

## D. of Pride 651

### Chapter 651 651- The Auction Of The Damned (2)

Simon was inwardly a little impressed. He sat down on his seat and watched the crowd below slowly settle down. There were a ton of demons and their subordinates in attendance that it was hard to make an estimate with just a glance. Yet even with so many demons attending, the main chamber easily fit all of them.

"There are a lot of high ranking demons present" Simon commented as he watched the Demon Dukes take their seat at the front row of tables reserved for them.

They were dressed in various luxurious clothes that spoke volumes of their status and were surrounded by powerful subordinates. Just the aura that they naturally emanated, gave one a formidable pressure and a sense of dread and terror.

Their authoritative and commanding presence made all the demon nobles look at them with awe and fear. Nobody dared to gaze at them directly, even if they did they would immediately shift them away.

In the demon world, these Demon Dukes are monsters who had lived for over a thousand years and carried prestige and reputation incomparable to any other demons.

With the Demon Archdukes rarely showing their face and not caring about the matters of the world, the Demon Dukes were seen as the true ruler of the demon world. The demon nobles below them merely serve as their aides or agents.

From the eyes of the human nation, a Demon Duke was like the symbol of a great catastrophe, capable of bringing doom and irrecoverable destruction to the land.

Many of these Demon Dukes sitting in the front row, were quite famous with legends and tales written about their powers.

Since they liked ruling and controlling everything while sitting inside the comfort of their dungeon, one could hardly encounter a demon duke. It was only during events like these that one would be able to see old monsters like them gather.

Usually, it would have been impossible for Simon to observe them like this without them noticing. However, due to the numerous arrays and barriers laid inside the VIP rooms, even the Demon Dukes didn't notice Simon's gaze.

WHOOAA... just when it seemed like the excitement of the auction had reached its peak, the crowd below suddenly boiled over with the appearance of a couple of people.

Leading the group, was a beautiful man with long white hair, an androgynous face and wearing luxurious ancient clothing. This person was none other than the newly risen Demon Lord of Envy, Belial.

Beside him, walked a man donned in a heavy armour that seemed to be made of some mysterious material. They had numerous scars on their face making them appear very scary and carried themselves with an aura of haughtiness.

His presence was mighty and not any weaker than the Demon Lord himself. Looking at that man, Simon recalled who he was. Deimos, the subordinate of Greed who also attended the Walpurgis last time.

If he was here, then it means that the other three people walking beside them were also the same.

"Seems like the subordinates of the demon lords are also in attendance" Simon surmised. It appeared that the Demon Lords were also interested in the auction to have sent their subordinates.

Out of the three people, one looked like an old hermit with numerous orbs like a nebula, floating around him. He was wearing ordinary robes and was sitting cross-legged while levitating off the ground. An aura of mystery shrouded this person.

What surprised Simon was that when he glanced at this person, the latter too sensed something and glanced towards his direction.

'He was able to peer through the numerous arrays of the VIP room... the old man doesn't appear as simple as he looked' Simon wondered.

Of the other two people, one appeared like a scholar with a spectacle and book in hand. They had a calm noble like aura and a friendly smile on their face.

The last person was a woman in a military uniform. Half of her face was covered with an angry mask and she held a cigar in her mouth. Her appearance along with her sharp aura made her look quite fierce.

A commotion erupted in the floor below with their appearance. From the bits and pieces of information that Simon gathered from the hubbub of the demons, he was able to confirm his suspicions, the other three were indeed the subordinates of the other demon lords.

It was just that they weren't the ones he had seen in the Walpurgis.

As expected, the lich attendants brought them over to the upper floor and into their own VIP rooms.

With all the attendees now taking their seats, the auction finally began. A light suddenly dropped from the darkened ceiling and illuminated the stage in front. At some unknown point in time, Grimvul was already standing there.

"They are... the Death Knights"

Simon muttered in surprise. There were a couple of figures donned in jet black armour beside Grimvul. Simon recalled they were the death knights that he had seen standing guard outside the exhibition.

There were seven of them on the stage and all of them were standing still around Grimvul acting as his guards.

The Chamber fell into an eerie silence with the appearance of Grimvul and his entourage. The Demon Nobles dressed in their regal clothes fixed their attention on the merchant, their eyes blazed with excitement.

Grimvul observed the crowd that had gathered for the auction before nodding his head.

"ShiShiShi... Esteemed Demon Nobles, distinguished guests of the auction of the damned" His low creepy laugh echoed across the chamber "Tonight we have all gathered to partake in the unveiling of the most exquisite and sinister artefacts from the darkest corners of the existence".

As Grimvul spoke till here, a murmur of anticipation rippled through the chamber. The demon nobles leaned forward from their seat, their interest piqued.

Finding the reaction of the crowd very much to his liking, he hyped the attendees even further "All of you, the eminent figures of the demon world, have assembled here to witness and wield the powers that lies within these magnificent treasures".

"But remember my esteemed nobles, these artefacts are not mere trinkets. They carry the powers of what was once forgotten, the souls of the brave and of the deceased and the very essence of the primordial universe. They have been sought after by many, and now they would be wielded by those deemed worthy".

WHOAAA... A surge of excitement spread through the crowd. The Demon Nobles looked at Grimvul and gulped, their eyes flickering with the light of anticipation and eagerness as if they couldn't wait for the items to come up.

"ShiShiShi..." Grimvul laughed and performed a slight bow of courtesy "I, Grimvul shall be your guide in this journey. I shall illuminate the secrets and the potential that lies within each of these items. However, let it be known that their true nature may be concealed, waiting for their masters to unravel their mysteries".

Sitting inside his VIP room, on his cozy seat, Simon couldn't help but scoff at the words of this merchant. He had to give it to Grimvul, the Merchant of the Damned lived up to his reputation.

The latter knew how to excite the crowd and bring an air of mystery to the event. Now that he had said all those words, there was no way the Demon Nobles down below wouldn't start a fierce bidding war from the first item.

Simon who knew the truth about some of the items that are about to come up, couldn't help but find the situation funny. These Demon Nobles had fallen into the trap of the merchant of the damned unaware that they are being led by their nose like a gullible goat about to be sacrificed.

"Master, why are you smiling?" Maybell who was sitting next to him asked.

Made conscious by his subordinate, touched his face with his hand "Am I?"

"Yeah, Master is smiling" Theodore also pointed it out.

It appeared that he was actually enjoying the misery of the others. He had become a demon in the truest sense.

"Haha," Simon laughed and placed his attention back on the stage. Grimvul was currently explaining the rules. Surprisingly it was like any other normal auction just that the dealing of the currency was the currency of the demons, the Dungeon Points.

Apart from that everything was simple, the item goes to the highest bidder. The one thing great about this auction was that the items are kept inside a container and only the buyer can open them.

"I have explained everything. Now let the Auction of the Damned commence, may your bids be calculated and your wits sharp. Tonight, let your greed, desire, and ambition for these damned artefacts run wild"

The voice of Grimvul resonated through the chamber. With those words, the auction began in the truest sense. A platform appeared in the centre of the stage. Kept on that platform was an item that was protected by multiple layers of barrier.

"The first item to be auctioned is the Book of Fire said to have been once possessed by a powerful demon who used it to lay waste to an entire subcontinent. It is an [A] rank item and one of its kind".

"You can view the effects of the item using your analysis as such I will skip that part. However, allow me to provide you with a piece of additional information. The fire inside the book is no ordinary fire, its power is said to have gone up beyond the advanced rank to become a unique flame on its own".

"Only those destined to be its master can wield the mighty fire in the book. For this artefact, the starting bid will be [7,000,000] DP. Let the Bidding begin".

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As soon as those words fell, the Demon nobles started fervently bidding for the item. The atmosphere inside the chamber became heavy. With the promise of power, many demon nobles started bidding fiercely.

"This item looks genuine..." Simon commented. He relied on his keen senses that had been heightened by training and his abstruse demonic eyes to observe the item.

He did not use his appraisal skill since he knew that's what the merchant wanted everyone to do. He was using something to feed wrong information to their appraisal or analysis skill.

The Book of Fire was fiercely bid for and went up as high as [12,000,000] DP in the blink of an eye. In the end, the item was purchased by a Demon Marquess for [15,000,000] DP.

Simon had no interest in such items since he already had the [S] rank burnt sword with him. Compared to the Book of Fire, his Burnt Sword was even a rank higher.

The auction went on, after the Book of Fire, the next item to appear was a [S] rank item called the [Chaos Shield]. Gasps of breath immediately came from the crowd below. The eyes of the observing demon noble started shining with an ominous light.

The auction had just started yet there was already a [S] rank item coming. How could their blood not boil with excitement?

As someone who had already observed all the items that are going to appear in the auction, Simon was much more calm about it.

[Chaos Shield]... It was an item that allowed the user to transfer all the damage that their allies took to them. However, in return, it bestowed its user with a ton of defensive stats and several protective skills.

What's more, the Chaos Shield did not have the equipping restriction which is to say, anyone can regardless of their race, use the item.

For beings whose role was more like a tank or a knight class of the humans, it was an item that was a must have.

In a sense, the Chaos Shield was like Bianca's Heirloom the Martyr's Brand. Both the items had similar abilities; however, being an heirloom from the game Simon designed, Martyr's Brand had much more functions than the Chaos Shield.

