhausted from his travel.

Seeing him like that, Annette who was beside him couldn't help but cover her mouth and restrain her laugh. Simon was deliberately acting like a rascal to annoy them.

"Whistle~ I heard the Queen of Harpies was quite a stunner but seeing you all cover and shield her like that I guess the rumours were false. Haa... what a disappointment, truly you cannot trust the rumours".

"You!!!"

Hearing the demon's mannerless and vulgar way of speaking towards their queen, the high levelled harpies flew into a rage. However, before they could point their weapons at the demon, the queen of harpies herself stepped forward.

"You must be the demon of the east" Melinda stepped out of the encirclement of her subordinates and faced the demon.

"You heard about me?" Simon arched his brows and asked in interest.

"Of course, there isn't any being in this forest who hasn't heard about you, the demon who resides in the eastern region of the forest".

"Is that so..".

"May I ask to what do I owe the pleasure for the demon of the east greeting us in person?" Melinda smiled appearing extremely coquettish and provocative.

"I came to see you, I heard a lot about the queen of harpies and wanted to see you with my own eyes"



Seeing the harpy queen go silent, Simon teased "Why? Isn't this a good time?"

"Hm? Of course not. The demon of the east came to see me in person, I'm overjoyed. Why don't we go somewhere else and discuss in person... just the two of us"

Melinda said with a flushed face, her words were laced with double meaning and the way she moved her hands around her ample breasts, she was extremely thought provoking.

Simon who was cautious of her eyes was looking at her body. As a man, there was no way he wasn't affected; however, speaking of beauties he had quite a few around him. As such, this level of temptation wasn't enough to make him lose his mind over it.

"That's a good idea but I'm not interested in a sultry woman. Why don't we have a discussion here instead of somewhere else?"

Melinda's brows twitched, clearly affected by that remark. Nevertheless, her composure didn't break as she pointed at the demon and asked— "What is it that you want to discuss with me?"

"It's simple, a little informant told me that you have the intention to join the Ogre King's alliance?"

The moment Simon mentioned that, the faces of all the harpies including the queen changed drastically.

The fact that they accepted the invitation for an alliance from the ogre king should be an extremely secretive dealing. Even in their clan, only a few harpies which included her personal guards were aware of it, so how did the demon come to know of it?

What's more, this was an alliance to siege the demon's dungeon making the proceeding interaction awkward.

Melinda bit her thumb, while pondering in her head.

'Could it be that Gil-Garna betrayed me? No that can't be true, there is no benefit for him in it when he himself suggested this alliance. Then could it be there is a mole among my subordinates?'

Melinda turned to face her personal guards only to deny that possibility too. All her subordinates were loyal to their bones, there was no way they would betray her. Which mean that the information leaked from the Ogres side.

'Seriously, that fellow can't even control the mouth of his own subordinates allowing the information to leak to the enemy. Now that it has come to this I have no choice but to switch sides'.

Melinda was a cautious and calculating woman who saw her own benefit first. She wouldn't hesitate even for a second to abandon the boat if it ever showed signs of sinking.

"Haah, I don't know how you heard of that, but what do you want from me? If you want I can reject the alliance"

When Melinda said that, her subordinates looked like they had something to say. However, she shut their mouth with the gesture of her hand and continued—"So what will it be demon?".

Simon had a smile on his face enjoying the reaction of the harpies and their queen. He could guess their line of thinking but no matter how hard they thought, they would never be able to guess that the information did not leak from any side, instead it was something that was gathered by the Revenant Crows, a technology that wasn't from this world.

He guessed that the Queen of Harpies would think about changing sides after learning about her character from the Ancient Titan Treant; however, even he was taken by surprise from her quick decision.

'So her exhaustion is that severe huh?' there couldn't be any other explanation than this.

The Revenant crows were swarming in the territory of the harpies. Of course, Simon overheard the talks the harpies were having. The queen of the harpies was trying to avoid a confrontation with him in her severely exhausted state after activating the Evil Eyes.

Simon couldn't have come at a better time.

"Of course, the harpies not joining the alliance of the ogre king is a good thing. However, that is not why I'm here".

"Then why are you here?" Melinda had a bad premonition and it was further proven true when she saw the demon flashing a wicked smile.

"Didn't I tell you already, I came here for you".

"Presumptuous, know your place demon" The harpy subordinates were finally unable to endure it and unsheathed their weapons. Being high levelled harpies, of course they had their own armours and weapons.

"So mister Demon Noble should I assume that you are here for no good reason?" Melinda asked her voice cold, a formless pressure that could only come from someone in the Catastrophe class descended onto the place.

"Think whatever you want to think"

Simon replied unfazed. He and his party immediately got into a formation.

Hmph... Melinda snorted, now that it has come to this, a clash was unavoidable.

"My queen, please wait. Allow us to fight with them" her personal guards insisted.

Melinda looked at them and then at the demon and his subordinates before shaking her head.

"The enemy is not someone that you guys can handle alone".

"But... if you activate"...

"There is no other choice" Saying that, Melinda who had her eyes closed up until this moment, finally opened them.

Immediately, the sky turned dark and a weird chill settled onto the place. It was as if a dangerous beast who had been sleeping all this time, suddenly woke up.

The moment Melinda opened her eyes, the entire aura around her changed. The air of temptation that she naturally exuded, tripled or even quadrupled and her power level skyrocketed.

With the opening of her eyelids, her eyes finally came into view.

One could only describe her eyes with the expression weird. Even Simon did not have such strange eyes.

The reason for saying it strange was because she had four different pupils in each eye for a total of eight. It looked so mismatched and odd that one's very skin would tingle just by looking at it.

However, one would only have the luxury to have any opinion about those eyes once they survived them. All who that dared to directly gaze into Melinda's eyes faced demise without any exception. Hence only a few people knew how strange her eyes were.

"Make sure you never gaze at her eyes when you fight her" Simon heeded Aldebaran's words and shifted his gaze towards her shadow.

"Charge"

The harpies shouted. Now that their queen had opened their eyes, they needed to end this fight as soon as possible. A couple of harpies rushed towards the demon. However, a warhorse with a menacing look and flaming body blocked their path.

"Dammit, go around it" The other harpies tried to manoeuvre around the warhorse but soon found themselves getting tangled and caught in something.

"What's this I can't move" The harpies who suddenly found themselves unable to move, noticed an invisible web all around the mountaintop.

"What?!" before they could realise where the web came from, one of the subordinates of the demon came rushing at them swinging her big golden bastard sword at them.

