

Darkness 171

Chapter 171: Chamber of Secrets

At the end of the evening when Kahn finally returned to the main office building after gathering information on this Maestro Weapon Enterprise.. He was certain that it wasn't just this company. But dozens of such forces who treaded in this business and had their branches spread out in Rukon district as well.

These people were hiring normal citizens & anyone who needed money to make a scene in the Bloodborne company's shops. As if all of them decided to gang up on his company for some reason.

Before the office hours were to be finished, one of his receptionists, a yellow middle-aged wolfkin, came to his office.

"Sir, there's an envelope for you." spoke the wolfkin and handed the envelope to him.

"You may go." spoke Kahn and opened the envelope.

The contents of the written inside were addressed to Albestros. It was an invitation.

"So these were the main culprits behind all of this.." said Kahn as he looked at the name of the organization that sent him this invitation.

The Rukon Chamber of Commerce.

This was the organization comprised of various business enterprises and forces that did commerce inside this district which was a great source of income for everyone, let it be a small-time shop or a big franchise.

The reason why Kahn reached this conclusion that these were the main culprits behind their company's income declining drastically was because of two reasons. Only the Chamber of Commerce would have access and authority to command multiple companies that were part of the organization, to use their resources and manpower to target and seclude one organization intentionally.

And the 2nd reason why he felt so was because of the tone and the words used in the invitation.

Forget being formal or subtle.. The wording was more like a threat. As if they were summoning a criminal and had arranged a trial where the defender would have to prove their innocence.

Kahn came to the mansion at late night and showed the invitation & the content inside it to the old man.

"We don't have to go, do we?" asked Albestros.

"There's no rule that anyone opening a business has to join the chamber of commerce in that area. But even if we do not respond to their calling.. I don't think that our situation will be any better, rather they will take it as an offense. It will only make things harder for us." spoke Kahn calmy.

"Besides.. I want to know exactly why they are targeting us in the first place." he said.

"But we will have to go there completely prepared." spoke Albestros.

"Not we.. Only me."

Albestros looked at Kahn with a startled expression.

"What do you mean? The invitation clearly has my name on it." asked the old blacksmith.

"I'll go as your representative. Because I don't think they would be the most welcoming if you went there." replied Kahn and then started telling Albestros about the plan that just hatched in his mind.

The next morning, Kahn departed for the location where the meeting was arranged and the next discussions were to happen.

At the farmost eastern end of the Rukon district, was Area 51.

It was one of the most prestigious sections of the district because there were hundreds of office buildings, each bigger and wider than the former. The majority being the kind where the councils, organizations and committees related to various trades and public departments had their active headquarters.

After using a flying ship to travel to this area in a short time, Kahn finally stood at the main entrance of the Rukon Chamber of Commerce.

The main entrance itself was 500 meters wide and there were over a thousand people just entering and exiting the premises. The main structure was divided into 5 sections, and each section was a 5 stories building that spanned 2 to 3 Kilometers by itself. The total length of the main site was close to 19 kilometers and there was a tight security on the only entrance.

When Kahn entered one of the mansion-like places that specialized in handling the affairs related to Arms & Craftsmanship commerce, he entered the grand building that could easily house over 5 thousand people at once given the space & number of floors this place had.

And this was just one of the sections, there were 4 more of such buildings spread around over 19 kilometer radius.

He then showed the invitation he received to one of the receptionists and they treated it as something of an utmost importance.

There was a black skin man, dressed in rich formal clothes with a sharp haircut who signaled Kahn to follow him. Even the receptionist here wore costly uniforms that looked no different than what would the main attendee of some royal clan would wear.

When they finally reached the topmost floor of this building where very few people had occupied this place compared to the previous floors as he noticed from the magic elevator that they used. This floor was extremely well designed and even the normal furniture made for guests who were waiting had caught his eye.

[So this is where the elites conduct business?] he thought.

At the end of the floor, they finally reached a heavily guarded vicinity where nearly 300 trained and armored guards were stationed at the number of doors & entry points.

Swish!

Suddenly, two black shadows moved from Kahn's body and got mixed with two of the peak master rank guards wielding spears.

Knock! Knock!

The receptionist knocked on a big and intrinsically carved golden door. A small section of the door was slid open and a guard checked the new arrivals through this rectangular opening.

The 5 meter tall door was finally opened and Kahn saw the grandiose ambiance of this 30 meter long hall. Over 5 soldiers guarding and against the walls of each side.

In the middle of this meeting room, was a grand round table where 12 people sat around it on victorian era style chairs, discussing business reports and legislations amongst themselves.

The receptionist who escorted Kahn till this point walked close to the table and showed Kahn's invitation to the men and women varying from humans, demi-humans, snakekins, botirs and thralls.

After that, a white Snakekin dressed in regal and businessman attire spoke as he looked at Kahn with a gaze full of contempt.

"Are you the one called Albestros Winston?" asked the white snakekin in an authoritative tone.

Kahn slightly bowed as a form of showing respect to these people and replied.

"No, sir. My name is Kahn, the head of logistics & management in the Bloodborne Enterprise. Sir Winston is extremely busy crafting one of the orders he received which requires his utmost attention. And thus, I have been sent here to respond to the summon from the Chamber of Commerce."

Bang!

The snakekin banged his fist on the table, while the other seated members also gave an infuriated look towards Kahn.

"What's the meaning of this?! Is your company & that blacksmith looking down on us? Do you not know who we are?!" shouted the snakekin in rage.

"Humph! That welder must think that his craft is of the most importance and we're nothing but street vendors. Am I right?" spoke a blue thrall who was seated around the table.

"No.. sir. We mean no disrespect to the committee. And I.. I.. have been given the permission & authority to discuss and make important decisions by sir Winston." spoke Kahn, his tone being full of fear as he didn't dare to look up to these people in the eye.

"A young brat like you representing an entire company & being the head of logistics? Do you think we're some fools, boy?" spoke a female foxkin dressed in lavish blue clothes. Her pretty appearance and gentle tone having a calming effect to it. But the intent behind the words seemed unwelcoming.

"Are you in full authority to make documented deals and contracts?" a 3 meter tall brown Lionkin asked Kahn.

"Yes, sir. I am. Me being present here is no different than sir Winston himself coming here." replied Kahn.

The Lionkin glanced at the snakekin seated on the main chair around the table and made a nodding gesture.

"If that's the case.. Then do you understand why we have called upon you here?" asked the white snakekin with a condescending tone.

"I have a rough idea.. Sir." spoke Kahn in a jittery tone like someone who was scared of the people sitting here.

"Take a seat before we discuss official business." spoke the snakekin who seemed like the leader of this council.

Kahn politely followed the instructions and sat on a vacant chair. Plenty of gazes were now treating him as the center of attention.

"Since you seemed to have learned your lesson already.. I don't feel the need to beat around the bush anymore." spoke the snakekin in a domineering tone as if he was looking at a street dog. He continued his coy tone and declared..

"So, let us discuss your penalty."

Chapter 172: Terms & Conditions

The meeting hall now suddenly had a pin drop silence as soon as the president made the declarations. All the rich business tycoons who sat around the round table had their eyes glued to Kahn, trying to see his expression.