As for if the item on the stage was real or not, as far as Simon could tell, it was a genuine article. As cunning as Grimvul was, he wouldn't make the mistake of putting fake items right from the start. He would first sell genuine items to gain their trust and when the auction is midway, he would start mixing those trash items.

As if to prove him right, the next item that appeared was also genuine and went to the same Demon Duke who purchased the Chaos Shield.

After the third item, more and more items followed suit, each and every one caused a fierce bidding war amongst the nobles and raised the price of the items sky high.

For example one of the item although genuine, had an unknown effect. Even the description of the item was also very incomprehensible. Had this item appeared in any other auction, it might not even get sold.

Yet due to the eloquent words of Grimvul which tugged at their curiosity and the insatiable desire of the Demon Nobles, its price was raised beyond its worth.

"This damned merchant" Simon flashed a wicked smile. He did not rush to bid since he knew there were a lot of items set for sale in this auction and the event would go on for quite a while.

As such, he leaned on his comfortable seat and relaxed. He let the other demons splurge their DP while he enjoyed the fervour of the bidding unfold from his VIP room.

[Altina's Prayers], [Locket of the Wicked], [Whispering Daggers], [Arcane Mirror]... one item after another appeared on the stage and was quickly hoarded by the Demon Nobles.

"Our next item is quite unique in that it is a complete mystery. I would have loved to tell you more about it, but that will destroy the fun. As such, I will zip my mouth for this one and allow you bidders to decide its worth".

"Use your wits and rummage your brain for there is no other item like it. Only those destined with it can unveil its mystery, let's see if there is anyone among the esteemed guests who can become its master. Covered in a layer of an enigma, I present to you, the Eye of Enigma"

With Grimvul's words as the trigger, the platform rose from the stage. In the middle of that platform, was a container. Floating inside it, was an eyeball that seemed to have been preserved in some liquid.

"This was..."

Simon who was lazing in his VIP room, immediately stood up the moment the item appeared. A serious expression dawned on his face.

The reason for his change in attitude was because the item that just came up, was one of the items that he had his eyes on. The Eye of Enigma, just like its name suggests, was a complete enigma.

Nobody knew what it did, nor was it possible to know anything about it using the Appraisal or any other probing method. The eye would block everything. There was no array or barrier in work, it was just the doing of the eye.

An item that could block all kinds of probing methods on its own meant only one thing. Some of the cunning demons must have already realised it, that the Eye of Enigma was a sentient item. That is to say, it possessed its own will.

It need not be even mentioned how valuable and astronomically rare an item like that was. Even Simon's [S] rank Burnt Sword wasn't a sentient item. From this, one could tell the rank of that eye.

Yes, the Eye of Engima was at the very least a [S] rank item or maybe even higher.

Items ranking higher than [S]... for Simon, that was still an inconceivable notion. He couldn't even begin to imagine what kind of power they possessed.

Yet there was an item in front of him that could possibly be of that rank. How could Simon still remain composed? However, just like everything there was also a catch.



It was hard to ascertain if the eye was a genuine item or not. Grimvul was a very crafty fellow, he could mask a trash as a treasure and sell it to you and you wouldn't even be aware of it. That's how he had scammed many demons.

Simon had seen many items in the Exhibition that were a complete garbage and items like the Eye of Enigma which was hard to determine whether they were real or not. As such, bidding for it would be an incredible gamble.

You will luck out if it's a treasure however, you will regret it until your stomach turned green if it was a scam.

Simon had a valid reason for believing it might be a scam because the auction was already midway to the finale. Those trash items he had seen in the exhibition should be coming up soon.

Should he bid for it? There was a 50-50 chance it could be real and honestly, he didn't want to miss this chance to get his hands on a sentient item. The problem was that he wasn't the only one who was thinking that.

There were many demons, especially the demon dukes who were intensely observing the item.

Looking at them, Simon could tell that they too had similar thoughts as him and even though he couldn't see the Demon Archdukes since they were seated in their own VIP rooms, but he guessed that they too might be interested in it.

After all, the item in the stage was not just any item, but a possible sentient item.

"The bidding would be fierce" Simon muttered to himself. In his mind, he was cursing the merchant incessantly.

That damned Grimvul, he had to put things like that. His mysterious words only caused the audience to become even more curious and interested in the item. If Simon wanted to get hold of this Eye of Enigma, he would have to dish out a large amount of sum matching theirs.

And in the case that it turned out to be a fake, he would have suffered a massive loss. What's more, if he bought this Eye of Enigma, he might not be able to buy the other things he had his eyes on.

It was not like he had an endless supply of DP. He had collected the amount he had after going through numerous life and death trials. As such, he knew the pain of earning DP and its value.

Plus a growing dungeon like Laplace, needed a ton of DP every day to keep functioning. Given all these factors, there was no way he could risk splurging his DP on an item that could possibly turn out to be a trash.

Also, it needs to be mentioned that even though his current stash of DP was comparable to a Demon Duke's, in the end a high ranking dungeon was still a high ranking dungeon. Even if the Demon Dukes splurge their DP, their dungeon could easily make up for it. Simon cannot spend his DP like them.

Hmmm.. he deliberated for some time before finally making up his mind. He came to a decision, in regard to this Eye of Enigma he would pass.

The Eye of Enigma might turn out to be a treasure beyond a treasure; however, it wasn't an item that he absolutely needed to possess right now. Besides, a sentient item like that chose its own master.

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A sentient item like that, even if anyone bought it unless they were destined with it they will never be able to use the item. Given all these cons, it was clear that it did him more harm than good.

As such, it was easier for Simon to give up on the item when he thought about it like that. That said, there was no reason he couldn't enjoy the fierce bidding for the item that would ensue next.

Simon sat back in his seat and lazily glanced at the auction below. Grimvul had deliberately given a long pause to make his words sink in. Seeing that everyone was hooked, he announced the start of the bid.

"25,000,000 DP" immediately a high offer was made. The voice came from the front rows where the lofty Demon Dukes sat with their subordinates.

Grimvul did not set a starting bid for the [Eye of Enigma], as such many Demon Nobles were interested and wanted to bid on it. However, the first bid itself raised the price sky high.

"26,000,000"...

"28,000,000"...

The subsequent bids made any demon nobles lower than a Marquess to dejectedly give up on the item.

"35,000,000" Soon enough, even the Demon Marquesses shook their heads in defeat. Finally when the price reached around [38,000,000] DP it was only the Demon Dukes competing over it.

"40,000,000"...

However, the demon dukes weren't the top dogs here. A voice sounded out from one of the VIP rooms. Immediately, the entire hall turned deathly silent followed by hurried murmurs and gossip.

All of the eyes on the floor below turned towards the VIP room that had just made the bid. Although they could not see the person because of the one way glass and the numerous arrays protecting the privacy of the person, they didn't have to guess to know who made the bid.

To have the qualification to sit inside a VIP room, who could it be other than a Demon Archduke?

The moment the Demon Archduke made the offer, the fierce bidding came to a halt. Many Demon Dukes who still had the funds and intention to continue bidding made a conflicted face before choosing to opt out.

Demon Archdukes were ancient beings with immeasurable powers, there was no benefit in antagonising a monster like that. Even though many Demon Dukes felt unwilling to lose out on such an item, they could give up in the end.

"45,000,000" except for one though.

Just when it seemed like nobody dared to bid against a Demon Archduke a voice suddenly interjected and made a new offer. The one who made the bid wasn't another Demon Archduke. That is to say, it did not come from the VIP floor.

Instead, it came from the hall, from one of the tables in the front row. The one to make the offer was a Demon Duke.

"50,000,000" The being on the VIP floor was unconcerned, their voice was languid as they made a higher bid.

"55,000,000" However, immediately afterwards the Demon Duke made a counteroffer.

"60,000,000"...

"65,000,000".

This went on for a while causing a commotion of sorts to erupt inside the auction hall. Every eyes present was glued to the two bidders. Of course, most of them were looking at the Demon Duke with a stupefied expression.

To dare to counter bid against a demon Archduke, they must be out of their mind.

The truth was also not far from what they believed, even the subordinates of that Demon Duke telling them that it was a bad idea. However, the Demon Duke bid regardless.

"Master bidding against a Demon Archduke, will only make things difficult for us"...

"Shut up, who told you to open your mouth? I know what I'm doing. Hmph, so what if they are a Demon Archduke? Aren't they just a recluse who have long stepped out of the dealings of the world?" the Demon Duke spoke.

Thanks to them directly raising the price of the item by [5,000,000] DP every time, no one else dared to bid. Seconds ticked by, every watching Demon Noble held their breaths waiting for a juicy drama to ensue.

However, when they saw no bid coming from that VIP room, all of them were disappointed.

"65,000,000 for the [Eye of Enigma], are there any higher bids? If not then... congratulation to this esteemed guest, you have definitely gotten your hands on a treasure... ShiShiShi" Grumvul stated with his deep guttural and the Eye of Enigma was sold to the Demon Duke.

"See I told you? They might be Demon Archdukes, but the long years of time have made them too indolent and apathetic. If they were serious about possessing this item, I wouldn't even have a chance".

"However, they weren't serious at all. I bet that Demon Archduke was thinking that it was too much of a pain and thus gave up even without trying" The Demon Duke spoke flashing a grin of victory.