BANG... the Harpies that were hit felt a bone crushing impact and were sent crashing into the mountaintop with just one swing.

"There are invisible web lines around them, attack from the distance".

The harpies immediately realised that the enemy had already laid traps around them and changed into long distance attack.

They were called the incarnation of wild winds for no reason, each of the harpies when they spread their wings wide and flapped them, they generated a berserk amount of razor sharp winds that destroyed the invisible web lines.

That was not all, the harpies that were sent crashing down by Bianca, rose back to their feet after using a skill called [Feather Heal].

"It's not going to be easy"

Simon already knew that. Even if their queen was severely exhausted, the harpies were still one of the king clans of the western region of the ghastly winding forest. They were adept in fighting in the sky and their developed wings and razor sharp talons were a mark of that.

Chapter 625 625- Bringing An Army Along (2)

Their enemy's forte was the sky battle whereas the Valkyries although still capable of fighting in the sky using the Mana Wings, they were nowhere as fast as when on the ground.

Because of this, even if the harpies were individually lower levelled them, a group of them are still somewhat able to hold back the Valkyries.

"Master those two..."

"Yeah, I know" Simon could already see without Annette pointing it out, the two strongest subordinates of the queen of harpies were yet to join the battle. Those two were standing in the backlines and commanding the Harpies.

From their aura, it was evident that they were more powerful than the others around them. If the harpies fighting in the sky were around disaster class..ie. around level 500, those two would be calamity class. Beings that broke through level 600.

"Let's take them out of their comfort zone. Revenant Crows attack" Seeing the harpies fight all coordinately in the sky, Simon smirked and ordered.

BOOOM... BOOM... Immediately after he gave his command, two powerful explosions rang out and the harpies who were caught in the attack, fell down from the sky, charred and black smoke coming out of their body.

"What?!" caught by the surprise attack of an unknown enemy, the two powerful harpies turned towards the direction where they sensed the earlier attack coming from.

However, when their eyes landed in that direction, to their surprise, they found no one there. Only the empty sky greeted them.

"How could that be?!" There was an invisible enemy that was even able to escape from their senses.

BOOM... BOOM... BOOM..

While the two powerful harpies were still in a state of shock, more and more attacks came from this invisible enemy from all directions. The harpies who took to the sky, all fell back in front of the might of those blasts.

Simon came prepared, he did not just invade the territory of one of the seven kings without a plan. He knew that the enemy would be a pain to deal with if they were allowed to fly. Thus to take them out of their comfort zone, he deployed quite a lot of Revenant Crows for this mission.

It was not just one or two raven black drones that surrounded the mountaintop, but more than a dozen of them. It must be stated that the Revenant Crows Edition 5, were still in its work-in-progress state. And even with the current capability of the [Workshop], it takes a couple of weeks just to built one.

As such, the thirteen Revenant Crows that were deployed here, made up for 80% of the total spy drones he had with him. The rest were deployed near his dungeon and in the Black Ogre's territory to monitor their actions.

From this, one could tell how serious Simon was to take down the queen of harpies.

"My Queen, there are invisible enemies all around us" The harpies stated with their heads down. Now that their queen had opened her eyes, even they did not dare to gaze at her.

"I know, they were the presence I felt a few moments ago. To think that there are things that can even avoid my detection skills... I will use my Limitless Seeking Evil Eye, make sure to destroy them promptly".

Melinda spoke, one of the pupils on her left eye that had a plus like mark glowed. immediately afterwards, a ripple spread through the space and travelled all around the mountain and the surrounding skies.

These powerful ripples detected the Revenant Crows and forced them out of their invisibility.

"What are these things? They look like some magical constructs. Could it be that they are a new type of golems?" The harpies wondered. Golems were not a rare sight to see in this world. As such the harpies thought the Revenant Crows were golems. A mistake that the people of this world often made.

That being said, the harpies felt a chill run down their spines, these things were able to easily bypass their detection without them being able to sense anything. if not for their queen revealing their existence, they would still be unaware of their presence and numbers.

"What are you dilly-dallying for you fools, quickly destroy them".

The two high levelled harpies shouted, snapping the others out of their daze. They flapped their wings and let loose a storm of attacks towards the Revenant Crows.

If one looked carefully, hidden inside the razor sharp attacks of the harpies, were strands of feathers that were like a bolt of arrow capable of piercing through even the most studies of metals.

The frames of the Revenant Crows were made of Neosteel, a metal that was as sturdier than Balckgold and only a little lower than Mythril. Yet even the Neosteel was easily pierced through by those feathers as if they were paper.

This was one of the racial skills of the harpies, [Reinforced Feathers].

A couple of Revenant Crows that were priced through by those feathers, turned into swiss cheese and destroyed. The rest were targeted by the harpies again; however, Bianca activated her skill barrier and stopped any more of the warmachines from getting destroyed by those feathers.

A small shield on Bianca's wrist absorbed all the damage. That was not all, right after the barrage of [Reinforced Feathers] stopped, tens of thousands of strings broke out of the ground and tangled with the harpies, binding them in place.

"Cut them with your feathers and talons" By now, the harpies knew how to handle Emmas's strings. They immediately cut the strings and freed themselves.

However, the strings behaved differently this time. After they were cut, the cut pieces would come attacking them again and again no matter how many times they cut them. It was as if every strand of strings had its own mind and consciousness.

What's more, the more smaller the strings became, the difficult it was to deal with them. The tiny strands of strings dug through the harpies skin and inside their bodies. A couple of the strings were no problem; however, when hundreds of them dug into their bodies it was of they were starting to lose command of their bodies.

To their fear, after a while they lost all connections with their bodies. It was as if they had become a foreign entity in their own body.

What's more, the harpies that have lost all command of their bodies, started attacking their own allies. With the sudden betrayal of the harpies, the situation on the mountaintop became more chaotic.

The other harpies tried to stop their fellow members; however, to their surprise a golden barrier covered those harpies controlled by Emma and returned any damage they suffered.

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Seeing the disorder quickly spreading among the enemy lines, Simon couldn't help but nod his head. His subordinates were displaying the growth that they had from these past ten months of training.

Coupled with the fact that they were also provided with their heirlooms, the Valkyries had become a true force to reckon with.

The way they were right now, Simon believed that each of the Valkyries would easily be able to take on the seven kings themselves without much problem.

However, Simon didn't want to take the easy option, subduing the seven kings was his trial. Although he relented to take their aid after they kept on bugging him, he was still unwilling to entirely rely on their powers to subdue the seven kings.