"Young man.. Does your so-called Grandmaster Blacksmith of an owner understand how greatly your dirty-handed trick of selling the products at half the market price affected many other business enterprises and prices in the market altogether? How adversely it affects the economy and profits all these organizations make?" spoke the president as he waved his hand towards all the people sitting around the Round Table of Tycoons.

"Yes, sir. And we wish to make amends. If there is a form of reconciliation we can do.. we will pay for it." spoke Kahn in a polite tone, acting like a submissive person who didn't dare to raise his voice in front of these powerful people.

"Normally it doesn't cost much.. But in your case.. You shall become a bonafide member of the chamber of Commerce. Plus from now on, you will follow the rules set by the organization. And to reimburse & compensate for the nonsense your company pulled off.." stopped the Snakekin in his words and gave a sinister-ish smirk as he continued..

"You shall pay 50 million gold coins as a penalty."

Declared the president and demanded this unreasonable price just in the name of compensation.

Kahn's eyes were filled with shock. He was certain that the losses these people actually suffered collectively weren't even close to 10 million gold coins.

This wasn't a penalty.. But daylight extortion!

But the next second, unexpected to all the grinning faces of the members who were seated.. They were simply left shocked by Kahn's response as he spoke loudly..

"I accept!"

Gasp!

Many of the members gasped in surprise as soon as Kahn quickly replied and agreed to pay up this exorbitant price.

[Is this human an idiot? Or is he too scared?] thought a Mithrans businesswoman.

Because by no means this was a small amount. For the majority of them, it was half of their entire company's monthly earnings they got through a lot of hard work. But Kahn, who was only a representative of an enterprise that just started out, quickly agreed to pay up this large sum as if it was a chummy change for him.

"Mister President, may I ask what is your name?" asked Kahn politely, completely unfazed by their daylight robbery.

"Houdini.. Houdini Warsmeich." replied the old snakekin who was still taken aback by Kahn's quick response.

[Does that Blacksmith have a huge background or something?] he thought.

"Are there any other terms & conditions for us to get the.. 'membership'?" asked Kahn as he emphasized on the last part.

Houdini on the other hand was baffled.. He hoped for a refusal and then use it against the Bloodborne company. But this unexpected answer left him speechless for a few seconds.

"Ye.. Yes! There are still some of the rules you will have to follow." said the president of the arms & craftsmanship department.

"First one.. You will have to pay 1 Million gold coins for a monthly membership of the union.

Second, you will have to offer a 20% cut of the monthly earnings for management costs and development.

Third, you will have to raise the prices of all your products to market prices dictated by the chamber of commerce.

Fourth, you can not sell any product based on your own price ranges as they affect other businesses.

Fifth, you will only buy raw materials from the suppliers we decide upon.

Sixth, if your enterprise decides to launch a new product in the market, you will have to get an approval from this committee first and only then you can sell it in your stores.

And the last, you will have to offer 30% of your shops to the chamber of commerce as a form of showing goodwill." said Houdini as he listed out all these unreasonable rules and regulations one by one.

Even all the other members who heard these rules were flabbergasted as they looked at their president with eyes full of disbelief.

Were these the same rules they followed? Because these terms & conditions seemed beyond incorrigible.

Kahn on the other hand didn't even show a slight hint of surprise or irritation on his face.

These weren't some terms of membership.. They were the terms akin to slavery.

You couldn't do anything without their approval, had to pay an unreasonably high price for membership, then give your monthly profits to these folks, and even buy the raw materials from the dealers they were allowed to purchase from.. Which definitely won't be a reasonable deal either. And most obtuse of them all was that he had to give up 30% of the shops his company owned.

"Are.. Are.. these the same rules and restrictions the other members sitting here have to follow?" asked Kahn in a frightened voice.

"No. But your company has to pay in a way for offending all of us who have been in this field for decades. Do you think anyone can just come from nowhere and pull the carpet under our feet?" spoke the president, no longer hiding his malicious intentions.

"There's always a price to pay for messing with the people you shouldn't have provoked. So tell me.. Do you agree?" asked Houdini in his cunning voice.

He was thoroughly cornering Kahn and openly oppressing him under the name of these laws and regulations.

The very next second however, Kahn's scared countenance disappeared and he spoke with a smile on his face.

"Go fuck yourself."

"I see you agree.." suddenly, Houdini's mind was struck with a realization.

"What the hell did you say, you damn brat?!" he shouted in an enraged voice.

BOOM!!

Suddenly, all the guards which also included two intermediate grandmaster rank fighters released their murderous aura. All of their killing intent was targeted at Kahn as they started surrounding him from all four sides.

"Should we imprison him, sir?" asked the intermediate grandmaster assassin to the snakekin.

"No.. I want to see him tortured in front of me first. And then cut off his arms and legs. I want him to suffer for the rest of his life!" shouted Houdini, his eyes full of wrath as he stared at Kahn.

"You see this, you trash? This is what you call true power. One word from me and you will lose your life right this very moment." threatened the president.

Kahn was still sitting calmly in his chair spoke in response.

"What power? I don't feel any threat to my life."

"Don't you see.. You're surrounded by us." spoke the other intermediate grandmaster guard who was a swordsman.

In response, Kahn only gave a light smirk.

BOOM! BOOM! BANG! BANG!

"Argh!"

"Help!"

"We're under attack!"

Wails filled with agony and cries for help suddenly resounded as a fight broke out on this floor.

But it didn't come from the meeting hall where Kahn was, rather the passage whence he came from. This floor of the building had over 300 master rank fighters guarding it but suddenly an insurmountable aura full of unimaginable wrath was released on these guards.

One by one, hundreds of soldiers and their yelps filled the surroundings. The shrill cries for mercy and metals clanging against each other suddenly frightened every single person sitting in the room.

BOOM!!

Suddenly, the golden door from where Kahn previously entered this room was busted open as a tall man dressed in white coat kicked it from the outside.

This man's red eyes landed on the armored guards who were surrounding and pointing their weapons at Kahn.

SCHRILL!!

This mature looking man with ashen hair and glowing red iris in his eyes suddenly released all of his silver aura filled with murderous intent at all the guards and the business tycoons sitting in this room.

Thack! Thack! Tap! Tap!

One by one.. All the people including the snakekin dropped on the ground under this pressure as their bodies gave in against this immensely oppressive aura.

A Peak Grandmaster Rank warrior!

This aura was comparable to a Peak Grandmaster person. And to make it even worse.. The man who just entered in the meeting hall wasn't the only one.

A 4 meter tall man clad in black body armor and with a black giantsword in his hands followed the man. His red and domineering aura by no means any weaker than the former.

[Impossible! How are there two peak grandmaster warriors here? And why didn't anyone alert us?] thought the female foxkin businesswoman.

The man dressed in white had a Katana in his hand which had blood dripping from its blade.

Tap! Tap!

His heavy footsteps filled the room as this man walked towards the center. The figure was none other than Omega, who was currently using his Bloodlust skill that can put every enemy within 300 meters radius in a frightened mental state.

Stab!

Omega stabbed the Katana in the center of the round table and moved his gaze at everyone present in this room as if he wanted to kill these people on the spot.

