

Darkness 291

Chapter 291 - Outrageous Proposal

Kahn & Albestros stood gobsmacked on the spot after the fourth stage saint swordsman revealed his true intentions to them. Offering to have Kahn join their faction or their ranks was somehow understandable but what he wanted was to have Kahn join their clan instead.

Joining their clan meant as in taking their family name through... marriage.

"Wait.. What?! Why do you want me to do that? Why me?..." asked Kahn with a baffled expression.

Because when Ismaetrazel wanted him to join their side.. He wanted to accept Kahn as his disciple at most but what Stronoff suggested was excessively absurd.

"Yes. If you want, I can arrange your marriage in our clan and accept you as a family member.

I initially wanted to accept you as my disciple but it would turn out extremely bothersome in the long run as I can't impart the majority of my skills or combat techniques to an outsider.

So if you were to get accepted through marriage.. I would be justified to train you myself." elaborated Stronoff.

"But why?! I don't get it. It's not like you even know me. And why would you want me to join your prestigious clan in the first place?

We're a bunch of nobodies compared to your thousand year old clan and lineage that exists since the time this empire was created." questioned Kahn again.

"Ah.. So we're playing it that way huh?" sighed Stronoff and the next second, over three hundred aura blades, each filled with world energy just like when Kahn dueled with the vampire clan leader came to be and all of them targeted him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The hundreds of aura swords attacked Kahn instantly and he quickly used Side Hopper and appeared 50 meters away in this space domain.

But unlike his prior experience.. He wasn't in a duel this time but an actual battle.

Swoosh!

Kahn quickly summoned Lucifer back in his hand and grasped it just in time before he was hit by the first volley of sword attacks.

Stronoff on the other end was still seated in his chair with his arms folded while Albestros had a baffled expression as if he still couldn't understand exactly what was happening in the past 5 seconds.

[This fucker!] cursed Kahn and quickly activated Sword King skill.

BOOM!!

Dozens of aura blades made of different elements aside from light and darkness elements formed around Kahn as he also released his domineering aura of a semi-saint and in the next second, a hundred swords were formed around him instantly.

"Impossible!.. I knew he was a semi-saint but these many swords.. And all these different elements. He can use more elemental aura swords than me!!" exclaimed Stronoff for the first time ever since he met Kahn.

Soon, what happened even caught the number one swordsman of the empire by surprise.

Because his aura blades that were infused with World Energy clashed with the ones created by Kahn and right in front of his eyes..

Kahn's blades started absorbing them.

[World Energy absorption restarted.

Current progress : 0.4%] informed the system.

The last time when the system gave this similar notification was when Kahn had the duel with the clan leader of the Vandereich clan when he escorted Szayel to their main headquarters.

Because of Kahn's Ability Absorption divine ability.. He could also absorb the World Energy that basically helped an entity become a Saint Rank individual in the first place.

Stronoff jolted up in shock as he saw Kahn fighting and evading these swords successfully despite being outnumbered.

Yet while facing the weapons that were three times than his own in numbers.. There was no fear or doubt in his eyes.

And given his own talent as a swordsman, he noticed one more thing that completely boggled his mind..

Kahn was suddenly appearing from one place to another in a flash.. And this technique was something he was extremely familiar with.

Kahn was using the Flash Steps technique!

It was exactly the technique used by Veronica during their battle.

[This kid.. He's a complete freak!] Stronoff thought to himself.

"Who... who the hell are you?!" he shouted and stopped his swords from moving.

"That's an odd question after coming here and trying to kill me.." spoke Kahn in a serious tone.

This guy came right inside his house and attacked him out of nowhere. And yet he dared to ask who the hell he was..

"I already sensed that you were a semi-saint during your match with my daughter.

But that skill.. How can a semi-saint use the Sword King skill without even becoming a saint first?

Even I could barely create 60 aura swords when I was a semi-saint. And I was the best of my generation in the whole empire." he iterated.

"Plus you can already absorb the world energy from my swords. That shouldn't even be possible." he spoke with disbelief in his eyes.

"And I taught the Flash Steps technique to my daughter. It took her a decade to master the basic movements and you learned them after a single fight? How the hell is that even possible?" he kept asking.

The most talented swordsman of the empire was overwhelmed by Kahn's talent.

[Fuck!! I revealed too much!] cursed Kahn in his mind as he came to a realization.