After all, if he did so there would be no meaning to the hellish training he had been undergoing all this time.

The Valkyries weren't the only ones who had grown in these past few months. Brandishing his new [S] tier sword that he had upgraded from the [Armoury] Simon was just about to flaunt some of his skills, when he was beaten to the punch.

Not wanting to be outdone by his peers, the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse activated its [Hundred Mountains Charge], [Stampede], [Demonic Grasp] and [Nether Shift] and charged into the enemy lines.

In front of the combined powers of the Valkyries, the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse, Revenant Crows, even the two calamity class harpies had no choice but to join the battle.

"At this rate, we will lose" Melinda came to a conclusion after watching the battlefield.

The enemies were constantly zoning them, not allowing them to use their advantage and created chaos constantly within their lines. Her subordinates were being forced into a situation where they are not even able to utilise their full strength.

This was no longer a battle, it was a one sided suppression. The forces of the demon were just that superior.

"The enemies are far more powerful than I thought" Melinda deduced. She had been using her Evil Eyes of Decay for a while but the enemy seemed to have been aware of her powers and have been constantly avoiding looking at her.

"Hmph... Evil Eyes of Empowerment" Understanding that it was pointless using the Evil Eyes of Decay, she changed her tactic.

Melinda activated the Evil Eyes of Empowerment to buff the powers of her subordinate instead.

One of the pupils in her right eye lit up. When she gazed at her subordinates with that pupil, strength surged within their bodies and their hidden potential seemed to have been unlocked.

The harpies who looked like they were on the verge of losing, suddenly found their footing once again. With newfound strength surging within their bodies, they were somehow able to free themselves from the enemy's control.

"What happened, the Harpies look like they have been suddenly strengthened" Simon commented dodging a clump of [Reinforced Feathers] using [Intuition].

"I'm not sure, but it looks like the queen of the harpies had activated another one of her evil eyes?" Annette commented walking beside him.

Chapter 626 626- Bringing An Army Along (3)

Annette had been playing an inactive part in this battle unlike her sisters. The reason for that was simple, her role was different from her sisters. Her task was to ensure the safety of their master rather than to fight the harpies.

She was unwilling to budge on this point ever since Simon told her that he would fight the queen on his own.

Since it looked like he would be unable to persuade her otherwise, Simon let her do whatever she wants. Besides, the others didn't need her help to deal with the likes of the Harpies.

Simon nodded his head and questioned "How many does that make?".

"Counting the one she had been directing at us just until a few seconds ago, it makes three" Annette counted.

The three that she mentioned, were the number of Evil Eyes the Queen of Harpies had used up until now. Since Simon couldn't gaze into her eyes, he was unable to tell, but Irene was different.

She was a superior spirit and using the aid of necklace which an Heirloom, she was somehow able to look into the enemy's eyes.

That being said...

"Three Evil Eyes huh, I feel like she has much more than that, be on your guard" Simon cautioned. The queen of the Harpies wouldn't have received her title if she only had three Evil Eyes.

"Anyways, it's good for us. The more the queen exhausts herself buffing her subordinates, the better it is for us. Tell Bianca and Emma to continue mounting the pressure".

Simon's strategy was simple. Force the queen of the harpies to continue to use her Evil Eyes. They had all overheard the Harpies discussing how draining it was for their queen to activate an evil eye.

From what they heard, she was already in an exhausted state. Given that fact wouldn't she run out of gas sooner or later if she continued to use her evil eyes?

As if aware of her own predicament, Melinda gave a loud cry of frustration and deactivated her Evil Eyes of Empowerment.

"Go to sleep, Evil Eyes of Slumber" Seeing that things were going nowhere even by buffing her subordinates, she instead put those who got controlled to sleep. Once they fell asleep their fellow harpies were easily able to restrain them and lock them in place.

'That makes four' Simon silently counted in his head.

Huff... huff... Melinda took deep breaths of air, the strain from activating four evil eyes in her current state was starting to get to her. Nevertheless, as the queen of the harpies and one of the seven kings, she refused to show any weakness in front of her enemies.

She glanced at her struggling subordinates, then at the maids before shifting her eyes towards the demon. Looking at the lineup he brought, she finally understood why Gil-Garna was so cautious against this demon going as far as to even create an alliance to fight against him.

It turned out that the demon was no less powerful than them, the seven kings.

"I must say mister demon noble, you are quite scheming. To think that you would attack me at such a time, were you waiting for this opportunity?" Melinda questioned, her voice bitter.

"Hm? I wonder what the queen of harpies is talking about?"

Seeing him still playing the rascal, Melinda bit her lower lip and came to a decision.

"Alright, I give up. I will do as you say and ally with you"...

"What?"

"My Queen"

The harpies unable to believe their ears, turned towards their queen. But Melinda did not bother with them and continued to glance at the demon.

"Didn't you say that your motive behind coming here was me? It doesn't look like you aren't here to take my head or else you wouldn't have only suppressed my subordinates. Am I wrong?"

The fact that none of the harpies here was killed, made her certain that the demon did not come here to kill her, he had some other goal in mind. However, the words that came out of the demon next, burst her bubble and caused her beautiful face to distort in shock.

"I don't know what led you to think like that, but you are severely mistaken. Indeed, I did say that I was here for you but I never said that I wanted to ally with you".

"What are you trying to say?" Melinda spoke dryly. She felt like she was unable to see through the demon at all.

"It's simple, the reason why I'm not killing these harpies is because they are soon going to become my subordinates. Why would I cull down my own force?"

"Hahaha, how funny. You think you can win over my subordinates? Go ahead give it a try, all my subordinates are loyal to me to their bones. They would rather die than have you as their king".

The demon did not get angry at her remark, instead, the grin on his face became even wider.

"Of course, I know that. But what if their queen becomes my subordinate? Wouldn't that solve everything?"..

"What?!!"...

"You bastard!!"... The two calamity class harpies offended by those words, immediately charged towards Simon; however, before they could get any closer, Bianca stepped in and sent them flying back.

It was not only them all the harpies here seemed to have been enraged at Simon.

"Interesting, to think that there would be someone this bold in this forest. Aren't you being too greedy Mister Demon Noble? You might end up losing what you already have for trying to possess something you don't"

Melinda spoke narrowing her eyes, one could tell from the boiling aura around her that she was seething in anger. She was the queen of harpies and one of the seven kings of the forest, a position that others could only look up to.