Inside his VIP room, Simon was watching the drama unfold with his hands behind his head.

"65,000,000?! My goodness, with that amount I can create so many floors and fill them with all kinds of traps and monsters" he commented. His eyes went towards the Demon Duke in question, and they immediately became weird.

The reason for that was the appearance of that Demon Duke which was very odd to say the least and stood out like a sore thumb.

For this event, every demon noble made sure to dress up in a way that made them stand out. The higher the ranks of the demon the more extravagant and flashier you will find their clothes were.

Some wore proper ornate clothes, others ancient and some traditional. With so many demons attending the event, it was only natural to find a few with odd dressing sense. However, even amongst them, this demon duke was on a level of his own.

He had a heavy makeup on his face, a weird top knot like hairstyle and was donned in clothes that made one wonder what sort of fashion is that.

What made his already distorted fashion sense even weird was his figure. The demon duke was so fat that he was like a ball. The seat he was sitting on was bent so out of shape that it made a sorry sight.

They stood out, but in a very weird way.

"Hm? Isn't that..." Simon's eyes shifted towards the two subordinates the demon duke brought with him. One of them seemed very familiar to him, in fact, he had encountered them not too long ago. He was the Demon Earl that was after the twins.

"So the master he was talking about was this Demon Duke" Simon narrowed his eyes. He did not have a very good impression of this demon duke who tried to buy his subordinates.

Tch... since looking at them made his mood sore, Simon tried to avoid them. Though things didn't seem to go the way he planned because the subsequent items that came up in the auction were all purchased by that Demon Duke.

He had completely and utterly become the centre of attention. Many demon nobles were shocked to see his vast wealth and were giving him a look of awe and fear.

However, Simon was looking at the Demon Duke as if he was the greatest idiot he had ever seen. The Eye of Enigma was one thing, but the next set of items that the fatty bought after it were all garbage.

They were scams that Grimvul had prepared to squeeze the DP out from those stupid and ignorant demon nobles who were too drunk on their powers.

This demon duke fell in that category as they only relied on their analysis skills and believed whatever lies that were fed to them by Grimvul. He bought all those fakes for a hefty sum of DP no less.

The term ignorant and dunce truly fit this person. And as if to further prove to the world that this was not the true height of his stupidity, he also bid for the item that came up next.

"The next item to appear, is truly one of its kind and it was only through sheer luck that I stumbled upon it. Presenting to you all, the Glutinous Glucose of the World Devouring Slime".

"This viscous green coloured liquid is a [S] rank item that was extracted from the monster, World Devouring Slime. When ingested or consumed it grants its user the ability to devour and assimilate the properties of any organic matter they come into contact with".

"Be it flora, fauna or even mystical beings, those that consume this Glutinous Glucose of the World Devouring Slime, can absorb the very essence and attribute of their prey. Not only that, upon

consumption this thing also increases the user's physical attributes and sharpens their reflexes. The esteemed guests can see for themselves that this merchant is not lying"

Grimvul announced. A container containing a viscous greenish liquid appeared on the platform.

"What was that about not lying? Glutinous Glucose of the World Eating Slime my ass" Simon commented lightly from inside his VIP room.

The thing that was being auctioned was the puke he had seen in the exhibition. The merchant was really auctioning it. What's more, he had even given it such a grand name.

Hearing his great sales pitch, even Simon got interested in it for a second. However, when he saw the thing he immediately came to his senses.

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There really might be an item like the Glutinous Glucose of the World Eating Slime. However, his keen senses were telling him that the thing in front of him was definitely not it.

Though Simon knew the truth about the item, it was not like everybody did too. There were some demon nobles like that demon duke who thought their [Appraisal] skill was absolute. They were all leaning forward looking at the item with feverish eyes.

Of course, there were also a lot of cunning demons who knew that the item was a scam and thus opted out of it. The starting bid for the item was set to [20,000,000] DP and went as high as [40,000,000] all under the watchful gaze of Grimvul.

Finally, after an intense bidding war, the item was auctioned off for [46,000,000] DP. And guess who bought it? It was none other than the idiot duke.

"ShiShiShi... this esteemed guest knows a treasure when it appears. Congratulation, you have truly lucked out".

"Pfft" Simon smiled at the following words of Grimvul. This damned merchant also knew how to make sarcastic remarks. [46,000,000] DP for a puke, what a ripoff.

Simon was trying his hardest not to laugh out loud, though he knew one demon in particular who might be rolling on the ground unable to contain his laughter after watching this scene.

There were many trash items that went up for auction; however, how could it be that they all ended up being purchased by the same demon?

Simon had to admit, in a certain way this fatty demon duke really had eyes for treasures. The auction continued, every item that came up on the stage induced a fierce bidding war from the participants.

That said, the one's bidding were only the demon nobles in the hall below. The VIP floor was mostly silent. The Demon Archdukes sitting in their private VIP rooms rarely made a move as they were uninterested in any item below rank [S]. Or perhaps they were saving their DP for the main items.

Simon too hadn't bid for any items yet and nothing managed catch his interest since the Eye of Enigma.

"Hm? Are those things about to come up?" Simon who was lazily glancing at the auction unfold, suddenly saw the merchant go silent.

"I'm sure that everybody had their fill of the artefacts by now. As such, it's time to change things up a little. I'm sure those guests who haven't been participating, will be interested in the things that are coming up next... ShiShiShi"

Grimvul announced glancing at the VIP floor. Immediately, the stage started trembling. The previous scaffold went inside the ground and a huge platform replaced it.

The platform that rose from the ground, immediately drew the attention of everyone present inside. A transparent barrier encircled the platform like a cage. Behind it were a few living entities of extraordinary nature and beauty.

They had slender graceful bodies, iridescent wings and a delicate appearance. They were a race from foreign realms and exuded an aura of enchantment and intrigue.



"So the main highlights of the auction are finally starting huh? It's about time" Simon muttered glancing at the beings on the stage. With most of the inanimate artefacts being auctioned off, they were finally moving onto the end stage of the auction.

"Esteemed guests, as you can see, the next items for sale are very unique in that they are beings I have collected from a distant realm. The ones you see in front of you are from the Sylph race who are considered a high tier spirit and possess the power to use spirit magic".

"Sylphs are associated with wind, flight and the ability to manipulate air currents. They have heightened agility, the power to create storms and the ability to navigate effortlessly through the sky".

"The Sylphs are an [A] rank race and can become excellent subordinates once subdued. There are only three sylphs for the auction, all young females with exceptional beauty. Distinguished guests, do not miss this incredible opportunity and bid to your heart's content for there are no races like them. So let's start the bidding".

With Grimvul's inciting words, the atmosphere in the auction hall became electric. Among the audience, there was a mix of collectors, enthusiasts and those seeking the extraordinary. They would never miss this chance to get their hands on something as extraordinary as the race of Sylph.

Even if discounting all that, just the fact that the sylphs were an [A] rank race, made all demon nobles want to possess them. After all, summoning [A] rank or higher subordinates from the [Dungeon Menu] system was extremely rare.

Even if one counted all the demon Nobles below the demon duke rank there would only be a small percentage of demons who were actually able to summon anything higher than an [A] rank with the limited amount of emblems that their dungeon produced.

Therefore as soon as the bidding started, the price for the Sylphs started soaring. The starting bid set for the Sylphs were [80,000,000] DP.

The price far surpassed any of the items that came before; nevertheless, nobody complained. It was a known fact that races who were [B] rank and above, will always be higher in value than the item one rank above them.

In this case, the Sylphs who were an [A] rank race, were as valuable as an [S] rank item. What's more that starting price was for all three of the sylphs combined. As such it was a fair price.

That being said, [80,000,000] DP wasn't a price that anyone below a demon duke can just dish out. Many of the low rankings demons gave up immediately, even the Demon Marquesses had no choice but to give shaking their heads.

In the end, the only demons still bidding were the demon dukes.

[85,000,000]...

[88,000,000]...

[91,000,000]... the price rose up and soon reached the [100,000,000] mark. The wealth of the demon dukes rendered all the spectating demons in shock. However, they weren't the main characters of this auction.

"101,000,000" the ridiculously dressed fatty demon duke bid. He looked at his fellow demon dukes who backed away at this price point and smirked. He thought like he had this in pocket, when a timely counterbid came from the VIP room.

"110,000,000"...

"Tch not again. Even if you are a Demon Archduke, I don't care. The sylphs are something that I desire, I will not allow anyone to get in my way...111,000,000" The fatty demon duke muttered in his heart and raised the price by one million.

Immediately afterwards [120,000,000] the person in the VIP room bid.

[121,000,000]...

[130,000,000]...

When the price was raised once again, the fatty demon duke couldn't help but grit his teeth and glance at the VIP room with an ugly expression.

'What was going on? Is the Demon Archduke also interested in these [A] ranks sylphs?'

"131,000,000" he made another bid. But just like the other times, a counter immediately came. What's more, the bid was always raised by a ridiculous amount every time.

[140,000,000]... it wasn't an amount that even the demon duke could look down on.

"Master, why don't we back down? We have already bought a lot of items, if we bid anymore we might not be able to compete with others for the showcase item" the Demon Earl subordinate calmly advised.

"Tch" Knowing that he won't be able to possess these Sylphs, the fatty demon duke clicked his tongue and backed out.