Kahn finally stood up stretched out & flexed his arms and legs as he regained his calm and domineering posture. His face turned full of confidence & authority as he stood tall with his hands folded behind his back, standing in his usual Darkseid pose.

"Man.. Acting like a meek coward is so not my style." spoke Kahn as he looked at the people kneeling on the ground.

Kahn gave a light grin to Houdini as he spoke in his kingly and tyrannical voice..

"Now this.. Is what you call true power."

Chapter 173: The Penalty

Kahn now stood in front of all these people with a grand and imposing demeanor, his previous scared and frail-looking way of conducting himself nowhere to be seen. Instead, he suddenly transformed into an alpha who controlled the situation instead.

"See.. This is why I said I don't feel a threat to my life. You posers never had anything under control to begin with." said Kahn.

The sudden appearance of Omega & Jugram was a backup plan in case things came to a physical confrontation. And since he couldn't afford to let them both suddenly jump out of his shadow in front of so many people, he left them outside in the shadows of the guards as he gave both of them the shadow walk skill.

Although it was only suited for the Assassin class, after unlocking the Impartation skill with the subordinates with 100% Loyalty, he found that there were some skills he could still impart to the subordinates despite the class difference. Shadow walk being one of them as this was the exclusive merged skill he created using the Synthesis Divine Ability.

"Now then.. Where were we? The terms & conditions. And how our company caused you lot tremendous losses, right?" spoke Kahn as he leisurely walked around the round table. His eyes remembering all the faces of the members of the main council and names that were written on the chairs of these individuals.

At this moment, Omega and Jugram were only releasing 80% of their aura lest the people here fainted on the spot since nobody aside from the two intermediate grandmasters was strong enough to stay awake under the pressure of their aura at maximum capacity.

"Hey.. Who's gonna compensate me now?" asked Kahn and telepathically ordered the two subordinates to reduce their aura by half.

All of them were top figures and one of the richest people in this district. The wealth they had made them leaders and the dominant figure in the eyes of the entire city. But suddenly, a no-name person like Kahn had made them kneel on the floor by having two peak grandmaster warriors under his command.

Just as the members of the chamber of commerce finally felt half of it disappearing from their bodies.. The brown Lionkin spoke with an infuriated tone.

"What compensation?! Do you even realize how grave a mistake you just made?!"

To this retort, Kahn replied nonchalantly.

"You lot have cost me too much money. The damages done at my stores.. Then the emotional trauma my staff members suffered in the past few weeks along with the sleepless nights I've gone through.. That is simply unbearable. How about you guys loan me some money so I could afford to visit a therapist?"

Kahn then grinned and he gave a covetous look towards all these people who acted all high and mighty not too long ago.

"What do you mean.. Why should we give you money for any.."

Boom!

Before Houdini could speak any more words, Omega & Jugram increased their aura and put everyone on the ground again; but this time.. Nobody even had the strength to even bat an eyelid.

Omega then started pulling out all the space rings these 13 members had on them one by one. Each of these business tycoons had a vast amount of wealth and resources in their space rings. Every single member of the council had 3 to 4 space rings holding this wealth on their person.

So Kahn was going to take these rings for... safeguarding them.

Just in 5 minutes, Omega pulled out over 58 space rings, each full of vast wealth and resources they didn't even know of.

And despite their souls nearly leaving their bodies in rage.. None of these influential powers could do anything. Their main goal was to decimate the Bloodborne company to the ground.. But in just 10 minutes, the tables had turned on them.

"Thank you for your generous donations. I will forever remember your kindness in my heart." spoke Kahn as Omega handed him all these space rings that had inner space comparable to a medium-sized warehouse. They didn't even have the time to check all the contents inside them.

"Ladies & gentlemen.. As much as I would like to stay and entertain you. I must depart with a heavy heart. But I hope you do remember our encounter today before you decide to do anything rash in the future." said Kahn in a calm tone.

"You.. You think you can leave this place alive after robbing us?" spoke the snakekin as he barely managed to form these words in his mouth.

"Oh.. Are you people so open-minded to tell the world about how someone came right into your house and robbed you as none of you dared to fight back? Or are you going to tell everyone about how you lot shamelessly tried to put a poor and weak company like ours out of business?" asked Kahn in a sarcastic tone.

"You bastards have killed people.. You're not getting away with it.." said the blue elderly thrall.

"Eh? I don't remember killing anyone. I was only playing a poking game with your people outside; just with swords but very enjoyable I tell you." said Omega as he let out a devilish smirk.

"Yes, yes. Me too. It was also good physical exercise by exchanging fists. My body was feeling very stiff from few days anyway." replied Jugram.

Omega then pulled out Raijin that was stabbed in the middle of the round table. He squatted down in front of the two intermediate grandmaster warriors, one of whom was a swordsman.

"Hey, cool sword man. Mind if I borrow it?" said Omega and looted the sword along with the scabbard.

The swordsman was barely managing to breathe properly so he had no chance to retort.

Kahn then spoke in his tyrannical voice as his gaze landed on all the rich tycoons who barely managed to hold their heads high after the subordinates decreased their aura.

"I hope the relationship between us stays on good terms from now on. And know this.. This was your first and final warning. So let us go separate in our paths. You do things your way and we do it our way. Everyone stays happy."

"But remember one thing though.." his expression then turned grim & deathly as if gave out his final declaration in a domineering tone..

"If you think you are bad... then I am your dad."

Chapter 174: The Reasoning

Kahn returned to his mansion at night. And told everything that happened during the meeting to Albestros & Ronin. While he had Szayel listening through the long-distance transmission artifact, the jade medallion given by the vampire lord.

"Isn't that.. A bit extreme? This isn't what we discussed previously." said Albestros after Kahn revealed his conduct in the meeting like a professional bandit.

"There is a reason why I did those things." he said.

Kahn pretended to be weak and docile in front of the committee. Because as said in the Art of War..

PRETEND TO BE WEAK, THAT YOUR ENEMY MAY GROW ARROGANT.

He used that strategy to know their real intentions.

"After I went to the meeting and talked with them.. I was even ready to reconcile and make amends. At the end of the day.. We too want to survive and do our business peacefully." he spoke and took a pause.

"But as soon as I heard all the terms & conditions.. It was as clear as sky to me that they weren't going to let us off. Rather.. They wanted to bury us deep in the ground. We'd be no different than slaves who'd need their master's permission to even breathe. And right then, I knew the whole meeting itself was nothing but a sham to begin with." he explained.

Kahn was someone who had lived through that life of a corporate slave where you give it all to the company or organization you worked for.. Only for them to have you either work to the bone or throw you away when you outlived personal usefulness. As soon as there was a better option.. They would cast you away even after hundreds of unpaid hours of work and sleepless nights you went through while only getting minimum wage.

In his past life, even though he had a good salary job.. He had no personal life. His entire life's cycle circled around his work and affected him mentally and physically. But when he suffered through the scam which nearly broke him as a person... All he received was condescending and demeaning laughs and banter on himself.

And this was one of the main reasons why Kahn had decided that he would never work for someone or some company in this life. And thus, he entered the business field as soon as he saw the opportunity after he came to the capital.