Who would ever dare to talk to her with such disrespect much less say something like that? The demon in front of her was the only one she had met in many years that had the audacity to say she becomes his subordinate.

How could Melinda take such blatant disrespect lying down?

"Very good, it seems like I have underestimated your appetite. But if you think it will be that easy to subdue me, let me show you the cold hard truth".

Right after saying that, Melinda issued a sharp cry that shook the entire mountain they were on before spreading around and echoing through the surrounding lands. This was the racial skill of the queen of the harpy's, [The Queen's Prestige].

To others, the shriek would simply numb their ears for a while, but to any harpies listening to that shriek, it was nothing short of insanity inducing cry that would cause all of them to go berserk.

As could be seen from the behaviour of the surrounding harpies who were her personal guards, their eyes became red and their powers started skyrocketing all of a sudden.

Not only that, after the shriek echoed across the surrounding lands, from the distance and from all the directions came the hooting and flapping noise of wings.

Before long, thousands of shadows pierced through the cloud and appeared in front of the mountaintop. The harpies that were in the immediate surrounding all gathered here at this moment after hearing the shriek of their queen.

All of them had red eyes and were in a berserk state.

Looking at the number of harpies which was in the thousands, Simon couldn't help but arch his brows. A rough count told him that there were more than three thousand harpies assembled here at this moment.

Although this was nowhere close to their total population, it was still quite a number to face. Especially if there were a few disaster class harpies in the mix.

"You might have caught me in a bad time and your subordinates might be more powerful than mine. However, it still does not give you the authority to look down on me. Have you forgotten mister Demon Noble? The land you are in right now, is my territory".

So what if she was in an exhausted state? This was her territory, she could simply drown her enemies with their numbers if she felt like it.

Looking at the shocked face of the demon Melinda flashed a smile of elation. She felt like she had repaid some of the frustration she had been feeling because of the demon. This was just the start, she planned on paying for all the humiliation she suffered and exhaust her enemies to death while she recovered her recovered mana.

Once she was done, she would then deal the demon the killing blow by activating her more powerful Evil Eyes.

Or so she thought; however, even in her wildest dream she couldn't have imagined that the numerical superiority that she was so proud of, would be snuffed out in a puff by the demon.

Melinda's eight pupils stared at the demon who casually took out a small metallic cube out of thin air before throwing it up into the sky. Immediately, the cube enlarged and became the size of a small mountain.

Its edges shifted around like a Rubik's cube and multiple passages formed on it after a while. what came out of those passages were mechanised, sleek looking warmachnes whose presences were enough to even drown the army of Valkyries.

The battalion of warmachines who came forth from inside the cube, were none other than the Andromedas. The Mk8 made up of most of the numbers of the battalion with some golden ones in the mix.

Chapter 627 627- Flash Steps

An Andromeda starting from Mk11 has a red frame, Mk10-same red frame with some golden lines in the mix. And as the Mark of the Andromedas goes lower, the more the golden lines are apparent in their frames.

As could be seen on the Mk8 Andromedas, they had a golden red design. However, unlike the Mk8, those ones were completely golden in colour. Not only that, they also had a much better design than Mk8 and were equipped with far more powerful weapons than any of the Andromedas present.

The Andromedas with the dashing golden frames were none other than the freshly out of the factory, Mk7.

Although the Mk7 still had a lot of tweaking to be done , they have already been tested against adventurers around level 500 and have shown sufficient battle power to hold their own against one.

That is to say, even the against the super and disaster class harpies, the Mk7 should be able to stand their ground as long as they were careful of their sharp feather and talons.

The last part shouldn't be a problem since the Revenant Crows have been monitoring the attack patterns of the harpies and the Mk8 had already fought a couple of battles to collect sufficient data with them.

Given the information sharing ability of the warmachines, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Mk7 were fully prepared to intercept the harpies even when they haven't fought them yet.

As soon as Simon gave the command, the army of Andromedas locked on their target and rushed towards them with their weapons out. Thus a chaotic battle that subsumed the entire sky around the mountaintop, started.

"So that's what the cube does. I finally understand why Master was so happy when he drew it out from the gacha" Annette commented.

After the cube finished spewing out Andromedas, it shrunk back to its original size and returned back to Simon.

"It is called the Eon's Cubes and is quite useful in situations such as this" Simon explained looking at the cube in his hand. As Annette said earlier, he was quite happy when he drew it out from the [Ga??????] option.

It was one of the numerous items that he inserted in the database of the game and had quite the handy function. The Eon's Cubes has a large dimensional gate inside it that is connected to the other cube.

Yes, the Eon's Cubes as the name suggests comes in pair and since they share the same gate, you can use it as a teleportation device. Of course, since the rank of the artefact was judged to be [B] tier, it had a great shortcoming.



The Eon's cubes are unable to teleport anything other than inanimate objects. That is to say, a living being cannot pass through its gate. But that was not a problem for Simon, although he did have some regrets for not being able to use the Eon's Cubes as teleportation device, he however found a different use for the Eon's cubes.

So what if a living being is unable to pass through the Eon's cubes? Aren't there plenty of things inside his dungeon that could? For example, the Andromedas were perfectly capable of passing through the gate of the Eon's Cubes since they were to phrase In animate objects.

Simon had placed the other cube in the [Workshop] and carried one with him. As such, he had a portable army with him all the time. All he had to do was contact Wisp through their spiritual link, and the latter would send the Andromeas through the gate.

It was not only the Andromedas, Simon was also planning to use it for summoning sand golems, Iron golems and other such inanimate monsters from his dungeon in the future.

Imagine carrying an army with you all the time, wouldn't you be able to turn any sticky situation around with it? Who would expect an army to pop out of nowhere? If used properly, the Eon's cubes was quite a broken item.

Although Simon was unable to look at the Harpy Queen's face, he knew that she might be making quite an amusing face right now.

It was indeed as such, Melinda was going through a turmoil of emotions. Just when she thought that she had everything under control the demon went ahead and did something unexpected and turned the situation around on its head once again.

She couldn't be blamed for having an emotional breakdown after all who the heck even carries an army with them? With the force that the demon brought, even if he wanted to take down a king in their own territory, it might not be impossible.

Melinda was gritting her teeth in frustration unable to believe what was unfolding in front of her when from the corner of her eyes she saw the demon move again.

"Don't tell me he is not done yet?!".