"140,000,000 DP... do I hear a higher bid? If not then, congratulations to this distinguished guest, you made the right choice by bidding for the sylphs" With those words from Grimvul, the sylphs were sold to the person from that VIP room.

After the sylphs, various other races appeared on the stage. The merchant introduced each one of them and explained their qualities and uniqueness.

Sold... Sold ... Sold...

Naturally, there was a fierce bidding war among the demons to take possession of them. However, in the end, they were all rendered the supporting characters of the demons sitting in the VIP rooms.

Yes, the main characters of this battlefield were no longer the demons sitting on the hall below, but the Demon Archdukes on the VIP floor.

With the main items coming up, they finally making their move. Against such high bids, even the Demon Dukes had no choice but to take a back seat.

If it's said that a Demon Duke is wealthy, then a Demon Archduke would fall in the category of vastly wealthy. Of course, there are always an exception, the fatty demon duke being one.

Even though the other demon dukes tacitly retreated from the battlefield they had no business butting in, the fatty demon duke was insensitive enough to still keep up with his bids.

But of course, his wealth was in no way comparable to the ancient beings that were the Demon Archdukes. He was brutally shown his place and his heightened ego was smashed apart by the highest ranking demons.

"Damn... how wealthy is he?" From inside his VIP room, Simon commented. He didn't even get a chance to participate in this battle where each and every bid was sky high.

Of course, a large part of the reason why he didn't participate was because the thing that he wanted, was yet to come up. But even then, the wealth that these highest ranking demons possessed made him speechless.

His dungeon Laplace, could be said to be doing quite well and growing adequately. However, compared to the high ranking dungeons it was nothing.

Chapter 655 655- The Showcase Item

It was for that reason Simon had given up on all the other items he had his eyes on and saved his DP. He reckoned that if he truly went all out, with the amount he had with him, he might just be able to get the thing he wants.

That said, the one demon he was truly amazed by, was not the Demon Archdukes but by the guy sitting adjacent to his room. A large portion of the things that were sold, were purchased by him.

The demon that he was talking about was none other than Oswald. The wealth that the latter possessed was so great that it made Simon's mind spin. He could even compete with the ancient Demon Archdukes and snatch majority of the things from their hands.

Oswald did tell him that he was very rich; however, he didn't think that it would be to this extent. A demon possessing more wealth than even most of the Demon Archdukes. No wonder, the Demon Lord of Envy was so interested in him.

"That guy is a very unique demon no doubt" At this point, even Simon found himself being curious about Oswald. However, he didn't have the time to ponder it any longer because the thing that he was waiting for, finally appeared on the stage.

"ShiShiShi... distinguished guests, connoisseurs and collectors of the extraordinary. Please pay extra attention to this one. From the race of Lumynars that are said to be one of the, if not the most intelligent beings in this universe".

"They are a highly elusive and ancient race that is said to have once created a highly advanced civilisation a long long time ago. However, their extreme intellect seemed to have worked out against them as they ended up destroying themselves".

"There are only a few Lumynars surviving to this day and age and each and every one of them had shut themselves in places that make them almost impossible to find them. Even I, stumbled upon one through some incredible stroke of luck".

Grumvul took a pause here for his words to sink inside the brains of his audience before continuing.

"Behold the Lumynar, a race of beings whose luminous appearance is the testament to their advanced intelligent and extreme mental capabilities".

The auction hall fell into a hushed silence as all the eyes curiously glanced at the entity on the stage. It was tiny, about around six to seven inches, its body was translucent and shimmering with an inner light.

It had elongated limbs, an out of size head and profound eyes that seemed to be gazing and evaluating the crowd in front of it.

"ShiShiShi... These extraordinary beings have devoted their existence to the pursuit of knowledge, creation and unlocking the mysteries of the universe. What's more, the Lumynars are also called inventors for their unparalleled craftsmanship and creation ability".

At this point, Grumvul spread his hands and said grandly "Distinguished guests, the opportunity to become the master of a Lumynar is once in a lifetime chance that will never appear again".

"These beings hold the key to unlocking new frontiers of knowledge and expanding the boundaries of understanding. I wonder who among you can become its master".

Right after saying that, Grimvul opened the bidding. A being that couldn't be analysed naturally drew all sorts of attention, especially from the ancient Demon Archdukes.

Simon was no exception, if there was anything that drew the most attention from him in that exhibition, it would be this being who was introduced as a Lumynar by Grimvul.

At that time when he was observing the various items and races that were kept in that hall for display, he came across this tiny little guy. It was sitting inside that barrier while lazily gazing at the spectators that came to observe him.

Its attitude was as if it was the doing the observing and not the other way round. Anyways, when he stood in front of it, this Lumynar seemed to have sensed something and sent a mental transmission inside his head.

The thing that it told him, stunned Simon to his very core. He tried to initiate a conversation with it, but the Lumynar did not speak another word to him. Left with no choice Simon decided to question it later after purchasing it.

This was the reason why he was interested in that Lumynar. Even now, its eyes were looking through the VIP room and at him.

Although he did not what that little fellow was thinking, but he could more or less guess his intention. 'Buy me' that's what those eyes were trying to convey.

Simon sighed and joined the bid. The starting bid set for the Lumynar was more ridiculous than even the [A] rank Dragonkins.

[200,000,000] DP... it started from this price point and went as high as [300,000,000]. However, the fierce bidding was yet to slow down. Among these ancient Demon Archdukes, there were many collectors wanting to collect the rare and the extraordinary and those seeking to gain higher powers and understanding.

There was no shortage of demons wanting to possess them, and they wouldn't let this opportunity slip from their hand.

[400,000,000]...

At some point, the bid soared to a point where Simon's heart bled just to place the counterbid. He had his own reason not to back down and so... [410,000,000].

Fortunately for him, the guy adjacent to him did not participate in this bid. Maybe the other party realised he wanted the Lumynar or if he simply wasn't interested. Whatever the case may be, it was a big relief that Oswell was not in the picture.

That said, it was not like there was no competition at all. There were still many others who were bidding fiercely against him. Every time that they bid, they would raise the price quite high. Even Simon was starting to reach his limits.

[500,000,000]... he had already gone beyond the amount he set aside for the auction. If he went any further, it might affect his dungeon and even halt its growth.

Inside one of the VIP rooms...

[That's enough Bellial, we have already expended quite a bit of DP on other items. If you bid any higher, we might lose the showcase item to the subordinates of the other demon lords or those Demon Archdukes]

The Demon Lord of Envy who was about to raise the price once again put down his hands after a mental transmission sounded in his head. It was from his father, the Demon Archduke Gareth.

"Right, I'll stop" Bellial stopped bidding.

Most of the demons sitting inside the VIP rooms and those subordinates sent by the Demon Lords came here for the showcase item of the auction which was guaranteed to be a treasure beyond a treasure. It would be unwise to spend any more DP lest they fall short of DP in the end.

Call it a stroke of luck or just fate, Simon who was desperately wishing for no counter bid, did not hear any offer come even after a while. And therefore, the Lumynar was sold to him. it came for quite a price.

"Hahh..."... As if a weight had been lifted off from his shoulders, he who was on edge flumped to his seat without any energy. Truly, the wealth of the demons on the VIP floor couldn't be looked down upon.

Each of them must have already bought quite a few items and spent more than [1,000,000,000] DP already, yet they kept bidding for the item as fiercely as before.

Simon had a speechless space when he saw the following races that appeared on the stage were all bought by them.

"Master, are you alright?" Theodore and Maybell asked in concern.

"Yeah, I'm alright" Simon flashed a tired smile. It was ironic that he hadn't even moved from his seat yet he was he felt so exhausted already. This went to show the tension and the ferocity the auction hall was engulfed in.

Well, in the end, he was somehow able to get what he wanted. Now all he had to do was wait for the auction to end and then he go and check out the being he bought.

Simon enjoyed the following bidding war like an observer. After the last item was sold, it was finally time for the showcase item of this year's auction to appear. The atmosphere inside the hall was so heavy that it was palpable.

"And now, esteemed guests... there is only one item remaining before the auction of the Damned comes to a close. However, this item is a spectacle of unprecedented magnitude and is far different from all the things and items that came before it".

"It is something that transcends the boundaries of understanding and stands at the precipice of power. Be warned, this item is not for the faint of the heart. Behold the showcase item for this year's auction..."

Grimvul words were like a chant that drew the attention of every demon in the hall. All eyes present went towards the platform that slowly rose from the ground.

Lept on top of it, inside those multiple layers of arrays and barriers was a bizarre and foreboding item that radiated an aura of malevolence. The object was a large ornate box made of dark unknown material that seems to move and shift in an otherworldly way.



The surface of the box was adorned with intricate engravings of some unknown bizarre beings and strange, pulsating veins ran along its sides. The artefact although strange and enigmatic, it possessed a weird temptation that immediately seized the attention of the crowd like a demonic grip.

A palpable sense of foreboding descended into the auction hall as soon as Grimvul released a few of the arrays binding the item.

## Chapter 656 656- Pandora's Box

This sensation was a testament to the raw power of the item and the energy it holds yearning to be harnessed. Many of the demons who were unable to hold themselves back, stood up from their seat and peered inside the darkness within the box.