By his instincts, while he faced these attacks from Stronoff, he was literally in a fight to death scenario and ended up not only revealing that he was a semi-saint but also the Sword King skill that the vampire clan leader already compared to a saint rank skill nearly 10 months ago.

And he ended up using the flash steps technique he had been practicing ever since the battle with Veronica.

And because of the Combat Technique Mastery blessing given by the War Deity, Kravel... He had already unlocked that skill by practicing during his training sessions and currently had 23% proficiency in this combat technique.

While facing the sudden onslaught, he ended up fighting with his survival instinct and not his brain. And now.. Many questionable things about him were revealed to the fourth stage saint.

"This won't do.. I can't let others find out about this." spoke Stronoff hurriedly as his mind was completely discombobulated.

"Kahn.. You have to join my clan. But not as a normal member." he said and continued again. But this time.. His words were even more outrageous than the previous proposal.

"I want you to join it... As my son-in-law!!!"

Chapter 292 - The Hidden Card

At this point, Kahn's mind was in disarray as this another outrageous proposal by the fourth stage saint swordsman exceeded the previous one. The number one swordsman of the whole Rakos empire wanted Kahn to become his son-in-law?

And that too after Kahn beat the shit out of his 'to be wife' already in front of the entire empire and put her in a near-death situation at that.

[What kind of bullshit is this?! Has this old man gone crazy?!] asked Kahn to himself as he was still processing the happenings of the past 10 minutes.

Because things took a 180-degree turn too quickly... twice!

"Don't be surprised when I tell you this. But you have the potential to surpass me.

Not just me but any other swordsman that ever came before me.

I don't know how you reached this level even without proper backing or training from seasoned warriors of the empire... But I guess once in a millennium geniuses are made different." explained Stronoff and let out a content sigh.

Albestros, who stood behind Stronoff was also taken aback by this proclamation. He knew that Kahn was indeed a genius but since he wasn't a swordsman himself; he truly hadn't recognized Kahn's potential until this very moment.

[Hmph! You're looking down on me, you dumbass. Not just swordsmanship but I have the potential to surpass others in every weapon and combat technique.

Because I have the blessings from Kratos... Kravel, the War Deity himself.

All I need is time and more practice in all of them.] scorned Kahn in his mind.

One of the reasons why he felt thankful to Kravel even now was because although Kahn had divine abilities.. They had limited use and didn't actually help him as a fighter in order to survive.

He could get abilities and create allies with them. But they never helped in actually increasing his fighting styles, effectiveness or his skill ranks.

The lion's share in his current level as a warrior, his combat techniques mastery, weapon mastery as well as his survival was mostly because of the blessings given by Kravel.

If not for them, Kahn knew he'd still be struggling to become a proper warrior compared to the professionally trained people in this new world and he'd not even be comparable to the top prodigies of the empire.

"So what do you say? You're a diamond in the rough and I can provide you basically everything you need to become one of the best and most powerful swordsmen in the empire.

Letting your talent go to waste by leaving you here to live like this would be unfair to every swordsman in our empire." he said.

"I apologize.. I don't plan to join your clan or become your disciple." said Kahn with resolute eyes. His body stood tall like a true warrior who'd not even cower in the face of death.

BOOM!!

However, the very next second, Stronoff released his aura of a saint and the space domain instantly froze as if time itself stopped moving. Both Kahn and Albestros couldn't even move their eyelids under this insurmountable and dense aura.

"What I'm offering you is what others won't even consider rather than directly oppressing you to the point you'll have to become their puppet." he said and walked close to Kahn.

Stronoff stood in front of the young man and put his hand on Kahn's left shoulder and spoke.

"You will understand once I take you to our clan's headquarters. So don't try to resist.

Because I won't be polite from here on." he said in a tyrannical voice that made goosebumps rise on Kahn's entire body.

[Fuck!! Why is this happening?! I was so close to achieving my goals!] cursed Kahn again.

Stronoff finding out about his rank was something he hadn't foreseen despite him taking all the necessary precautions. This thwarted his plans completely.

At this moment.. Kahn was again at the mercy of a superior being. He had already activated War Dominance but against the fourth stage saint.. It didn't even make a difference at all.

[Motherfucker! I swear I'll kill this bastard!] cursed Kahn in his head. This was the second time he was being oppressed by a saint.

BOOM!!

However... before Stronoff could take any other action and abduct Kahn. A burst of blue fire emitted out of Kahn's body and the next second.. A bone-chilling aura was released in the surroundings.