His years of experience as an accountant and the information he gathered on how to manage a business was more than enough for him to enter this profession. He wasn't one of those fake entrepreneurs on social media, but someone who knew the real ins and outs of this field.

"Before I entered the meeting hall, Mister Omega & Mister Jugram were already using an artifact to hide their presence and no one there was strong enough to sense them either. It was to let them think that these two were our biggest powerhouses." said Kahn.

He addressed the subordinates this way because their current persona was some top-rank fighters Kahn had hired to work for their company.

During the meeting itself, he didn't release his own aura of a Semi-Saint Rank fighter because he had learned not to reveal his trump cards early on after the fight with Arkham & Solomon. The last-minute power boost such as Berserk God Mode & Bloodline Merge won't always save his life. And after their use, he'd be left defenseless if none of his subordinates were with him.. Even a rookie soldier would be able to kill him during the weakened state.

And hence, he didn't reveal his strength at all. By revealing Omega & Jugram as peak grandmaster rank warriors, he had warned them off that he wasn't without backing either.

"The reason why I didn't have them kill anyone was because there were too many witnesses, to begin with. I was also seen entering that floor. And there were many innocents involved like the receptionist who escorted me or the normal guards who were just doing their job.

Those had nothing to do with this whole ordeal. I don't kill innocent bystanders just because they are present at a wrong place at a wrong time. So only giving them superficial injuries and a few broken bones was a better alternative.

Killing people publicly would only create unnecessary trouble for us, the kind we should avoid at any cost for now.

And at the end of the day.. It's only business. Not worth killing someone over it." explained Kahn.

"But what if they retaliate & try to kill you? After all, you outright robbed their belongings and took years of personal wealth at the end." spoke Szayel through the medallion.

"Hey.. I'm not a psychopath who goes around killing people just over some small arguments and because I have some strength. You should learn how to handle things without spilling unnecessary blood. You are going to be the clan leader one day as well." reprimanded Kahn with his tone full of wisdom.

"But you did have sir Omega & sir Jugram spill some blood though.." a coy chuckle came from the other end.

[This biatch!] cursed Kahn in his mind.

"As long as no one is dead.. It doesn't count." replied Kahn, trying to cover up the small burn he just received.

"As for why I robbed them off.. It was to give them a lesson they will remember for a long time and rethink a hundred times before messing with us again. Plus.. I had to recover all my losses because of those bastards.

And since they can't let the public know about how a no-name guy came with a couple of bodyguards and robbed them off right in the center of their turf.. They will have to swallow it down till their final moments." spoke Kahn as he leaned on the comfortable sofa.

"Kid.. You should know that none of these people reached the place they are without burying some bodies. What if they come back seeking vengeance and target us again?" asked Albestros in a worried tone.

"I already gave them a final warning. That there won't be any mercy next time." replied Kahn.

"And how are things progressing on your end, Szayel? Are you doing what I've told you as per our plans in the previous meeting?" asked Kahn to the vampire heir.

"It's progressing slowly.. Even with my position as the clan heir.. It's not easy to convince my grandfather & the elders. It's not just our clan but the entire faction. Other clans are also hard to please. I can't make big moves without drawing attention to myself." replied Szayel.

"What plans are you two talking about? Don't leave me out of the loop again!" exclaimed the old man. He still remembered how these two planned their act of betrayal when they entered the headquarters of the Vandereich clan and how scared he was when they were put in jail.

"Don't worry, you're not in any danger this time." spoke Kahn calmly.

"As for the upcoming days.. We will have some peace."

Chapter 175: Misery to Bliss

Two weeks passed by and the Bloodborne company was back on track. Although a lot of damage was done to the reputation of the company.. Kahn then used the same method his enemies used to thwart away his rise in popularity.

Kahn paid tons of networking organizations and even made the dark alley deals with some organizations that worked in intel gathering.

He used Szayel's clan to make a direct deal with the underworld. And like there are no exceptions.. This rich and prestigious clan from the pureblood faction too had their feet set inside the underworld as well.

The vampire clan heir Kahn saved nearly a month ago was proving very useful to him day by day. Although he too was aware of how they had undisclosed motives behind all the help they were offering.. He wasn't the kind to refuse free help when he was in need.

In the first week alone, the common people hired by these agencies and underworld organizations spread around the word about how the greedy enterprises had paid and targeted the Bloodborne company because they were selling the products at a reasonable price and not the exorbitant and unfair rates these rich folks wanted them to do.

And the narrative of rich and powerful oppressing the weak and poor guy always worked like a charm on the common citizens of the society.

And to top it all.. The Bloodborne company even offered a 10% discount for the next few weeks because they were forced to make this decision as the business was in decline.

With this story spread amongst the masses, those who felt empathetic towards the starting company who was fair and just and originated from a poor background because of a hardworking and talented Grandmaster Blacksmith.. And those who wanted to take advantage of these low costs flooded their stores.

Even the dealers and distributors had their shops swarmed with people asking for their products.

This seemed like the Bloodborne company won't survive for long if the profits went downhill on the surface.. But in reality, Kahn had no worries because his real aim was to regain the reputation of the company that was tainted because of the ploy of their enemies.

Although, the company itself was suffering many losses at this time and the profits they were making barely covered the marginal cost.. The funding required to keep the company afloat for the next few months was already in his pockets.

And all that because of the generous 'donations' given by all the top business figures Kahn met in the Chamber of Commerce that day.

Each of the rings had inner space big enough to function like a medium-sized warehouse. And the amount of wealth every single one of them held..

Kahn barely managed to sleep that night after he, Albestros, Ronin, Omega & Jugram counted all the money and resources they received from the decades of all the hard work of these business tycoons.

These people wanted to oppress him but he robbed them instead.

And now.. The total amount of wealth and resources Kahn gained from the 58 space rings that he took for safeguarding from the real owners.. Was beyond his wildest dreams.

To Kahn, who had amassed his wealth before he came to the capital by the good ol' method of righteous and honorable means called plundering the dead.. The living beings offered him more money and that too without the bloodshed.

He also found the Orichalcum plates that were used as denominations for 1 Million gold coins. He now had 63 of these plates along with the normal gold coins.

Kahn was now the owner of 156 million gold coins, 80,000 A Rank monster cores and mana ores. 500,000 B rank cores. And to his surprise and for the first time.. He nearly had 3 thousand S Rank cores!

This sudden uprise in resources and materials made him realize that he wasn't living inside a small pond like before. But truly in the vast open ocean.

He barely resisted the urge to visit these people again and rob their fortune. This was just the personal wealth of all those 13 tycoons.. Who knew about their enterprise's real income.. And if this was the income of people sitting in top positions of just one section of the chamber of commerce.. What about the other four?

And at the end.. These people were the top brass of just one district.. The capital Rathna had 86 other districts. What about their wealth?

The greedy accountant inside Kahn was having an orgasm just with the thought of it.

The amount of Epic Rank weapons, potions, magic scrolls, armors in full sets he now had exceeded in hundreds. Compared to the current him.. The Kahn who felt like a bigshot in terms of wealth when coming to Rathna was not even worth looking at.