Simon was the same, he stood up from his seat, leaned against the glass and observed the box. There, inside that space covered in darkness, he saw something deeply disturbing- A writhing mass of dark serpentine tendrils that seemed to have a life of its own was moving around and twisting almost like a macabre dance.

It had an enormous mouth and numerous jagged teeth that seemed like they could devour anything. Danger!! Simon's senses rang alerts inside his head, the moment he saw that thing looking towards him.

Immediately, Simon shifted his eyes away feeling an immense sense of dread. He instinctively backed away from the glass and collapsed on the ground breathing disorderly.

What was that thing that he saw? It was massive and it was devouring what looked like a planet. The thing appeared to be the very incarnation of destruction.

Seeing Simon fall down all of a sudden, Theodore and Maybell immediately came to his side to support him. Similar scenes was occurring all around the chamber. Demon nobles were fainting on the ground after looking inside that box.

Compared to them Simon was on the fortunate side.

"ShiShiShi... distinguished guests, you have all seen what this box can do. It has the ability to grant the deepest desire of its master, I call it the Pandora's Box. Immense riches, dominion over realms, unparalleled might, whatever your desire might be, this box has the ability to grant it".

"So let us start the bidding for this item which has no equal. The starting bid for the Pandora's Box will be 1,000,000,000 DP".

With those words, the crowd immediately boiled over, 1,000,000,000 Dp... a sum like that, was by far out of league for most of the demons attending the auction.

Even for Demon Dukes, a sum like that was a huge chunk of their income. Only the demons on the VIP floor had the qualification to bid for this showcase item that was said to have no equal. Hence a fierce bidding for the Pandora's Box started.

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After the auction ended, the demon nobles calmly waited in the lounge while they sent their subordinates to the side chamber to get the items their master purchased.

Simon along with Maybell and Theodore also headed there after the crowd lightened. Inside, Grimvul was waiting for him.

"ShiShiShi... if it's not the demon who possesses the Fragment of Pride. It's a pleasure doing business with you. Here is the thing you bid for, the Lumynar. An excellent choice if I must say"

The merchant handed him the container containing the tiny fellow and the contract to become its master. The contract was a high tier contract that even the blood contract he made with the Queen of Harpies, couldn't compare with.

"Once you complete this contract, A special soul corridor will be created bringing the Lumynar to you" Grimvul explained delightedly counting the DP he earned.

Simon did as he was told and quickly completed the contract. All he had to do was put a droplet of his blood into the contract and then an invisible energy was released that disappeared inside the body of Lumynar.

As soon as the contract was made, Simon felt a connection of sorts being formed between him and the Lumynar. Using this connection, he could even command the Lumynar if he wanted to.

After getting the thing that he purchased, Simon did not stick for long and quickly left the side chamber. The reason for that was of course the Lumynar. The thing that this fellow told him at the exhibition was bugging his mind the entire time.

"Maybell, create a sound nullification barrier around this place"...

"Yes"...

Seeing that an invisible barrier that stopped all sounds from leaking out from the inside, form around them, did Simon open the container and let the tiny fellow out.

The Lumynar jumped out of the container and stretched its body.

"I bought you just like you wanted. Now tell me, how did you know about that?" Simon questioned. Theodore and Maybell too were curiously looking at this luminescent alien.

"It's not 'you', my name is Prime. You shall address me as such" the Lumynar finally responded, its tone was arrogant and lofty.

Simon was unfazed because he had already witnessed the other party's manner of talking once before. However, for Theodore and Maybell it was a little shocking.

Theodore: "Waoh... this toy is really talking. I wonder how it is doing it? Ot doesn't seem to have a mouth"...

Maybell: "Brother, it's not a toy".

"What did you say you brats? Just because you are Antediluvian Ancestors, you think that it gives you the right to look down on me?" The Lumynar introducing himself as Prime, jumped up and down in fury.

However, that only seemed to make Theodore even more curious. Just when the boy was about to pick the Lumynar and inspect it like it was some kind of rare insect, Maybell quickly stopped him.

"Why are you stopping me Maybell? This guy is running his mouth quite a bit, let me teach it a lesson"...

"You can't do that, master is still talking with it".

Seeing the twins argue among themselves, Simon gently chided to silence them before shifting his attention back to the Lumynar. His eyes seemed to be looking at the little fellow with even more interest.

The Lumynar was able to instantly identify the race of the twins whose status was blocked by multiple skills and items. Not only that, this fellow was also able to identify that he had made a spiritual connection with the Null Elemental. Hence the current situation.

"Hmph, I don't understand your surprise. Didn't that merchant explain to you all about my race during the auction? As the most intelligent and ancient race, it's all too simple for me to see through all your secrets".

"I also know that you have the two fragments of that greater constellation. Furthermore, you also seemed to be harbouring a distorted destiny. The list goes on... its weird no matter how I see it. You seemed to be much more interesting than all the demons inside the auction. Hence I asked you to buy me"

Prime explained, its body glowing with an iridescent light that seemed to express that it was very proud of itself.

"So it was just because of that?" Simon asked, his face disappointed.

When Prime saw Simon's disappointed face, the light coming out of its body turned red indicating fury. It pointed at him and shouted—

"You?!! I just explained to you about myself, so why are you making that kind of fae instead of jumping around in joy?"...

"Sigh... so you told me those words in the exhibition just because you didn't want to end up at the hands of other demons? And here I thought you had something extremely important to tell me" Simon shook his head, his voice a little angry.

Why would he not? He had just spent a large sum of his DP to get this little fellow. All for what? Simon felt like he had been scammed and couldn't help but regret not bidding for other items instead.

"You!! You dare to think that I am not a worthwhile investment? Kuhh, brat you have angered me" Lumynar were experts at detecting emotions as such Prime was instantly able to detect that Simon was regretting buying him.

"Hmph, let me tell you. It was your good fortune that you were able to get your hands on me. Other demons only got items that were so so. Dragonkins, Sylphs and a few other races were good, but compared to me their values might just be nothing" Prime made a sales pitch describing its own value and how it was the best thing in the auction.

"The only other thing that could come close to my value is the Eye of Enigma. The rest is just so so" The light around the Lumynar turned iridescent once again.

"Really, you think that you are better than all the other items? Then tell me one good reason for me to have spent 500,000,000 DP on you" Simon questioned, a sceptical look on his face.

"Kuhh, you really seemed to be looking down on me. Fine, I'll tell you, you stupid brat. Even amongst the members of my race, I was regarded as the greatest genius. My inventions and creations were revolutionary and far ahead that our civilisation so much so that the head council even gave me the name Prime".

"There is nothing in this world that I cannot create or repair... huff...huff... do you get it now you demon brat?" Due to getting too emotionally instigated, prime blabbered on and soon became out of breath.

"Hoh" a light flashed inside Simon's deep crimson eyes "you don't say. Then does that mean that you can repair items that are even [S] rank or above?".

"Hmph who do you think I am, its all just a child's play for me. [S] or above doesn't matter. As long as I have the necessary items and equipment, I can fix anything. Don't you dare underestimate me brat. My knowledge and ability are something that you cannot put a price tag on. I'll show you how incredible the race of Lumynars are" prime snorted.

Chapter 657 657- Ten Thousand Bones Mountain Range

After explaining his worth to Simon, he snapped at Theodore who was poking him around as if he was some kind of toy.

"Hehe, master what should we do with him? I don't think he will be able to survive even I give him the lowest ranking mark" Theodore grabbed the Lumynar and asked.

"Hey unhand me this instant".

Simon glanced at Prime who was complaining about being grabbed like a toy and deliberated. No matter what, now that he had purchased him, there was no option of returning it.

Rather than thinking that he wasted all of his DP on this fellow, it would be better to consider what it said and put him to use. It was not like the Lumynar he purchased was not genuine. If anything he was more sure that it was the real deal.

So if their race was really the genius that they claim to be, Simon should be able to put him to good use. He asked Theodore to free Prime who immediately distanced himself from the twins and jumped into his shoulders.

"Hey demon brat, ask those two to stop manhandling me, I'm not some toy" Prime complained.

"Don't mind them, it's just their way of getting friendly with you. Anyways, you told me earlier that if there was any item that had any real value, it was the Eye of Enigma?Then does that mean that you can tell which items are genuine or not?" Simon smiled and quickly changed the topic.

"Of course, I can. I have spent my entire life understanding the mysteries of the universe and finding the truth behind everything. Knowing if something is fake or not, is but a simple matter. Ask me anything, and I shall enlighten you, the ignorant one" Prime replied, making himself comfortable on the demon's shoulder.

"Hehh, for a race that does not have any combat abilities you sure like talking down on others" Simon shook his head before asking curiously "Does that mean that the eye of enigma was a genuine item?".

The Eye of Enigma was one of the items that he was he had his eyes on. However, due to being unable to tell if the item was genuine or not, he had to give up on the opportunity to acquire it.

That said, now that Prime brought it up, he couldn't help but become curious.

"That's right, it was the best item by far out of all the things I have seen in that exhibition. Why do you ask? Don't tell me you wanted to purchase that item but you didn't know whether it was real or not? Haa.. what an idiot?" Prime chuckled.

"I change my mind, Theodore, Maybell lets go and return this Lumynar and get my DP back" Saying that, Simon was just about to turn around when Prime hurriedly stopped.