And the target of this horrifying aura was none other than Stronoff and what happened next shook Kahn.

The almighty fourth stage saint who was feared by many was the one kneeling on the ground now.

"Who dares to touch my chosen candidate?!" a grim and hoarse voice resounded in the domain as the aura of the saint completely disappeared.

In the following moment.. Something appeared out of Kahn's space ring and shone brightly as the domineering voice of an elderly person even made the number one swordsman of the empire feel afraid.

A golden slate-like token hovered in the air in between them and released an oppressive aura that was a hundred times stronger and denser compared to the pressure released by Stronoff.

It was the Recommendation Token!

The recommendation token given to Kahn by the Pureblood faction somehow activated itself when Kahn felt the danger to his life and appeared suddenly in between them.

[What.. What the hell happening now?!] Kahn thought.

"That token.. And that voice.. How?" asked Stronoff with a pained expression on his face.

"You.. You know who it is?" asked Kahn with a confused face after he was finally able to calm himself quickly.

This voice didn't belong to Ismaetrazel as far as he remembered.

"Of course, I know who it is." said Stronoff with a hateful expression on his countenance.

"You.. Since when have you sided with the Pureblood faction? And why is their faction leader's personal token with you?" asked Stronoff again as the veins on his face popped out under this pressure.

The once almighty and dangerous saint was now struggling to breathe properly. At this moment, neither Kahn nor Albestros were affected by this blue fire and aura but Stronoff looked like he was carrying a boulder on his back.

After a minute of realization.. He spoke again with a solemn tone.

"So that's how it was..."

No wonder those bastards sent only one semi-saint in the competition." he said while adjusting his breathing and wiped out all the sweat on his face.

He gazed at Kahn with a bewildered expression and spoke...

"You were their biggest hidden card since the beginning!"

Chapter 293 - Final Decision

In front of Kahn, knelt one of the most prestigious and top figures of the empire. Although it was because of a borrowed strength.. He still had an upper hand for the moment.

"Good... they fooled us all for good." said Stronoff.

Soon, the aura released by the token subsided and Kahn was on guard again. The recommendation token senses that Kahn was no longer in mortal danger so it temporarily deactivated itself.

"The recommendation tokens are also used for the protection of the candidates chosen by the faction and contain the aura of the faction leaders that's enough to incapacitate any opponent for a short time when the bearer is under danger or about to get harmed." said Stronoff as he panted heavily.

"So I guess you're not without a proper backing after all. No one can even touch you as long as the competition is going on." spoke the fourth stage saint with an irritated expression.

[Why is he telling me this? He should try to hide this sort of information in order to blackmail or pressurize me.] wondered Kahn if the saint had some ulterior motive behind revealing this information.

A minute later.. He finally managed to get back on his feet and brushed off the dust on his armor.

But instead of getting angry or acting hostile, he took a deep breath and spoke to Kahn again.

"Let's settle things with words again then. My previous offer still stands. You should know better which side will bring more benefits to you." he said.

And the next moment, his gaze shifted to Albestros who was still rooted on the spot this whole time.

"Master Albestros... Do you really want to see Kahn's talent and his life go to waste?"

And do you guys think that those extremist vampires will let him stay as a human?" he questioned.

Both Kahn and Albestros had puzzled expressions on their faces.

"What do you mean?" asked Kahn.

"Our entire Mikealson clan is made from humans and I wanted to bring him into our midst in a proper way. But that won't be the case if he joins the Vandereich clan." he reiterated.

"Stop beating around the bush. Just tell me what it is." spoke Albestros, his expression agitated at this point.

"We have records of one of their rituals they acquired from the Vampire Empire centuries ago which could turn a human into a vampire.

And if Kahn sticks with them.. They will definitely make him a vampire and also their slave if he doesn't give in." explained the saint.

However, Kahn was not an idiot to blindly believe that statement.

"That is my matter to take care of. It's not related to you in any way." spoke Kahn with a high-pitched tone. He no longer had any good opinions about the man in front of him.

"Fool. You are too overconfident of yourself if you think you can face those bloodsuckers on your own?"

I may seem like an enemy now but once this competition is over... you will see the truth behind my words.

Your life is barely hanging by a thread and you don't even see it." scoffed Stronoff.

"I'm a better choice than that Ismaetrazel in every way. He and I have fought many times in the past and I have never been defeated by him.

And what I said before, you will understand the gravity of danger when you become a saint in the future.