And with this money.. What Kahn planned to do would make those people who messed with him punch themselves in the face. If not for them acting all high and mighty.. He wouldn't hold this vast amount of wealth in the first place.

The president wanted Kahn to pay 50 million gold coins as a penalty for incurring their wrath.. But now his own wealth was 3 times bigger than what they wanted him to fork out.

The first thing he did was to hire 3 thousand more employees, hundreds of magic carriages for transportation. Over 20 new security guards for every single shop.. So no one would dare to cause any more trouble.

And by spending another 25 million gold coins.. He leased 23 more buildings to open their stores, made deals with even bigger suppliers and the top figures he befriended in the past 2 weeks in the name of business were none other than the powerful clans from the Pureblood Faction.

The Bloodborne company was now twice bigger, efficient and capable in just two weeks.

Rather than letting all that money rot in his space rings.. He was going to use it to keep making more money in the future.

What he wanted to do was use this opportunity to open a few more branches in other districts but the company was still in the name of the old blacksmith. Any bold moves and people will start asking questions about the origin of the funding. So Kahn decided to take baby steps first.

Kahn now stood in a forested area with Omega and all the members of the Six Generals such as Ronin, Oliver, Jugram, Ceril, Blackwall and Armin. They all looked at the cores and ores Kahn took out from his space rings.. Dozens of rings to be precise.

The glittering red cores and multicolored ores in the middle shone brightly under the moonlight as they were placed on multiple tables and these hungry wolves were rubbing their hands together like flies.

He spoke in an excited tone as he and all the main subordinates were drooling after looking at the stash.

"Buckle up boys... Time to level up!"

Chapter 176: The Intrusion

After having their fill of some top-grade cores and ores like children eating ice cream.. The entourage of oddities hid in Kahn's shadow again.

On this very night, Ceril also crossed the threshold and unlocked the condition to take a human form.

But Kahn decided to temporarily hide Ceril from anyone's eyes because another Peak Grandmaster Rank person would certainly raise suspicion on him. Forget the others.. Even Albestros & Szayel will feel like there was something odd.

So Kahn decided to temporarily keep the necromancer subordinate away from the public eye. Now, only Oliver & Blackwall were left at Lord Rank even though both of them crossed the level 85. Only by reaching High Lord rank would they meet the prerequisite conditions.

And for that, Kahn would at least need a peak grandmaster rank tank or a paladin and an archer to upgrade these subordinates. So he currently had to put them on hold.

All of his subordinates would also need some time to completely absorb all the S Rank & A Rank cores & ores they just ate. Because unlike Kahn, they didn't have the Ability Absorption Divine Ability.

So he was only left with Omega, Ronin, Jugram and Armin who were already in their human forms.

During the level-up, he noticed that even the S Rank cores were hardly enough.

He ate around 80 of these cores but only increased by 12 levels. And with each level up, the number of cores he required also rose.

[System.. Why is it taking so many cores to level up?] asked Kahn.

[The host is now a Semi-Saint Rank being. As the host's body crosses a threshold or a realm of physique.. The number of resources for each level up will also increase.] explained the system.

Kahn then understood how hard it was going to be for him to reach higher levels and ranks.

Because a single S Rank core was comparable to 1000 A Rank cores. And despite eating 80 of these cores that were bigger and glowed fiery red, he still only made 12 level increase.

Exactly when he thought that he had gathered enough resources to raise to level 200.. He was left speechless by this sudden revelation.

Only now did he clearly have an idea about why there were barely 200 Semi-Saint Rank fighters in the entire Empire; and even less than 100 Saint Rank fighters within the population of 4 Billion citizens as per the records.

Even someone like Solomon who was more than 200 years old wasn't able to reach the Saint Rank. Because of the number of resources they required and the time it took to consume these cores and ores, was not even an option for 99.99% of the population.

And if this was just for the Semi-Saint Rank.. What about the number of cores and ores he'd require after reaching the Saint Rank? Even a million S Rank cores would barely be enough for him to cross a single stage.

Even the dozen business tycoons he robbed barely had 5 thousand of these cores. And if this was so hard for them to gather these cores.. How hard would it be for him?

Kahn wasn't a prince of some kingdom or like other Heroes who had the backing of an entire empire. So he had to look for even higher grade resources and materials to level up from now on.

Because even the Ability Absorption divine ability could only help him with absorbing these cores & ores at an extremely fast pace.. But it couldn't help with the number of resources he needed.

So for now, he could continue eating these cores on daily basis and rise in levels steadily. Asking for more would be like having everything handed to him by the Gods.

Kahn then returned to the mansion and prepared for the next day.

So far, things have been going well for him and nothing out of the norm had happened so he was only overflowed with the work related to business and had no worries about anything else.

As the working days started on the next week, Kahn who now had twice the workload on him despite hiring triple the number of employees for logistics & management using the Blood-Bind contract.

This time as well, there were thousands of people applying during the recruitment and most of them ran away in the final stage as soon as he revealed this method of finalizing their contract.

This was indeed a very effective method to throw off the leechers and spies.

The current member of the logistics department alone reached close to a thousand and the main workers and apprenticeship blacksmiths also tripled in numbers as their fame kept rising over time.

Albestros also held the other end of the side and the once beggar-like appearance grandmaster had a complete makeover and looked more refined and noble. His grizzly beard was gone and his face no longer had dry wrinkles on them. To him.. It was like the old days during his peak of popularity had returned and the old blacksmith was thoroughly enjoying his craft again.

And with each new and challenging craftsmanship order from highly influential people they were receiving, the fire inside him also burned bright.

Kahn on the other hand was using the old man's rising reputation to make high end deals with top figures and organizations

As usual.. Kahn was immersed in his duties and checking the reports he was receiving from his office underlings.

The Bloodborne company was completely settled in this one month period ever since they started and they had prospects for expansions in upcoming months to other districts if things went well.

Thud! Bang!

A loud bang was heard on his office door and the next second, a giant figure kicked and broke the door.

As soon as Kahn saw who it was.. His face turned grim. Not because of the impolite intrusion or the person who did it.. But because of who this person was holding.

"Put him on the sofa!" shouted Kahn as he quickly stood up and summoned Armin out of his shadow.

"Heal him quickly!" he ordered Armin.

The person who barged inside Kahn's office was none other than Jugram.. But in his hand was a half-burned elven man.

Kahn knew this middle-aged elf personally. He was one of the main caretakers of a warehouse they had in the central region of the District.

"Xandar.. What happened?" asked Kahn to the elf.

Armin quickly cast Restoration & Elixir of Life, his two instant healing & regeneration skills that were no different than lifesaver skills.

Jugram suddenly spoke to Kahn.

"He barely managed to reach our main gates in this state."

"Ah.. Whee. A.. Am.. I.?" a groaning was heard in the room as the nearly dying elf was healed and was making visible recovery thanks to Armin.

"Xandar, you're okay. Tell me what happened? Why were you in this condition?" asked Kahn with a curious tone.

The next second, "Xandar, entire body shuddered in fear as realization hit him.. He then spoke in a frightened tone..

"Mr. Kahn.. They.. They.. Killed them all!"