"Wait.. wait.. wait, I was just kidding. There is no need to be so serious. I don't want to go back to that hideous merchant; however, what I said is true, the eye of enigma was the real deal. You shouldn't have missed out on that opportunity".

"Whose falt do you think it was that I was unable to purchase that item? If not because you said those words to me, I would have bid for that Eye of Enigma" Simon grumbled.

"Haha... well, you got me so everything turned all right in the end. Besides, none of those items can come close to my value" Prime argued. "Anyways, do you know who was the demon who bought that eye?".

Simon nodded his head recalling that it was the unconventionally dressed fatty who bought the Eye of Enigma.

"The Eye of Enigma is a sentient treasure, it accepts only those who it recognises as its master. As such, you should keep an eye on that demon. Who knows if you are destined with it, the eye might just end up in your hands" Prime spoke in a mysterious way.

Simon was just about to ask what it meant, when he noticed his body was glowing. All of the demons present along with their subordinates, were teleported to a new place where two enormous glowing teleport gates were waiting for them.

[The Auction of the Damned has come to an end. Distinguished guests, your enthusiasm and passion for the extraordinary truly filled my heart. I hope that you all were able to take back something with you from this auction].

[This merchant has nothing but gratitude for you all, it was a pleasure doing business with you all. Until we meet again]

Merchant Grimvul's voice suddenly echoed from a distant space.

[Ah, that's right. I have prepared two teleport gates for you all. Currently, we are above the Ten Thousand Bones mountain range. The gate on your left will take you to that place, while the gate on the right will roughly teleport you back to your dungeon].

[In a few minutes you all will be teleported to the Ten thousand bones mountain regardless if you didn't make a choice].

After Grimvul was done explaining, his voice stopped coming. With the auction of the damned now over, there was nothing left to do here. As such, the demon nobles started leaving using the teleport gates prepared for them.

Of course, because of the soon to be held Hexennacht, only a small number of demons left through the gate on the right while a large part still remained behind. Those demon that left either did not create their own dungeon, or were the subordinates of the other demons.

Simon was among the ones that remained behind. He had decided to attend the Hexennacht that was going to be held next. From what he learned about it from Oswell, the event seemed to be important.



As such, not attending would be a bad choice. Besides, he had never ventured towards the direction of the Demon Continent before this, it would be his first time. So a part of him was excited and wanted to attend the Hexennacht and experience it for himself.

With that in mind, Simon followed by Theodore and Maybell stepped towards the teleport gate on the left and disappeared.

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Located in the central region of the Demon Continent, the Ten Thousand Bones mountain range is a prominent geographical area. It spans for thousands of miles, encompassing rugged peaks, deep valleys, treacherous cliffs and houses many dungeons.

The name 'Ten Thousand Bones' derives from the countless skeletal remains that litter the mountains, adding an eerie and foreboding atmosphere to the area.

The sky here was constantly shrouded in darkness, even during the daylight hours.

Whoosh...with a flash of light, Simon's body materialised somewhere within the Ten Thousand Bones mountain range. As he curiously looked around his surroundings, two more flashes of light appeared beside him, it was Theodore and Maybell.

"Master where are we?" The twins asked blinking their eyes.

Simon opened his [Mental Map] skill and recalled the additional memories he inherited after he became a demon earl. However, even after all that, all he could recall was that this place was somewhere within the Ten Thousand Bone Mountain range.

"Oswell said that the Asphodel Meadows is located in the southern region of the Demon Continent. Since we are currently around the central region, we need to head south" Simon pointed, he unfurled his wings and started flying towards that direction.

The twins followed behind him. Being Antediluvian Ancestors, Theodore and Maybell each possessed three pairs of magnificent raven black wings protruding from their back.

The wings were more than five meters big and gave them insane speed and flight ability. Even with Simon flying all out, they could effortlessly keep up with him.

"Hey demon brat, slow down a little. Are you trying to kill me?" Prime's voice suddenly came from his right chest pocket. At some unknown point in time, the Lumynar hid inside his pocket.

"What?! How did you become so small?" Simon asked in surprise. Prime was already tiny to begin with, however, he had become even tinier now.

"We Lumynar can freely control our size. From as small as an insect, we can go on to become as big as a mountain. You should get used to it" Prime replied nonchalantly.

"I see, so what are you doing inside my pocket?"...

"Isn't it obvious, I'm hiding. Snort, you should be grateful to me, I'm hiding so as to save you from the trouble of being targeted by others".

Hearing the answer from this little fellow, Simon couldn't help but shake his head. Rather than saving him the trouble, Prime just didn't want to end up as a possession of some other demon and hence willingly took the initiative to hide.

Paying the latter no mind, Simon focused his attention on the direction in front of him. The Ten Thousand Bones Mountain Range was extremely vast. Everywhere you laid your eyes, you will find skeletal remains sprawled on the ground, painting an eerie picture.

Thanks to the shrouding darkness devouring all lights from the outside, it was very easy to get lost here. However, thanks to the [mental map] skill, Simon had no problem navigating through the place.

After flying at a breakneck speed for a while, they were soon able to spot some figures in the distance. These figures were also headed in the same direction as them. Needless to say, they were the demon nobles from the auction.

It appeared that they were all teleported to a random place on the ten thousand bone mountain range and were now making their way their way over to the Asphodel Meadows.

When Simon spotted them, the other party too noticed him and his group. However, besides maintaining their caution, the other party did not try to start anything. They simply increased their speed and maintained their vigilance.

Chapter 658 658- Ten Thousand Bones Mountain Range (2)

After a day or two of continuous flying, more and more demon nobles appeared on the horizon, all heading towards the same direction.

"It's weird, I can't spot any demon dukes around" Simon mused. The demon nobles flying all around him were either Demon Earls or Demon Marquesses. He couldn't see any high ranking demons in the midst.

"Hey demon brat, look in the distance. The ones you are looking for, are inside those things" Prime spoke, his finger pointing up ahead.

The direction he was pointing at, was towards the dark clouds. Up above the sky, looming inside those clouds, was something huge that made a loud whirring noise as it flew.

When the thing finally came down, Simon was able to clearly see it. A huge airborne construct that spanned for hundreds of meters in length, soared through the skies with grace and power.

Its shape resembled a huge elongated arc or a gentle curve which allowed for maximum stability during flight. Equipped with all the latest aeronautical technology, the thing that looked like a blimp was none other than the Air Engine that Simon knew off.

However, unlike the ones he had seen in the kingdom of Ellesmere, the one in front of him was not only bigger in both size and grandeur, it was also more advanced.

Additionally, there was not only one or two Air Engines like that in the sky, but several of them. All of them made loud whirring noises like the rumbling of the thunder as they sped forward.

The sight of these majestic Air Engines gracing the sky, evoked a sense of wonder and awe as they filled this dark barren land with their grandeur. Simon who was observing the Air Engines felt the powerful presence of the high ranking demon sitting inside them.

It appeared that the reason why he didn't see any Demon Dukes around, was because they were heading for the southern region of the Demon Continent while flying in their personal Air Engines.

"Air engines huh, that's quite useful"

Based on his incomplete inherited memories, the Asphodel Meadows wasn't very far away from the Ten Thousand Bones Mountain Range. That said, it was still more than a thousand kilometres from here.

Even if a distance like that was possible to cover by flying, they would end up extremely exhausted by the time they reach their destination. Simon couldn't help but feel a tinge of envy as he saw those high ranking demon nobles flying in their cozy Air Engines.

An Air engine was not only fast, but it could also travel large distances. Unless one knew the space magic, it was impossible to catch up to the speed of the Air Engine. If he also had one of those, he wouldn't have to do something as cumbersome as fly all the way to the southern region.

"Let's go" Simon didn't stop to marvel at the Air engines for long, after he ascertained that he was headed in the right direction, he resumed his flight.

The next day, he saw another batch of Air Engines roar through the skies and head for the Asphodel Meadows. All of them carried the lofty Demon Dukes and their subordinate.

"Master look, that one is far bigger and cooler than all the other ones" Theodore who was gazing at the Air engines, pointed out with a fascinated look on his face.

The Air Engine he was pointing at, was huge. It was far more advanced and looked more like a mobile fortress than a blimp. It was so grand and majestic that it stuck out, like a whale among a school of fish.

For some reason, the huge mobile fortress that was soaring through the sky, suddenly slowed down and a figure descended down from it.

The figure observed the passing demons calmly before quickly locating its target.

"Are you Lord Simon?" The figure asked appearing in front of Simon. The latter looked at their appearance and quickly realised that she was the subordinate of Oswell that he had seen in the auction.

Simon nodded his head in affirmation.

"I see then please come with me, Master Oswell is waiting for you" The subordinate led him and the twins inside the enormous mobile fortress where a chubby demon was waiting for them.

"Ah my friend, forgive me. Even though I told you we should head to the Hexennacht together, I didn't expect the teleport gate to spawn us randomly. Also, it took me some time to call forth the Air Engine from my dungeon" Oswell apologised and gave Simon a proper hospitality.

"Don't worry about it" Simon waved his hand dismissing the issue.

"Haha, I'm glad that I found you" Oswell smiled before curiously glancing at the twins "Are those two your subordinates?".

"That's right, they are like my family" Simon introduced Theodore and Maybell as he adoringly patted their heads.