But given your current circumstances and your reach.. You might not even become one in this lifetime." declared Stronoff as he folded his hands behind his back.

"What are you trying to imply here?" asked Kahn with a serious tone. He felt like it was something that he needed to know.

"Let me ask you something..."

Absorbing mana cores no longer works and your levels have hit a plateau, haven't they?" questioned Stronoff and he tilted his head and inspected Kahn's body with his gaze alone.

[What the.. How does he know?] thought Kahn.

Because even with his Divine Abilities and eating SS Rank cores everyday.. Kahn was still stuck at level 150 from over a month as if his Divine Abilities no longer worked.

"After reaching the semi-saint rank and level 150.. Your strength will not reach the new realm no matter how many cores you absorb or how many decades you spend.

Why do you think there are more than 200 semi-saints in our empire but all the saints belong to either of the three factions and the top noble clans?" asked Stronoff in a mocking tone.

Kahn on the other end had a moment of enlightenment after this question.

"The World Energy!" exclaimed Kahn.

"Exactly. Why do you think the cores of the fallen saints are protected by every powerful clan?

It's for their semi-saints to absorb world energy from and then cross level 200 after their bodies become completely adapted to it. Only then can one finally enter into the Saint Rank." revealed the swordsman.

[System, isn't this the same condition you told me?] asked Kahn to the system.

[Yes. But the host has no restrictions on world energy sources such as Saint's core.] replied system.

[Then why aren't my levels increasing?] questioned Kahn.

[Because the host hasn't absorbed or mastered enough World Energy for the next spike in levels.] explained the system.

[I see. So that's why I have been stuck. I guess I'll have to take care of this issue after this competition.] he thought.

"Given your current reach and authority.. Can you even manage to get your hands on one in this lifetime?" mocked the middle-aged man.

Kahn stood silent on the spot.

[Bitch, I already have!]

"I can help you become a Saint even before you cross 30 years of age. And I will personally train you as well as provide a suitable environment, authority and prestige.

If you accept my proposal, that is." said Stronoff with a righteous expression as if he was doing all of this out of his goodwill or some sort of obligation as a swordsman.

However, Kahn quickly replied in a tyrannical voice as if he had enough of this charade.

"Tell your lies to someone else.. I'm not buying all this bullshit."

Chapter 294 - Fair Warning

Just before Kahn had abruptly relayed his decision to Stronoff, he had a well-thought judgment after contemplating everything ever since the fourth stage saint came to meet him in the first place.

[So it's his style to goad me into joining his side. He's knowingly revealing all this information to me so that I will find him reliable and think he has the best intentions for me.

He wants me to think that he's on my side.

This bastard is no different than others.] thought Kahn to himself.

In just a few moments, Kahn replied his final decision again.

"I'll take my chances. So leave." said Kahn. This time, there was no semblance of respect or politeness in his tone.

"Are you that stupid?" asked Stronoff with an exasperated tone. This sudden shift in tone greatly angered him but he couldn't touch Kahn again lest he wanted to kneel in the ground.

"Whether it's Ismaetrazel, the Vandereich clans, the Pureblood faction or you... there's one thing you all have in common." spoke Kahn with a domineering tone as he continued...

"All of you are liars!"

Kahn walked close to the man and looked at him as if he had seen through the whole facade.

"You know that I'm a semi-saint.. And the only swordsman among all the candidates.

And you came here in secret knowing that I didn't have anyone's backing so you wanted to recruit me.

If not for me having this token, you would've kidnapped me and made one of your puppets for something you want anyway.

That's the problem with you noble clans.. You think that everyone besides you is stupid and will believe your words just because you're some powerful people.

I'm now even more certain that whatever your intentions are after knowing my potential..

They don't benefit neither me nor your clan.

Whatever your plans are.. I'm not going to play your game." said Kahn with creased brows he was barely holding his anger.

[This brat! Have I really been seen through?

I guess I'll have to wait for the end of this competition.

Then I'll deal with him!] scoffed Stronoff in his mind.

"You're making a grave mistake. Once your secret is out.. Everyone will become your enemy. I'm the only one who can protect you." said Stronoff while keeping the pretense of someone who cared for Kahn.

"Like I said, I will take care of my own problems. So leave." spoke Kahn with a lifeless expression.

"Hmph!" scoffed off Stronoff after being denied thrice by Kahn. The only thing he could do now was to act later when Kahn no longer had the recommendation token.