Chapter 177: Crossing the Line

In the central region of the Rukon district.. A big godown was engulfed in fire and smoke. This 1 kilometer wide storage facility was burned to crisps and thousands of onlookers were discussing the sudden fire that broke in this facility.

Over 20 mages who were part of the fire control department of this region named Area 69, were putting off the fire with their various magic artifacts, water & frost spells.

There were hundreds of foot soldiers surrounding the burning building and prohibiting people from coming close to it. There was a separate group of people who were using different types of formations, barriers and scrolls to stop the spreading fire lest it affects the other surrounding buildings and housings. A proper way to control a fire breakout.

Flap! Flap!

A sound of multiple flapping wings filled the area and suddenly, 3 flying winged lion beasts that were used as modes of traveling in the capital by the truly wealthy came in sight.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

The 5 meter tall and majestic lions with silver feathery wings landed on the ground.

Soon, 3 figures climbed down from these regal creatures. It was Kahn, Omega and Armin who were using these highly sought-after monster steeds to travel. These were the monsters Kahn bought last week because he had to travel long distances often and magic trains were no longer convenient for him at this point.

Plus he had the money so he didn't think twice before he bought these beasts, a million gold coins for each of them.

The trio soon stood in front of the smoldering fire and introduced themselves as the owners of this burning building.

After an hour of joint effort.. The fire was finally subdued and the building was safe enough to enter.

After doing the paperwork and counting the number of the dead.. It was registered as an accident by the authorities and a case was filed.

Kahn filled in all the required information & documents for further investigation.

But during his own visit inside the site.. His Hunter's Intent was working at full capacity. His eyes registering minute details one wouldn't generally notice.

After his investigation.. Kahn concluded that although the bodies burned under this fire; In reality.. The forty-two people who died in this tragic incident were actually murdered.

The swift swings and thrusts that cut the necks and broke the skulls were not easy to notice after how only a few of their bones remained. The rest of the facility was burned to ashes and all the stockpile of material this warehouse had was completely ransacked.

Whoever did this.. were all trained killers.

Kahn concluded that these killers first took down all the security & workers here. And then they ransacked the entire godown full of finished products that would soon be sold in shops. This facility was used to store them here and then distribute the stock in the nearby shops owned by Kahn's company. To save time and money of course.

And after killing these innocent workers, they put the entire place on fire.

"This.. Is because of me.." said Kahn as he tightly clenched his fist.

At the end of the day.. Every single one of the victims was just collateral damage. Kahn understood that he was the main cause of these innocent workers getting killed only because he had garnered the ire of the truly powerful people.

And since they couldn't even hope to put a scratch on him because of Omega & Jugram.. They went after the people who worked for him.

Xander told Kahn that he survived because of a protection artifact he had on him which saved his life in the last moment from a fireball spell that was used in order to kill him.

Xander barely escaped from the clutches of these killers via using a teleportation scroll and appeared close to their main headquarters.

He was now the only survivor of this massacre and was currently taken care of by Armin.

After dealing with the aftermath and agreeing to comply with the investigations.. Kahn returned at evening to the main headquarters. This time.. He quickly made an announcement in the main meeting hall about the incident and how the families of the deceased workers will be fairly compensated for the loss of their loved ones.

The main purpose of this meeting wasn't only to show that how they cared about the lives of their employees.. But also for Kahn to plant over 60 of his Assassin subordinates in the shadows of some of the employees.

Kahn knew that this won't be the final attack. Because this was again.. targeted killing. And he already had a hint of who were the real culprits behind these attacks.

Kahn was barely holding back his anger and wanted to hunt down these killers but the fire didn't leave any traces behind.. No smell or footsteps that he could use to track these killers.

But at the same time.. He couldn't even reveal the truth behind that fire and how basically everyone's life was in grave danger. Otherwise, it will cause a panic & he won't be able to catch the killers either.

So only hiding his assassin subordinates to protect these people and getting informed in case any of them were under an attack was the best choice for him to find the killers.

On the same night.. 3 of his shops were burned to the ground and 12 guards on night duty also died. His subordinates hidden between the normal guards couldn't even inform Kahn through Hive Mind because all these shops were placed farther than 10 kilometers.

Amongst the dead, 8 of his master rank warriors also died.

The next day, 4 more of his transportations carriages were attacked and looted. Since Omega was guarding other shipments and couldn't always be present everywhere.. The guards protecting these shipments barely managed to keep their lives in a clash.

From the survivors, he learned that it was a group of killers which had a well-organized style of attacking the targets like a trained battalion itself. Some survivors even said that the attackers let them live on purpose.

After the same incident happened the next day.. Kahn finally lost it!

For the first time in his new life.. He truly felt helpless. It was one thing if the enemies came after him.. He could still fight and protect himself but nearly 4 thousand people who worked for were left defenseless and prone to get attacked when Kahn wasn't present.

Even the subordinates he had were limited and all the security he hired were at best were at Peak Master Rank. But in front the grandmaster rank attackers.. There was so little they could.

Kahn didn't want to gather unnecessary attention on himself in this new place.

But the innocent people who worked for him were being killed by these enemies he made.

He had shown his enemies the kindness of giving a warning because he didn't want to kill innocents who didn't know anything about the enmity..

Just that this time, they weren't using normal people to defame his company.. But hired professionals to kill his people.

"This is all on me.. I made the mistake of sparing those bastards that day.

My people are also my responsibility." spoke Kahn as he saw half a dozen dead bodies being carried away from the most recent attack on a shipment carriage of his company.

At that very moment, Kahn decided that it was finally time to take matters into his own hands. The official investigation will never yield a proper result or the killers will even be found.

At night, he stood in his bedroom in front of the dressing table as he looked in the mirror..

His eyes were full of wrath and his body barely contained his murderous and chaotic aura as he spoke in a vengeful tone..

"You bastards wanted a war.. You've got one now!"

Chapter 178: New Persona

What Kahn felt right at this moment was something he hadn't felt before.. Although he wanted nothing else but to rip out the hearts of the hired professionals who were killing his employees as a way for the people from the chamber of commerce to get back at him.. There were still many things Kahn had doubts about.

What he didn't understand was how did the people who couldn't even handle Omega & Jugram's pressure properly suddenly grew up a spine and dared to outright kill his people?

Because even if they let impulses & anger affect their decision.. It was already clear that none of them actually had the capabilities to kill Kahn if they couldn't even defeat his bodyguards.

And it was obvious that Kahn would come for their heads after that final warning. And yet.. Things had come to the current circumstances.

As if these people no longer had a fear for their lives.

Kahn quickly slapped himself to control his angered state.

"Think clearly! This isn't simple like it seems." he spoke to himself and adjusted his breathing.

As the calm breathing exercise started showing its effect and he regained his composure and focused mind, he started to look for proper reasoning.

"A provocation like this is only good in two scenarios. And One, you are far stronger than your opponent and can control everything if it comes to a life and death situation.

Two.. when you want to lure out the enraged enemy right into your trap." said Kahn.