Looking at the bond between Simon and his subordinates, Oswell smiled as spoke "As I thought so, you are a very peculiar demon, Simon. Most demons only view their subordinates as tools that follow their command. However, I can see that there is a mutual respect and love among you and your subordinates".

Simon blinked his eyes and looked at the twins. Tools? He never considered them that way. Nor them or any other subordinates of his. They were like his family always supporting his back.

"Aren't you also the same?" he stated glancing at Oswell and the subordinate beside him. That awe filled look in her eyes and her mannerism told Simon how much she respected her master.

"Haha, you might be right, both of us are peculiar" Oswell laughed before introducing his subordinate "She is Aisha, one of my loyal subordinates".

Aisha courteously bowed her head towards Simon and the twins.

"Ah that's right, I have prepared a feast for you all. Why don't we head there and fill our stomachs first" Leave it to the glutton, the first thing that came to his mind was food.

Though that said, after flying nonstop for three days, he was also starting to feel hungry. Of course, being a Demon Earl, he could go on for weeks or even months without food. However, the human part of his previous life still craved for food.

Plus, even if not for him he had to think for the twins, who were still children in body and mind. They needed to eat and drink plenty to grow. Since that was the case, Simon willingly accepted the other party's offer and followed them inside.

It needs to be mentioned that the Air Enigne not only provided a comfortable and relaxing means of long distance travel, it was also decked out in luxury.

This Air Engine in particular, had an opulence of things, from spacious and elegant cabins to observation decks to even recreational areas. This mobile fortress had everything, it was filled with amenities that it would be doing it injustice to call it an Air engine any longer.

If anything, this place was even more luxurious than a palace or an inn.

Oswell led them towards a spacious hall where a variety of food was kept on top of a large table in the middle. The delicious aroma wafting from the food filled the place and increased one's appetite.

"This Cheesecake Cake Fortress, has more than twenty one chefs working on it. So do not be shy and eat to your heart's content... Haha" Oswell declared proudly.

Should he be amazed or not, Simon was at a loss. This glutton had twenty one chefs working just in this Air Engine alone, one had to wonder how much did he eat for there to be so many chefs to be present.

In the end, Simon could only smile bitterly and take his seat.

"That reminds me, Aisha bring them here. They must be hungry too" Oswell ordered suddenly remembering something.

Aisha dutifully nodded her head and quickly left to complete his orders. Looking at that prim and proper manner of her, Simon couldn't help but get reminded of Annette who was also always serious about her maidly tasks.

There were other similarities between them like how the both of them wore spectacles and had that aura of a cool and intellectual beauty.

"Is that subordinate of yours from the spirit race?" Simon asked.

"That's impressive for you to notice that. She is technically a half, a descendant of an ancient spirit. How did you find out that she was from the spirit race?" Oswald was surprised by Simon's perceptiveness.

"Well, I also have a subordinate like her. She is full born spirit though. Your subordinate Aisha couldn't help but remind me of her" Simon answered.

Even if Aisha was a half, she was technically a spirit as such it could be said that he was not wrong. Though an ancient spirit huh? Leaving aside the fact that she was a half, just the fact that she was the descendant of an ancient spirit made her rank [A] or above.

"So that was the case" Oswald nodded his head.

After a while, Aisha came back with a group in tow. When Simon looked at the group behind her, he immediately recognised them as the races that came up in the auction. The Sylphs, Gorgons and even the Halfling called the Tiefling was among the group.

"You sure bought quite a lot of them" Simon couldn't help but comment looking at the many races that Oswald had purchased in the auction.

"Well, money means nothing to me. As long as my subordinates are happy, I'm happy too" Oswald replied lightly.

"Thank you master for going along with my selfishness. I just couldn't leave them alone after seeing them appear in the acution" Aisha bowed her head and thanked her master.

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It appeared that the reason why Oswell bought all those races was because of her.

Now that Simon carefully looked at them, he realised all of them were either the spirit race, a part of it or were a Halfling just like her.

"Don't worry about it, I can easily earn all those DP back. Compared to that, I would say that I profited greatly this time by purchasing them" Oswell told Aisha not to pay any attention to that and placed his attention on the group behind her.

The three Sylph children that were all nervous and afraid when they were brought up in the auction were now relaxed and tightly clinging to Aisha like a baby hen.

The two gorgons who had the body of a female and snakes for hair were also the same. Being a part of the spirit race, they felt comfortable around her.

As for the last Tiefling, they were human with part demon ancestry. It was unknown what kind of demonic race this Tiefling descended from. However, he appeared extremely strong and skilled in combat.

All that said, all six of them were an extremely rare and mythical race that one cannot see in Althaea. As for their ranks, all of them were [A] ranks.

"I see that you guys have calmed down now. I shall discuss about your circumstances after we go back. For now, why don't you all join me and eat something? You all must be hungry" Oswell put on a friendly face and gestured at the table he was sitting.

The Tiefling did not stand on ceremony, he immediately grabbed a sit and started voraciously devouring the food. The sylphs and gorgons looked a little hesitant. However, when Aisha beckoned them to go ahead, they too joined in albeit very nervously.

Simon who observed the entire proceeding was inwardly a little impressed. This glutton might act all unique and self-centered but when the time came, he easily acted the part as if he was a natural in it.



Simon was simply observing from the side yet he could feel the charisma and the aura of a leader, from him. He even learned a thing or two from the latter. As this was not a matter for him to butt in, Simon was silent. Though it didn't mean that everyone around him was the same.

"Hey you, your body looks so ripped. What kind of food do you eat?" At some unknown point in time, Theodore stepped out from his seat and had joined the Tiefling.

"Huh?!" The Tiefling grunted and simply focused on his food. But Theodore did not mind it, on the contrary, he was even more proactive in starting the conversation.

"Hehe, you see my goal is also to have a body like that when I grow up".

Seeing his subordinate behave all casual and friendly, Simon didn't know what to say anymore.

Oswell also didn't seem to mind and allowed everyone to have fun as they wanted. The silent table soon became boisterous.

"Ah that's right Simon. Why don't you take the Lumynar you bought from the auction out? That guy must be hungry too" Oswell remarked chewing down on his trademark drumstick.

"So you knew huh" Simon smiled and poked at his right chest pocket. A tiny humanoid with translucent body and pulsating patterns of light jumped out of his pocket and landed on the table.

"Hmph, brat you intend to feed me this? Is this what you all call food? This is all Yuck"

Prime made a repulsed face. He called the various delicacies on the table that would otherwise make a normal person salivate from the smell, yuck.

'This guy, he really did not know how to act as per the situation. To think that he would use his haughty tone even in here' Simon wondered if he should keep the fellow back inside his pocket when...

"Hoho, you don't like the food? Then tell me what kind of food do you prefer. All my chefs are top class, there isn't any dish that they cannot prepare"

Oswell did not mind the Lumynar's attitude, on the contrary, he seemed to even want to entertain the other.

"Heh, brat you speak such big words. Alright, I'll take you up on that offer. Let's see if you can prepare it. The food that we the race of Lumynars eat, are liquidised minerals from the ores" Prime declared.

Oswell looked at Aisha who tacitly nodded her replying "No problems, I'll tell the chefs to prepare it"...

"That's how it is. Haha, is there anyone who wants to eat anything else? You need not be shy when it comes to food"...

"Oh!! Me, I want a King Chocolate Cream"..

"I want the same as brother".

On Oswell's proclamation, the twins also joined in. They weren't the only ones, after sensing the mood, even the previously reserved Sylphs and Gorgons also opened up. They all told him the food they want to eat.

"Sorry about that" Simon apologised. Prime was one thing, he didn't expect the twins to jump in too on the bandwagon.

"You don't have to apologise, I really meant what I said. I think that the food is one of the things that can connect and brings all of us closer. In fact, I believe that through food we will all come to understand each other one day".

"It might not be impossible to even unify the world. We might have our own differences and tastes but there is not a single being in this world that hates food. That is my maxim" Oswell spoke, there was a surprising seriousness on his face.

"You too, don't be so reserved and order any food of your liking" He patted Simon's shoulder.

'This demon was really peculiar' Simon thought in his heart. He couldn't tell if they were sincere or just fooling around. Unifying the world and understanding each other through food? This was the first time Simon heard something as foolish and ludicrous as that.

On the other side... "My deepest apologies but we do not know what a King Chocolate Ice cream is" Aisha bowed her head. This ice cream was something that she was hearing for the first time.

"How can that be.. it's that thing that is cold sweet and really really delicious" Theodore tried to explain but the ice cream was a foreign concept to the world of Althaea.

"Leave it at that Theodore, Maybell. I shall prepare the King Chocolate Ice Cream that you want" Simon interjected between the enthusiastic twins and the troubled Aisha.

"Yay... master is the best"...

"Master is number one"

Hearing that he will be taking out the king chocolate ice cream, Theodore and Maybell started throwing praises towards him.

"Simon, what is this ice cream they speak of?" Of course, with the twins making such a fuss about it, there was no way Oswell wouldn't be interested in it.

Simon opened the [Shop] and purchased a ton of ice cream for the whole group. Since the other party was going so far as to even prepare food of their liking, he ought to contribute something.

The last time, he made Oswell try the coke which he became a huge fan of. This time, he will let him try another masterpiece from his world, the ice cream.