When Stronoff walked back with both his hands behind his back, his footsteps suddenly stopped. He turned his head towards Kahn and spoke in a solemn tone.

"Master Albestros.. I hope what happened between me and the kid doesn't affect our relationship.

I will send my people soon to sign the contract regarding our deal related to weapons and armory." he said and then his gaze shifted to Kahn again.

"As for you kid.. Let me offer you a word of advice.

If you're unluckily pitted against my niece, Cassandra in the upcoming rounds..

Just give up and forfeit the match. You might as well make a lot of money by betting on your loss instead.

Call it a fair warning out of courtesy." he said and waited for the domain to deactivate.

"And why is that? Didn't you say I have the potential to even surpass you?" asked Kahn with a contemptuous tone.

"You do. But the current you is no match for her.

I'm not saying this because she is my niece or because I'm overconfident of her strength.

But because Cassandra is not like you or the other candidates.

Nobody outside of our close family circle has seen her fight at best.

Even with your talent & potential.. If you fight her..

You will definitely lose." declared Stronoff.

Kahn did not respond and deactivated the artifact.

Soon, Stronoff left with his envoy. Although he could create a scene here.. But Albestros was a figure he couldn't dare to harm.

And using the peak grandmaster blacksmith to threaten Kahn would also turn against him because this man was even more famous and favored by the saints of the three factions currently.

Using his true strength here would come to bite him back later and the plans he had for Kahn that no one except him knew about for now would come to light.

Even his secret visit here would need some covering up from his end.

In the evening, Kahn and Albestros were seated in their usual place in the garden where they often enjoyed the morning breakfast.

Both of their faces had a sullen expression.

Today's confrontation with the number one swordsman of the empire was too overwhelming for both of them.

Had it not been for the recommendation token Kahn had with him... things would've turned out very differently.

And they wouldn't have been able to resist at all. Because fame, prestige and authority can only protect you to a certain extent.

"This is going to be a headache.." spoke Albestros. His appearance looked as if he suddenly aged by another decade.

"I don't understand one thing though.. Why was he so adamant about recruiting you?

Compared to that vampire clan leader, he was very..." but before he could finish the words..

"Desperate!" interjected Kahn.

His eyes turned serious as a thoughtful expression appeared on his face.

"For some reason.. I can't see the full picture and what's happening behind the scenes.

Even though the Vandereich clan gave me this token, they haven't tried to contact me even till this point.

It's like something big is happening. And everyone is desperate to find a semi-saint fighter of their own despite there being more than two hundred of them in the empire." spoke Kahn with a stern voice.

"Well.. I'll just focus on this competition for now." he said and continued in an excited tone suddenly as battle intent filled his eyes.

"And see how strong this Cassandra Mikealson is."

Chapter 295 - The Alternatives

On the following day, Kahn was following his practice sessions in swordsmanship and battle techniques inside the batcave. He had halted off his training in magic and other weapons for now.

After yesterday's incident, he had become more aware of his current predicament and how he was bound to be found sooner anyway. So he created a counterattack plan yesterday with Albestros.

The subordinates with human form had yet to return since he sent all of them away yesterday because a fourth stage saint would definitely detect them as monsters so he couldn't take the risk.

Aside from Rudra & Blackwall who were hidden inside his shadow and were undetectable to a swordsman even if he was a saint, all of them had been tasked with gathering and tallying the money from his matches.

When he finally finished his rigorous training for the day, Kahn took out a wooden box from his space rings and opened its lead.

A glimmering white orb was taken out of the box and Kahn stared at it with expectant eyes.

This was the core of the first stage saint magician from the vampire clan, Kereberos Mor Vandereich. One of the elders of the vampire clan who had targeted Kahn back in the day.

Using Kahn, Ismaetrazel found out the traitor and then used him to find the traitors of their whole faction which led to a grand ceremony of public execution throughout the Rakos empire.

And on the very same day when they were all burned.. Kahn went to the site and ordered Ronin who was hidden in Szayel Mor Vandereich's shadow as per his previous commands, to steal this saint's core.

Kahn took that calculative risk because it was the only way for Kahn to get a core of a first stage saint without getting killed. And after a month, Ronin was finally able to deliver it when Kahn welcomed Szayel as his guest in the new manor.

Since he was too weak back then, he couldn't utilize this core. And even now, he had to become level 200 first and then eat this core to become a full-fledged saint rank individual.

Kahn realized that apart from increasing his levels, he also has to keep increasing his mastery and absorb more world energy for breaking through to new saint ranks in the future.