He wasn't going to do the mistake of walking into a trap ever again after his experience with Arkham & Solomon. He won't always come out alive from it because of some plot armor or a coincidence. Even the power boost skills he had were the last resort when he was completely cornered and had no other choice; so there was a need of examining the situation first.

And there was another problem..

He couldn't afford to reveal his identity as a Semi-Saint Rank fighter either. Otherwise, it will come to bite him back later. Plus there was also the matter of security of the company & Albestros.

Someone of his strength would eventually end up catching the eye of top guys. And hence it wasn't a good choice to reveal his true strength either.

But there was still a way for him to interfere without implicating his real Identity. It was the same method he used in Flavot city.

And that was to create another persona.

Since Azrael was out of the equation as he didn't want to gather too much attention on himself or let people from Flavot city know that Azrael appeared in the same district of the capital where Kahn also lived now.. He had to use a different persona and a different method to hunt down his enemies.

Kahn took out a body from one of his space rings and placed his hand on it.

This body belonged to none other than Bartholomew Volstov, father of Eren Volstov. The father & son duo tried to use Azrael's name to plot and kill their own clan's head. Although they did succeed.. Kahn was the one who benefitted from it the most.

So far.. He didn't even have a reason or time to pay attention to this Intermediate Grandmaster Rank Archer.. But he hadn't completely forgotten about him either. Although he could mix it with Oliver.. But the fact that Bartholomew wasn't a peak grandmaster fighter wouldn't give any favorable results at all.

And because of that.. Kahn was waiting for a proper time to use this body. And after nearly two months.. The opportunity finally appeared.

"Absorb!" commanded Kahn and used the Ability Absorption divine ability.

"System, show me the abilities and skills."

[Following are the Physical abilities & skills :

Hawk Eye (A Rank) (Passive) :

Gives the host a precise view and vital organs of an enemy target.

Death from the Shadow (A Rank) (Active) :

Allows the host to completely submerge into dark shadows while masking his presence before making an offensive attack.

Following are the Magical abilities & skills :

Death Volley (S Rank) (Active) :

Allows the host to create a Volley of 100 arrows using his mana as a source and attack multiple targets in 500 meter radius.

Note : The host can infuse different elements & magical attributes on the mana arrows while using this skill.

Archer's Lance (B Rank) (Active) :

Allows the host to gather condensed mana on an arrow to increase the damage by 200%.

Note : The host can also infuse any elemental attribute in this skill.

Full Draw (S Rank) (Active) :

Allows the host to simultaneously use multiple arrows (3 at maximum per shot) with 300% attack damage and effective range.

There are no currently Merged skills available. The previous Archery skills the host acquired are low tier and unsuitable for synthesis procedure.

Hawk Eye skill has been merged under Hunter's Intent. The rank of this ability is raised to SS Rank.

Congratulations to the host for breaking through to Grandmaster Rank for Archery skills and abilities.] replied the System.

"Good enough for now." spoke Kahn as he looked at the mirror.

"I can't reveal my own identity.. But I can't hide behind a mask this time either.

I need to... make a statement." he said with fervor in his tone.

"System.. can I change my age using the metamorphosis ability?" asked Kahn.

He could always take the form of another species but when it came to archery, he found his human form the most suitable.

[Yes. How old would the host like to appear?]

"Hmm.. I always wondered how I would look 20 years later in my past life.

Let's make it 45." spoke Kahn.

The next second, his appearance started changing.. His young and handsome appearance started aging at a visible rate.. Multiple wrinkles and a beard slowly grew on his face.

A strand of white patch appeared on his long yet well-fashioned beard and now shoulder-length hair on both sides. In just a minute, his appearance turned from a vigorous young man to a stoic and matured seasoned warrior.

Although his body was a bit thin compared to before.. The aura he gave from the new appearance was worlds apart. His eyes looked full of wisdom and experience along with the kingly aura that made him look like someone who spent decades fighting wars.

Kahn quickly took out an Epic Rank gear set for archers and a bow made up of rare alloys. After the new abilities he gained and breaking through to the Grandmaster rank for Archery skills, his innate connection to this weapon increased drastically.

But before he could admire his new appearance, he heard a warning signal from one of his assassin subordinates he left in one of the employees.

His countenance turned serious as he spoke..

"Pray to your god for this is your last day.

Well.. It's not like he's listening anyway."

Chapter 179: The Archer

In a dark alley amongst hundreds of brightened streets in the Rukon district, a violet male and a red demonkin female ran across the dark corners.. In the male's hands was a black demonkin child, barely 6 years old.

Huff! Huff!

The couple stopped in one of the dark corners as they gasped for breath. The father was panting heavily..

"Papa.. Are the bad people gone?" asked the child to his father.

"Shh.. Don't talk." whispered the father.

The mother was already out of her wits and couldn't understand what was happening.

Not too long ago, they were merrily shopping and had a nice dinner after her husband received his paycheck for this month.

But as they were finally departing for their home.. A bunch of people started following them out of nowhere. These people had masks on them and she even saw daggers and swords with them.

First, they thought that these people were some thugs who robbed people but it became very clear that it's their lives these masked people were after.

Their son was very scared; the father even offered their money and asked to let them go.. But the murderous aura from these people didn't even wane.

And after that.. They started running for their lives and entered this dark alley in order to hide.

Tap! Tap!

"Oh my.. You think you've escaped us already?" a grim voice came from above their heads and a blue tigerkin assassin donned in pitch black clothes appeared in their sight.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

One by one, over a dozen people started appearing out of nowhere and encircled this family. Their sadistic tone full of scorn as if they were looking at a weak prey that wasn't even worth killing.

"Orochi.. Don't waste time. We have more people to kill tonight." spoke a wolfkin archer who stood on top of a building, keeping a lookout so nobody sees what was happening here.

"Yes, yes.. But what about the kid?" asked the tigerkin.

"No witnesses.. That's the rule." spoke the archer.

"No.. Please! Let us go! I will give all the money I have on me. Just don't hurt my family!" pleaded the father as he stood in the front and hid his wife & son behind him.

"Sorry, my friend. The business policy must be followed." spoke the tigerkin as he brandished two green daggers and released his aura of a peak master rank fighter.

The wife and the child were rooted on the spot and couldn't even move a muscle, the father barely moved with every inch of his being and stood in front of them bravely.

"Wh.. What have we done to you? I have never offended anyone." spoke the Demonkin.

"Not you.. But the people you work for did." replied the assassin and his image flickered.

Stab!

A neck was pierced by a sharp dagger.

Gasp! Gasp!

Multiple gasps were heard, originating from these killers.

Because the person who got their neck stabbed by a dagger wasn't the demonkin.. But Orochi... their own ally.

The next moment, a dark figure covered in black smoke was revealed from behind this tigerkin assassin.

"What the fuck?! Who are you?!" shouted a swordsman.

But instead of replying, this figure jumped in between the family and these killers and took a defensive stance with its daggers.

At this exact instant, a figure dressed in black hunting gear was leaping from buildings to buildings a few kilometers away, heading straight towards the direction of the demonkin family.

"Just one more minute.." spoke the figure.

However, inside the alley, the killers started attacking the family from various ends and the figure protecting them was barely able to hold his end.