Just as she had guessed after keeping the Eon's cube inside his [Inventory], Simon turned to face the Valkyries who nodded and immediately covered their ears. After that, Simon inhaled a deep deep breath of air before issuing out a powerful demonic roar that caused the very space around him to distort.

[Piercing Demonic Roar], one of the skills that he acquired after becoming a Demon Earl. The skill caused a crippling effect and intimidated his targets making them unable to attack and defend properly.

When used in conjunction with the [Demon Earl's Intimidation] it multiplies the effect and causes the target to become sluggish for a while. The harpies who were hit by his roar, immediately froze in place and were put down by the Andromedas.

The Harpies whose levels were higher were able to handle it better than the others but they still got slowed allowing attacks to rain on them. Of course, those powerful harpies like the two calamity class guards and the queen herself were unfazed from Simon's roar.

Nevertheless, the [Piercing Demon Roar] did subside some of the effects from the [Harpy Queen Prestige].

"That should hold them down for a while.. oh?!" Just as Simon was marvelling at the power of his skill, his [Intuition] rang alerts and his body moved instinctively.

Right afterwards, a couple of [Reinforced Feathers] came shooting at him. These feathers were far more powerful than the ones from the normal harpies since they came from the queen of the harpies themselves.

Simon dodged the feathers; however, to his surprise, he saw the feather change direction and came attacking him again and again as if they had a mind of their own.

"Tch... this is getting annoying"

Simon clicked his tongue and brandished his sword. His movements were clean and hardly any fault could be found in his posture. All the feathers that came targeting him were burned into cinders.

There were no flames generated, the feathers were burned just by coming in contact with the tip of the blade.

Even her powerful feathers were burned into cinders? Melinda looked at the sword in the demon's hand. It had a dark red handle, a circular hand guard and a long blade. However, what was unusual about that blade was that it was severely scorched and looked odd and worn out.

It had many dings and cracks and could hardly be used as a sword at this point. What's more, the sheen that the blade gave, a truly exceptional sword would have a sharp glint that would make all the onlookers feel a sharp incisiveness.

However, the blade of the sword in the demon's hand, not only looked blunt, but it had purple black colour as if the craftsman had failed to forge the blade properly.

No matter how she looked at it, the sword seemed as if it would break apart any moment. Yet why was it that she felt an immense, almost infinite amount of heat coming from that sword?

For some reason, her soul shuddered whenever her gaze landed on that sword.

Melinda used [Analysis] to get an understanding of that weapon but it was blocked by the demon.

"Hehe, are you curious about this sword?" Simon turned around to face the queen of the harpies. Naturally, His eyes were cast on her shadow.

Melinda did not say anything, her silence was her way of telling that she was curious.

"Not telling you" Simon shook his head still playing the rascal. Of course, there was no way he was going to tell her about his [S] tier sword.

"This demon!!" Cursing inwardly, Melinda stared daggers at the demon. She was feeling so frustrated right now, that she wanted to eat the demon and feast on his blood and flesh.

'If only I had enough mana to open the Evil Eye of Annihilation' Melinda Lamented. Right now, she couldn't even use 80% of her power and she was quickly running out of cards to play.

On the other hand, the demon still looked like he still had many more cards in his deck. Not to mention there was still that maid near the demon who refused to join the battle since the start.

She could somehow guess her power based on the strength that the other two maids displayed. However, knowing that did not solve anything for her. She still had to be on her guard for when she joined in.

Melinda's eyes moved as she observed the battlefield. It was chaos everywhere with no way of determining which side was winning. However, that was as good as losing for her. This was her territory, and based on common sense she should be the one suppressing her enemies with their numbers and not the other way around.

But that was not the worst part, it was seeing her two most powerful guards being pinned down and unable to retaliate one sidedly by a single maid.

Melinda felt like she had lost all face today.

Chapter 628 628- Flash Steps (2)

'What should I do? Should I just let our forces fight it among themselves and focus on recovering my mana. No, that would be foolish, once I lose my forces the other seven kings would surely use this opportunity to attack me.

The demon doesn't look like he has any immediate intention of attacking? Is he delaying purposefully even while knowing that the more time passes the more I will be able to recover? What is he after?'

While a spiral of thoughts was running inside Melinda's mind, Simon suddenly decided to initiate a conversation.

"Right... Queen of the Harpies, although it may be a little late to ask, but may I inquire what sort of deal did you have with the king of the ogres?"

Hearing his question, Melinda narrowed her eyes. Even though he asked a question his attitude seemed like he was unconcerned whether he got any answer or not.

'Why did he suddenly ask me that question? Does he perhaps know about our deal? No, that cannot be only Gil-Garna and I know about it'.

"Why do you want to know about it? No, what I should be asking is how did you even find out about us working together?" Melinda replied the demon's question with her own question.

"Haha, are you still asking me that?".

It was as he had said, halfway through her question she realised the answer herself. Wasn't there something among the subordinates of the demon that had a strong detection warding ability and could go invisible?

If it was those unusual things that forced her to use her [Limitless Seeking Evil Eyes], it wasn't impossible for him to spy on them. No, he might have been doing just that from the start.

Melinda recalled how she had felt a peculiar gaze on her moments before the demon and his subordinates arrived on the mountaintop. If it was possible for these things to even evade her, wouldn't it be easy for the demon to spy on them anywhere any time?

It was only now that Melinda realised that there was no mole in their alliance, the demon had simply used his unusual golems to spy on them.

Wait a minute, if he was spying on us all along, then doesn't it mean that he knows everything about our plans and also about the existence of that thing?

"It looks like you finally realised it. Thanks to the Revenant Crows spying on you all, I know all about the plans you guys created. Additionally, I also know that you got the seed of Six Nether Flower from the Ogre King in exchange for joining his alliance".

It was as the demon had said, the condition she made to Gil-Garna as payment for joining his alliance, was indeed the Six Nether Flower. However, the Ogre King had already used it on himself. What he gave her in return though was the seed of the Six Nether Flower.

Although not as precious as the flower itself, the seed was also quite a treasure. As such, Melinda agreed on joining the alliance.

"You might be wondering why am I telling you all that? It's simple, I heard quite an interesting fact about the Six Nether Flower not long ago. It is said that a Six Nether Flower once absorbed, cannot

have a seed. I wonder how the ogre king got that seed?" Simon revealed a wicked smile as he spoke.

"What nonsense are you spouting?" Melinda spat not believing anything that the demon said.