Simon took out a large box filled with small containers in the shape of a rectangle inside and handed one to everyone.

"Here everyone... try this". All of them looked at the container in their hand with puzzled eyes. The thing was releasing frosty air like a block of ice.

Is this what they called an Ice cream? Are they supposed to eat this, the rectangular box made of an unknown material? While Oswell and his entourage were confused, the twins opened their containers and started eating the contents within.

It was only after seeing the demonstration, did they understand that they needed to open the container to eat the contents within.

Sniff... Sniff... "This..." Like a connoisseur of food, Oswell first sniffed the ice cream, before quickly digging in.

"W-What is this rich, smooth and refreshing taste? How can there be something so good? Simon give me one more" The glutton finished his share of ice cream in a few mouthfuls before demanding more.

He kept on emptying one container after another. When it came to food, this guy really did not hold back. He expected Oswell to react like that; however, what he didn't expect was for Aisha to also not lack behind her master.

Although her manner of eating was elegant, to be able to eat ten containers was an incredible feat on its own.

"Slow down, it's not like the ice cream is going anywhere" Simon smiled helplessly and took out another box full of ice cream.

This time, even the Sylphs, Gorgons, the Teifling and the twins joined in as they asked for their third serving. The dining table quickly became a party where everyone opened up and conversed merrily.

Perhaps the words that Oswell said earlier about the food being able to bring people closer, might not entirely be false.

"Lord Simon, if it's not too much to ask, can I take a few containers for the Chefs to try? I haven't seen Master compliment something so much. It got me thinking if we could replicate it, he can enjoy it after we go back to our home too".

Aisha approached Simon and made a courteous request. Seeing the solemnity on her face and her wholehearted desire to serve her master, Simon couldn't reject her.

He nodded his head and allowed the latter to take a couple of ice creams for research. In any case, he could always buy these ice creams from his [Shop] option. However, others didn't have this choice of option.

After the party was over and everyone had their fill, Simon and Oswald started discussing some serious stuff.

Chapter 660 660- Ten Thousand Bones Mountain Range (4)

Prime was with him enjoying his mineral shake while Aisha took the twins and the others with her on a tour of the Cheesecake Fortress.

"How long will it take us to reach our destination?" Simon asked looking at the dark barren land filled with mountains of bones from the observation deck.

"At the pace we are going, we should arrive at the Asphodel Meadows at most within another day" Oswald answered sipping the cola that Simon offered him.

"I see" The latter nodded his head.

"Hey Simon, do you know about the history of the Ten Thousand Bone Mountain Range and how it became the way it is now?" Oswald who was also glancing at the landscape below suddenly started recounting a tale.

"It happened a long long time ago, during the second apex war. This place was not always called the Ten thousand bone mountain range but it was named something else. The Myriad Highlands, that's what the name of this place was before the colossal battle that engulfed the whole world ensued".

"It was a conflict of unimaginable scale, an epic clash of ancient powers that forever left its mark on the various places of the world. Out of all those places, the Ten thousand Bones Mountain Range bore the most marks".

Simon listened intently as Oswald recounted the tales from back then. After he became a Demon Earl, Simon knew a little about this Apex War. It was the Human-Demon war of epic proportions.

Many clans, races and continents were embroiled in this war. One could still see the vestiges of the clash in various parts of the world. Simon didn't expect the Ten Thousand Bone Mountain Range he was currently at, to also be one.

Oswell continued: "It is said that at that time, a mighty force emerged within humans that managed to unify almost all of the kingdoms and countries of the Central Continent. The name of that Empire has somehow been erased from the Historical Records. Other than a few ancient beings, no one even knows about it".

"What's more, the origin of that empire, its location, everything about it is shrouded in mystery. You will not find a single trace that could clue you to it remaining in this world. I tried to investigate it but found no result".

"Anyways, fearing the growing power of the empire, the demon nobles raised their own forces. A horde so vast that it could even blot out the light coming from the sun. The two mighty forces fought in an endless struggle for dominance. Their conflict had raged across the realm for decades or even centuries with countless lives lost and entire civilisations ravaged".

"As the war escalated to its climax, one of the sides started losing. It was the demons, the might of the Empire drove them back, towards the Ten Thousand Bone Mountain range, which then became the chosen battleground".

Oswell took a pause to gulp down the cola in his hand before looking towards Simon with solemn eyes.

"Do you know why I'm telling you all this? It's because I do not entirely trust these memories that I inherited. That's right, I wasn't born at that time. What I know about this war is from those memories".

"Anyways, let us get back to the topic. After the Empire drove the demons to the Ten Thousand Bone mountain range, the armies of the two sides clashed here. The battle raged on for a long period of time, with magic and skills unleashed with unimaginable fury.

"The earth trembled, the sky darkened and the very fabric of reality strained under the strain of their conflict causing cataclysmic upheavals and unnatural phenomena. The power of the combatants was so immense that their very essence seeped into the land forever altering it".

"Mountains crumbled, valleys split open and rivers ran crimson with the blood of the fallen. The Myriad Highlands, once a majestic range, became a haunting landscape of jagged peaks and treacherous cliffs, adorned with countless skeletal remains of those who perished in the battle".

"That's how the Myriad Highlands came to become the Ten Thousand Bone Mountain range".

So that's how it was, Simon nodded his head. Looking at the land below, he felt like he could see the gigantic battle that engulfed the entire world. The Ten Thousand Bone Mountain range stood as a reminder, a cautionary tale of the long forgotten war.

Simon understood this much; however, what baffled him was Oswell's statement. What was there not to believe about it?

"You see there are a few things in those memories that do not make sense. Like that Empire, what happened to it and how did it disappear? I did some investigation and looked into some ancient records and ruins and through them, I was able to find out some deviations. Like that thing in the sky" Oswell suddenly pointed towards the sky.

"Although you cannot see it from here because of endless dark clouds, but if you fly to an extreme altitude that is impossible with flight skill and breach the obscuring clouds, you will see the thing it is hiding".

"A colossal spatial rift cutting across the sky like a scar. There was no mention of it in the memory or in the records. If it was formed during the battle, why was this information obscured? I find it very strange" At the end of his sentence, Oswell started mumbling to himself.

"Ah, forgive me if I bored you. Initially, I just wanted to tell you about the legend behind the Ten Thousand Bone mountain range. However, I deviated from the topic"...

"Don't worry about it, it was very informational" Simon replied shaking his hand. He got to learn something about the history of this world. Normally, he would only come across information like that at a higher rank.

However, thanks to Oswell, he was even able to learn some of the mysteries of the world that were obscured.

"Though that said, I didn't think that you would be interested in anything other than food" Simon couldn't help but speak out his true thoughts.

Oswell didn't seem to mind on the contrary he even laughed out loud "Haha, you got that right my friend. However, as someone who carries the fate and lives of many on his shoulders, there are some things in this world that I cannot veer my eyes away from. Whether I like it or not, I must do what needs to be done"

Oswell spoke with gravity, an aura of a leader emanated from him.

Hearing his words, Simon fell silent. It was not like he cannot relate to it. In fact, he was also in the same position. His dungeon, the life of his subordinates and the inhabitants living inside it. He carried all their fates on his shoulder and hence must act the part.

"Alright, enough with the serious talk. Right now, what I'm most curious about is where did you get all these amazing food items from. This cola and even the ice cream we had earlier, is something that I have never ever heard of or seen before. Yet you possess so many of them. Are you a cook? Or do you know where they make them"

Oswell became enthusiastic all of a sudden causing Simon to be taken aback.

"About that..." he cannot tell the other party that he was a reincarnator and that all these food items were from his previous world. Hence he could only vaguely answer with a lie to dodge the questioning.

"My subordinates... that right, they are incredible cooks".

Simon decided to go with that. In his mind, he had the figures of the Valkyries. It was not like what he said was a complete lie. The Valkyries aside from their battle prowess, were created to be top notch maids in mind.

They could easily replicate some of the food from his previous world.

"So that was the case" Oswell looked like he believed it as he continuously nodded his head. "Kuh, its regretful that I do not have a cook like that who can create these items. Hmm, maybe I should bring my chefs to your place so that they can learn how to make these items from your subordinates".



Simon sighed in exasperation, this demon would go to any lengths for food.

"Ah, I forgot to ask it before, where is your dungeon located?" Oswald who was busy imagining his own things, suddenly posed a question.

His question caused Simon's expression to change abruptly. He looked at the other party and deliberated what their intention was and whether he should reveal it to them or not.

Even though Oswald acted friendly towards him and there was a cordial relationship between them, it hadn't reached the point where Simon completely trusted him. His encounters after reincarnating in this world weren't very great and it made him all the more distrustful of others after he found out the truth behind the death of a loved one in his previous life.

Thanks to these encounters, Simon had difficulty trusting others. Unless they formed a contract with him or were his close subordinates, he was always on his guard against them.

"It's located in the Ghastly Winding Forest," That said, he chose to reveal it to the other party.

In any case, Simon would have to reveal the location of his dungeon if he wanted to participate in this Hexennacht where only the demon nobles who created their own dungeon are allowed to attend.

At the rate his dungeon was growing, it would sooner or later come into notice of other demons, so why not introduce it now? Besides, from what he learned from the demon beside him, it looked like they discussed some important stuff at this gathering, not attending it was not an option.