This new figure, who appeared in the last moment out of nowhere and killed the tigerkin with the element of surprise, was a peak master rank assassin. But in front of these fighters, two of whom were beginner grandmasters... There was so much he could do.

"Looks like we have a rat here.." spoke the archer as he shot another arrow and pierced right in the black assassin's shoulder.

Stab!

A snakeskin assassin who was a beginner grandmaster stabbed the defender in the back before the former could even make a move.

"Let's finish them off and get out of here quickly! We've been compromised!" spoke the wolfkin archer. Just their ally suddenly getting killed was already a big blow for them.

Stab! Piece! Swish!

But before they could even make a move on the demonkin family, a volley of arrows descended upon them out of nowhere.

In just 2 seconds, half of their people were killed before anyone could even react or register what happened.

Boom!!

A deathly aura suddenly filled this dark alley as a man clad in black light armor and a black epic rank bow appeared above their heads and stood on the tallest building.

"A Dark alley.. A kid watching his parents getting killed.. sounds familiar."

A grim voice filled the surroundings and a heavy aura on the remaining killers before they could even retaliate.

"Well.. Not on my watch." said the mature human who was now aiming at the remaining assailants.

This was Kahn in his new old age appearance. There was no hood on his head.. And his face was very clear to see as well. He was using only 30% of his aura at this moment, but for the assailants who were encircling the family.. It was enough to gauge that this new enemy was stronger than all of them.

"Let these people go. You don't want to do it the hard way.." spoke Kahn. His voice resembled that of a father figure person who was advising the young to not make a certain type of mistake..

"You.. Who the fuck are you?! And do you think that you can kill all of us just because you're strong? The last attack was unexpected.. But now you're good as dead!" shouted the archer wolfkin.

Kahn on the other hand, looked at the fallen assassin subordinate who was having his last moments after getting stabbed through the heart. He did everything he could to stall for time and protect this demonkin family as per his master's orders.

It was him who warned Kahn about the employee of his company being targeted after Kahn left some of his assassins in their shadows. He was just one of those subordinates.

Kahn gave an understanding gaze to this assassin and the next second.. A green halo appeared over this dying subordinate.

Before anyone could even sense, Armin had already appeared beside this subordinate and cast Elixir of Life skill on him. Saving this subordinate's life.

Kahn then looked at the remaining assailants, his tone full of hatred as he spoke loudly.

"You'll get what you fucking deserve."

Chapter 180: The Headquarters

After his declaration, Kahn jumped down from the top of the building and right next to the Demonkin family.

"You're all safe. You can go now." said Kahn and released War Dominance aura at full capacity. Other than the family members.. All the assailants were frozen under this sheer pressure.

The employee's family ran away quickly without waiting to know why they were put in a near-death situation just a few minutes ago.

Kahn nocked an arrow on the bowstring, leisurely walked in front of this group and shot 5 of these hired killers in the head at point blank range.

He didn't have to use any of the skills to kill these murderers who could only toy & kill the weak. Just his aura alone was more than enough to restrict all of their movements.

He then turned to the wolfkin archer, the last remaining member of their squad.

"I'm gonna give you two choices. One, willingly tell everything I want to know and I'll let you go. Two, resist or try to pull a stunt; your death won't be as swift and painless as them." said Kahn as he lowered the intensity of his aura so the archer could at least speak.

"Tell me who hired you?"

"Fuck you! I'm not telling you shit!" shouted the wolfkin.

But instead of getting angered by the disrespectful tone, Kahn gave a slight smirk instead.

"I was hoping you'd say that."

Then next second, 4 black Grappling Extensions came from his back and tied up the wolfkin's body.

Kahn then took out a dagger placed in the holster he wore and his hand reached towards the ear of this wolfkin.

"No!! Not the ear.."

"Argghhh!!!!"

Before the archer could plead.. Kahn cut off one of his ears. To the wolfkin species.. Their ears and their snout were of the utmost importance which signified their species characteristics.

The screams and wails of this wolfkin echoed in the dark alley.. But there was no one to hear his wails.

"Now, let's move to the other one." said Kahn with a gentle expression on his face as if cutting off someone's precious body part didn't bother him at all.

"No!! I'll tell you! I'll tell you!.. Just don't. Just don't kill me." agreed and pleaded the archer. His smug and carefree expression from before was nowhere to be seen.

"You have my word. I won't kill you." declared Kahn with a righteous expression on his face.

The Archer then revealed how the order came from their superiors and how they were only following the commands.

He also told Kahn that at midnight, even more of their fighters and trained assassins were going to depart and kill over fifty of Bloodborne company's employees and burn a few warehouses and shops.

And the main records of the clients who hired their organization were kept in their main headquarters. And how it was a very secured space and no one without the password or who hadn't been seen by the security before was allowed to enter.

After hearing about the details on the location & what kind of traps were set there to catch the intruders... Kahn finally felt satisfied.

He let go of the wolfkin and released him from his extensions.

"I see. I guess then I have no other choice." spoke Kahn.

Stab!

Suddenly, the wolfkin's heart was stabbed from behind.

"You.. You said you won't kill me." spoke the archer, his eyes full of shock and disbelief.

"Yes.. But I'm not the one who killed you." said Kahn nonchalantly and gestured at the one stabbing the Archer from behind.

It was none other than the Assassin subordinate of Kahn who was put near to death by these killers not too long ago.

Kahn then absorbed the abilities & skills of this Archer. He didn't need the skills but the perfect bloodline sample.

After wearing this dead wolfkin's clothes and gear as he himself transformed into the identical copy of this archer.

Kahn knew that he only had 2 hours now before the other killers from this assassin organization were deployed to kill his people and destroy his property.

Currently, every one of his allies except for Armin were busy protecting a part of his company such as the main building, Albestros, their warehouses and stores. All of them were commanding and maintaining the security of a particular sector.

He couldn't take out Blackwall & Rudra because of their size and Ceril was still in the process of completely absorbing the cores they ate recently.

So Kahn was alone on this one.

After traveling by using various modes of transportation... he finally reached a bustling area full of taverns, crowded shops and thousands of people going about their merry lives.

By no means would anyone ever think of this posh and clean commercial area as the den of professional killers who would kill anyone as long as you offered them a good price.

Kahn was now in the getup of Hanthor, the wolfkin archer.

He entered a busy tavern full of customers asking for booze and food loudly. He went to the counter and spoke to the main receptionist in a hushed tone.

"Silent Whistle." said Kahn.

The receptionist nodded after hearing the password and signaled Kahn to follow him.

After going two levels underground.. Kahn was introduced to a completely unbelievable sight.

The building above was a normal, day-to-day life type of settlement you'd see anywhere.

But the sight in front of him was completely different from what one would expect.

Rather than looking like some underground tunnel or a ruined dungeon..

The entire floor was like an open field; just brighter, wider and well facilitated. Nearly 2,000 people and trained fighters were busy discussing their contracts, targets, information & their payments.

As if this wasn't some secret headquarter of a criminal organization... but a farmer's market.

But rather than being taken aback by this revelation.. Kahn's countenance turned grim instead. He spoke with a sinister smile on his face.

"Let's see which one of these bastards dared to kill my people."