"Hehe, I'm not spouting nonsense. Think about it yourself, I heard that the Six Nether Flower is very important for the Seven Kings so much so that even having multiple of it wouldn't be enough. A seed of the Six Nether Flower has the possibility of growing into a new flower. why would the ogre king hand you such a treasure when he himself is in need of it? Don't you find it strange?"

"What's your point?" Melinda did not know why she was even bothering to listen to the demon when he had nothing but constantly annoy her since the moment he arrived here.

Nevertheless, once she heard him mentioning the seed of the Six Nether Flower, she couldn't help but perk her ears and listen. Melinda had the same suspicions as the demon which is why, she even checked the seed going as far as to activate [Eight Inner Eyes] leading her to her current exhaustion.

However, even after using one of her most powerful Evil Eyes, she found no fault with it. The seed of the Six Nether Flower was authentic. But why was it that she was having this weird sense of unease as if she had missed something?

"Well, just hear me out. I heard from someone who has extensive knowledge about these things having lived a long long time after all, that the Six Nether Flower can have a seed in two occurrences"

"First through pollination; however, for that to happen, there needs to be two or more flowers of the same kind. You should already be aware of how rare a Six Nether Flower is. Forget two, even finding one in this entire Ghastly Winding Forest is nigh impossible. And even if by some miracle you do find it, without the Dryards to facilitate the process of pollination of a treasure like the Six Nether Flower, there will never be a seed"

"I believe the Queen of the Harpies is already aware of that. What you might not know however is that a seed can also form another way. Although this way is rather unusual. The second occurrence is when someone tries to absorb the Six Nether Flower and fails to assimilate with it completely".

"The remaining essence of the flower condenses to become a seed. However, that seed does not even possess one tenth of the original energy of that flower and will never grow into a flower itself".

After explaining till here, Simon took a break to sense the chaotic aura of the queen of harpies before continuing with a smile.

"In short, the seed that the ogre king gave you in return for you joining the alliance, is not an actual seed but the residual essence energy of the Six Nether flower that he had already absorbed. Even if you try to grow it, there is no point".

"This..."

Melinda wanted to deny the demon's words; however, her rational mind was telling her that it was the truth. It made sense that even her [Eight Inner Eyes] was unable to find any falsity in it after all, it was the seed of the six nether flower. Just that it was not the one that can grow her a flower.

Melinda at this moment had quite the expression on her face. All this time she believed that she was the one benefitting from joining this alliance. It was only now that she realised that she had been played with. 'Gil-Garna!!' at the same moment, anger boiled inside her.

'This much should be enough' Sensing her change, Simon thought internally. There was a reason why he had been playing the role of a rascal. It was due to the information he heard from Aldebaran.

A user of the Evil Eyes to activate its power, must always remain calm and collected. If you can disturb their mental stability, you can easily triumph against them.

His mannerless behaviour and the fact that he revealed the truth behind the seed of the Six Nether Flower, was precisely to target the weakness of his opponent.

At first, he thought that he could use this information to sow discord between the two Seven Kings and when they are duking it among themselves, he would sweep in and reap all the benefits.

However, he gave up on that idea after finding out that the Queen of the Harpies had severely exhausted herself. Given such an opportunity. How could Simon, a Demon Noble who followed his desires, not utilise this opportunity?

This was a chance for him to subdue one of the seven kings at once, he was not about to let it go to waste.

"Master?!" Seeing Simon walk towards the queen of the harpies, Annette called out.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing" Saying that Simon immediately rushed towards the dazed Queen while brandishing his sword.

"?" Melinda who felt a terrifying power emanate from the sword, hurriedly flapped her wings and dodged at the very last second.

As expected of the Queen of Harpies, her speed was so tremendously fast that Simon had difficulty keeping her in his vision. No matter how many attacks he sent towards her, his sword wasn't able to touch even her feathers.

Although that was the case, Melinda was in the same situation. Even if she dodged the demon's attacks, she was unable to attack him because of the sword. Her instincts alerted her of immense danger every time she was about to clash with that dingy burnt sword.

"Tch... don't get ahead of yourself. Even exhausted, I'm still one of the Seven Kings of this forest" Melinda screamed, made a sword with her [Reinforced Feathers] and charged towards him.

"Too fast!!" Simon was unable to keep up with her movements. In the blink of an eye, she was already out of his range.

'Don't try to see it with your eyes, let your body feel it. Spread your senses and let your instincts do the work'

At this moment, Irene's voice resounded in his head. He recalled the beginning of his hellish days of training where he was blindfolded and his powers severely suppressed by Irene.

Simon was made to stand underneath a giant tree with enormous logs connected to its branches. The training was to dodge the logs. It sounded simple; however, it wasn't.

Chapter 629 629- Flash Steps (3)



The sense of sight was one of the five senses that collected data from the surrounding environment and sent it to the brain which in return interpreted these data and sent signals to the body to respond either chemically or physically.

Just think about it, someone who had been relying on his sense of sight since his time on earth, suddenly had one of his senses stripped from him. It wouldn't be hard to imagine that he would fail miserably due to having difficulty perceiving anything.

Simon was battered by the logs which were buffed by Irene. Days passed by with Simon sprawled on the ground most of the time unable to remain standing. What was worse, was that he was not allowed to use his skills or attack back.

All he was allowed to do was dodge. Because he was used to moving after thinking, it took an inhumane amount of perseverance to reverse that.

Thanks to the hellish training, Simon's other senses started strengthening to the point where he even acquired the skill [Enhanced Six Senses]. Now he could dodge the logs with just their sound and smell.

However, even that didn't last long. After his sense of sight, Irene stole his other senses and sent him tumbling back down to the point where he started. Simon wanted to complain at the injustice, but every time he brought it up, she would restate the words he said earlier making him unable to retort.

Just enhancing his six senses took him more than a month of time. Now that even that was stolen, he was left with no choice but to literally pit his body against the logs. Thus a hellish training where Simon was forced to spit out blood, started once again.

With all of his senses stripped from him, his body went into overdrive and his instincts started taking control. Days passed by and soon Simon arrived in front of a state where in his black vision he could see vague things coming towards him.

When he dodged them, he instinctively realised that it was the logs. However, that state didn't last long, it appeared for a second and disappeared. Nevertheless, having hope was better than nothing.

Now that Simon knew what he had to do and where to divert his efforts, he started working more diligently. Months passed, and the state he touched that day, he started entering it more frequently.

Even with all of his senses stripped, Simo was able to sense the logs and dodge them effortlessly. It wasn't long after that that he acquired the [Intuition] skill.

However, that was just the true beginning of the hellish training. After seeing that Simon got accustomed to the training, she started mixing more variations. Unexpected things started occurring.

Just when Simon thought that he dodged the log, he would be hit by an icicle. Not only that, but sometimes while dodging he would trip over a stone that shouldn't have been there. And sometimes he felt like the logs behaved unusually.

It was as if they had suddenly sprouted arms and legs and bashed him out of nowhere. even if he dodged that, something or the other would be waiting for him. As a result, Simon started developing a keener instinct.

His body would react at the first indication of danger. His body and mind reached a new level of synchronicity. However, even that wasn't enough. There were too many things he had to dodge at once.

No matter how synchronised his body was with his mind, something or the other managed to hit him every time. There were things that even with his speed he couldn't dodge and things he couldn't perceive.

So what was to be done? Simon had no answer. When he brought that question to Irene during one of his rare rest times, she told him that the answer was inside him and that he should continue doing what he has been doing up until now.

Simon laughed bitterly and started repeating his actions like a madman who didn't know anything else. Days passed by with him making no progress; no, it would be wrong to say that he didn't make any progress.

He started gaining higher mastery over the [Intuition] skill and his body and mind started becoming sharp. His movement due to dodging various kinds of projectiles again and again had reached a harmony of sorts where he could dodge anything with minimal movements just by perceiving them once.

However, he still had no answer for things he couldn't perceive or was too fast for him to dodge.

"The answer is within you"... One day, while Simon was repeating his routine. He continued to mutter what Irene told him the other day in his head like a mantra. Hoping that he would stumble upon some epiphany.

He was dodging as usual, but maybe due to his mind being preoccupied with Irene's words, he failed to notice a small stone near his feet and stumbled upon it.

What happened next could be expected, with numerous logs, icicles, weapons and various unperceivable things came attacking him, Simon was sure to get hit and blown back for the umpteenth time.

However, surprisingly nothing of that sort happened. Right before Simon's body hit the ground, something unusual happened. His mana synchronised with his movements to create his own unique skill

Simon's body which was about to fall, disappeared in a flash dodging all the projectiles that were about to hit him.

[Flash Steps]...

Melinda was so fast that in the blink of an eye, she appeared behind Simon as if teleporting and hacked her sword towards him. The blade made of razor sharp feathers easily chopped his body in half or so it was supposed to.

However, the thing that the Harpy Queen's sword slashed was none other than an afterimage. Simon's real body had long since moved from that spot.

"What?!"

Melinda was unable to believe her eyes. When did the demon move? The afterimage looked so real that she couldn't even tell when the demon moved away from the spot. Strictly speaking, she was much faster than the demon due to her developed wings that were a cut above even amongst all the harpies.

No matter how the demon moved, it shouldn't be able to go unnoticed by her. So then what happened? How come the demon disappeared without even her sensing anything?

"!!!" At this instant while she was thinking that, her body jolted and her instincts screamed for her to dodge.

Before she could even realise it, the demon was standing behind her.

SHIIING... the moment she turned around, she saw that broken, burnt out sword come attacking her. As the blade of the sword slowly crept closer, the eight pupils of Melinda were finally able to see it.

The violent distortion of the space around the sword. This distortion was not ordinary and was the result of an extraordinary amount of heat being released. Make no mistake, the sword did not release any flames, it was just that the...

'The flames were compressed inside the sword to a point where even the blade of the sword was unable to handle it and became all burnt out like that' Melinda realised.

Everything around the sword, whether it be the moisture or the mana particles was being vaporised instantaneously.

DEATH!!...

She had to dodge it, her instincts begged. If she allowed the sword to touch her, her only inevitable ending would be her death.

Melinda placed her [Reinforced Feather Sword] in front of her to defend. But how could Simon's sword be stopped that easily? Even before the [Reinforced Feather Sword] of the Harpy Queen could come in contact with the blade of the burnt sword, it was violently distorted and turned into dust.

The [Reinforced Feather Sword] was only able to stop the burnt sword for a mere fraction of a second. However, that fraction of a second was what Melinda precisely needed to narrowly dodge the attack.

After moving away from the path of that sword, the queen of harpy took a deep breath of relief. Her skin tingled whenever she thought how close that encounter was.

The sword was just a few inches away from her. For the first time in a long while, did Melinda feel the grasp of death ever so close to her.

She glanced at the demon who had his eyes closed at this moment, he looked relaxed and composed. Be it that sword of his or that movement earlier, both of them were definitely of a high grade.

She cannot let her guard down against him. 'I guess I have no choice but to use that' Melinda bit her lower lips so hard that, blood came out of it.

After failing his surprise attack even after revealing his [Flash Steps], Simon started going more on the aggressive.

[Flash Steps], the Lost Superior tier skill that he learned after his mana and movements achieved a harmony during his training where he was forced to dodge all kinds of unperceivable attacks.

The skill allowed him instantaneous movement from any position or stance that he was in. What's more, since activating it needed very little movement, it was almost untraceable.

Using the [Flash Steps] Simon was capable of leaving afterimages behind. He could finally catch up to the speed of the Harpy Queen. With that, the fight between the demon of the east and the queen of the harpies unfolded, encompassing the entire sky.

They appeared like a flash of light before disappearing equally fast. BANG... BANG... BANG... powerful ripples capable of crumbling down mountains, spread from their clash.

Chapter 630 630- Deception

With the demon and the queen of the harpies becoming serious, the mountaintop was no longer able to contain their fight.

Annette watched their exchange from a distance, ready to step in at any moment. Though it did not look like she would need to, because her master was completely suppressing the Harpy Queen.

The level of growth he had undergone in the past couple of months, was mind boggling to say no less. It would not be an exaggeration to say that their master had undergone another transformation of sorts.

This transformation wasn't as obvious as when he became a Demon Earl, but it definitely occurred. Annette could tell because she had been observing him since the beginning.

While doing her own training, she would glance towards Simon from time to time. He would falter, he would fall and even get depressed sometimes; nevertheless, he tackled every obstacle with an unbending willpower and determination.

He had this weird enigmatic air about him during training that it motivated all of his subordinates to try harder themselves. Of course, there were times where Simon would get stuck unable to progress any further.

However, she had never seen him quit or stop putting in his efforts even once. If met with a barrier on the way, he would bang his head on it clumsily. He was not a genius, he repeated things tens of thousands of times to understand something.

As such, Annette had witnessed the progress her master had made. If it was the current Simon, he was even capable of fighting ranks above him.

The Queen of the Harpies might have posed some problems had she not been in her severely exhausted state. Without her Evil Eyes which was her main form of attack, she was the weakest of all the Seven Kings.

When it came to pure physical strength, she was nowhere near the levels of the other seven kings. However, that was only after discounting her Evil Eyes. The battle their master was engaged in right now was tailored, one that favoured him drastically and put him in an advantageous position.

Not only did he have information about his enemy beforehand, he even knew her weakness and had caught her at a bad time. Given these many factors favouring him, it would be weird if Simon did not win this fight.

It was evident from the battle occurring in the sky. The queen of the harpies might be faster than their master; however, as time passed by she fell into more and more of a disadvantageous position.

It was only a matter of time before their master won.

She might have also realised it, because the queen of harpies suddenly changed her attack pattern.

[Thousand Feather Dance] Melinda spread her wings wide. Thousands of black feathers appeared in front of her and started rotating and dancing around. Each of these Reinforced Feathers carried a razor sharp incisiveness and can be manipulated individually like a part of her own body.

So when they started rotating, a powerful storm generated around her which he used to trap the demon.

Facing the storm like attacks, Simon brandished his sword wildly. So what if he was besieged by thousands of attacks? Didn't he go through the same thing in his training? Worse, at that time all of his five senses were deprived and all he was allowed to do was dodge.

Thus compared to his training, the storm of feathers that Melinda created, didn't amount to much. With his Enhanced Six Senses, Intuition, Burnt Sword and Flash Steps, Simon had no issue fending off the attacks.

What's more, he even looked carefree and relaxed. Also, It had been commented by Irene that his [Sword Mastery] skill was on the verge of evolving. As such, even while fighting an enemy, Simon was trying to achieve a breakthrough.

"Hm? Where did she go?"

Simon remarked. After effortlessly fending off her storm of attacks, Simon found that Melinda was nowhere to be seen. Did she run away? Just as he was about to spread his senses to track her, he heard Annette's panicked and urgent voice from behind.

"Master save me!!".

Afraid that something might have happened to her, Simon hurriedly turned around only to hear Annette's voice once again.

"No Master don't!!".

The warning came a step too late, Simon had already turned around. His gaze was directed towards Annette or it should have been. However, the one standing there was not Annette, but instead the Queen of Harpies.

At this moment, she had a face full of smiles as she glanced at the demon.

"Master save me"

Melinda opened her lips and spoke; however, the voice that came out of her, wasn't hers but instead Annette's.

[Voice Imitation]... one of the skills of the Harpy Queen. Using this skill she was able to imitate any voice.

It was only now that Simon realised that the first cry for help that he heard, wasn't from Annette but from the Queen of Harpies. The second voice was from his subordinate who tried to warn him. Nevertheless, he had already fallen into the enemy's traps.

How so? That was because when Simon turned around hearing Annette's call for help, he had opened his eyes. And that was his mistake. His eyes had coincidentally overlapped with Melinda's who appeared in his line of vision.

Even though it was only for a second, that second was enough for Melinda's Evil Eyes to do its work.

The instant Simon glanced at her eyes, he felt like he had suddenly lost control of his own eyes. As if enraptured, he was unable to tear his gaze away from her eyes. His crimson pupils quickly turned violet and the raging mana inside him settled down.

eaglesnovel.com Seeing the demon come to halt, Melinda flashed a smile of victory. Why would she not? The prey had fallen for her trap. No matter who it was, once they looked into her eyes, there was only one ending for them.



"You know... with how frustrated you made me, at first I thought of quickly killing you with my [Eyes of Annihilation]. But then I thought given your powers, it would be quite a waste to kill you like that. As such, I'm going to make you my new manservant for the rest of your life... Huhu"

Melinda said seductively as she caressed the demon's face. It was only now when she looked carefully, did she realise how handsome the demon was.

"Get away from him!!" a voice raged.

Annette shouted angrily and fired a couple of thunderbolts to separate the queen of harpies from their master.

The queen of the harpies immediately reacted and using her immense speed, she hurriedly backed down.

"Master, are you alright?" Annette quickly arrived at Simon's side and shook his motionless body in concern.

"Master... Master" she called at him again and again; however, his eyes which were covered in a violet light, were vacant and hollow. No response came from Simon, it was as if he was experiencing a dream with his eyes open.

"No... Spirit Magic- [Spirit Barrier]" Annette cast spirit magic in hopes that it might be able to wake Simon. Nevertheless, it was useless.

"Hoh, you can use spirit magic? Now that's rare. However, it's useless. No matter what you do, you cannot wake him up from my [Evil Eyes of Temptation]. Unless I release him myself, he will forever be trapped in that dream. His body had become a soulless vessel that would do my bidding for the rest of his lives... hahaha" Melinda laughed.

"Release him right now or else..."

Annette spoke in a low furious voice. The power she had been suppressing on orders of her master started flooding out in droves. It quickly affected the environment, the space started to violently distort and the mystical energy became turbulent.

Feeling the changes in the surrounding, Melinda's face quickly paled. The maid's power after she released her strength reached a level that even surpassed her own in her prime.

Not to mention she was in an exhausted state right now, Melinda's believed that she would be unable to win against the maid even if she was at her full strength. That was how much powerful the Valkyries had become after their limiters had disappeared.

"Wait..."

Panicked, Melinda hurriedly tried to back down but before she could, the maid had extended her hands towards her and a thunder spear completely crimson in colour formed from the numerous thunder sparks in the air flew towards her.

The queen of the harpies flapped her wings in a flurry; however, the spear was faster than her and followed her wherever she went.

"Wait!!! Even if you kill me, the demon will not wake up... kyaaahhhhhahhh"

Melinda tried to negotiate in a last bit of effort but the thunder spear had already pierced her abdomen causing her to wail in misery.

The harpy queen's shriek of agony resounded across the distant skies causing all the harpies that were fighting the army of Andromedas, to immediately stop their actions and turned towards the direction where her voice came from.

"My Queen!!"

Feeling that their queen was in danger, the two calamity class harpies called out. However, against an opponent like Bianca who was simply toying with them with her overwhelming strength, they were powerless to do anything.

"Kugh!!... gugh!!..." The queen of the harpies clutched her stomach and lay on the ground in pain. Her eyes that previously held unmasked pride and condescension against her opponent, was at this moment, filled with fear and dread.

Why would it not, a single thunder spear was able to bring her to her knees. Not to mention the sky was currently lit up with hundreds of those spears currently suspended in the air.