Because it was like a condition to break the bottleneck and he can't skip it even with his Divine ability because it only helped him absorb abilities but not make his own body more suitable to adapt to world energy.

And since War Deity Body wouldn't come into effect until he became a first stage saint first, Kahn had no choice but to look for a different method.

"System, can I absorb it now or somehow extract the world energy from this core?" asked Kahn.

[The host currently does not possess any skill that could help in absorbing mana or world energy without directly eating the source such as the core in the host's hands.] responded the system in its usual robotic voice.

[And the core is highly condensed with world energy. The host's body is currently unable to sustain the absorption procedure.] spoke the system again.

"Then what about the First Emperor's core? You once said I can use it as an alternative source of mana, right? It also has world energy in it." questioned Kahn.

[The host is advised to use the peak saint's core only after becoming a first stage saint rank individual. Otherwise, the host's body will explode.] reminded the system again.

"Aishh.. Looks like I really don't have other alternatives for now.

Wait.. What if I eat the cores of monsters with higher ranks? They too will have world energy, right?"

[Yes. But the host must eat at least a Legendary rank monster's core. And it should be a fully matured one unlike the core of the Somir host once ate. Because the saturated world energy is too weak in such entities.] informed system.

"Wait a minute.. If that's the case.

Then doesn't it mean I can absorb it by eating the cores of the other semi-saints?" asked Kahn as a light bulb shone over his head.

[Yes. It is indeed possible. But it shall depend upon the amount of world energy absorbed by such individuals.] said the system.

"I see. Let's hope I get to kill a fair share of semi-saint in the future. That seems like the fastest way." spoke Kahn with a sinister smile.

In the blink of an eye.. 10 more days passed and finally, the day of the Semifinal had arrived.

2 days prior, Kahn had a meeting with Albestros and all of his subordinates. They devised a plan that came to his mind a few days ago and how best to implement it.

And on the same day, his opponent he'd have to fight in the semifinals was also declared throughout the empire.

A known and well-established semi-saint rank individual of the young generation in this competition.

Not only was his opponent a fan favorite but extremely skilled at the same time.

And he had no choice but to acknowledge the pure talent, raw strength and impeccable mastery over the battle techniques of this opponent whom he didn't hope to clash with this soon.

But it looked like the world had different plans for him.

Unlike Kahn, the opponent had a big background and as for the Emperor's Chosen competition and the opponent's relationship..

There was a legacy attached to their name.

Because the opponent was someone who Kahn had seen fight and win in the quarterfinals right in front of his eyes.

On the day of the match, Kahn changed his appearance to an Elf and traveled to the battle arena in the richest district of the whole empire.

And after he reverted to his original appearance and finally entered the 3 kilometer wide battle ring in the middle of the 25 floored and 7 kilometer circumference battle arena..

He stood in front of his opponent. His eyes and mind focused because the opponent in front of him was a real deal.

It was none other than the chosen representative of the Demi-Human faction and the son of the previous Emperor's Chosen champion..

Victor Apopis!

Chapter 296 - Grand Revelation

In front of the millions of audiences in this enormous battle arena, two young warriors stood against each other while the entire empire looked forward towards their battle that would decide one of the finalists of this competition.

On the scoreboard, the betting odds for this fight were also revealed.

90:10

Kahn being on the unfavored side again.

In front of Kahn, stood a halfbreed demonkin warrior who a big and long scythe as his weapon and a greenish epic rank armor made to complement his physical strength and maneuverability while fighting.

His eyes glowed red while the one long red horn on the right side of his forehead protruded outwards. He looked at Kahn with carefree eyes and spoke.

"Oye.. I don't want to waste time here. You know who is stronger amongst us.

You reached till this stage because your opponent was a peak grandmaster.

But your luck ends here. So forfeit the match and spare me the hassle." spoke Victor in a calm yet overbearing voice.

[Ah, fucking cliché dialogs..] thought Kahn and replied in a stern tone.

"Hey.. If you want a free victory.. Shouldn't you put in some effort?"

Asked Kahn and flooded his arms as he firmly looked in the eyes of the opponent.

Gasp!

Kahn's endearing response made many people surprised. Because the opponent was a bonafide semi-saint and he was only a peak grandmaster in the public eye.

Although his match with Veronica went well, many people still believed that he won by luck and also his act of thrashing the young woman had left a bad impression on the audience throughout the whole empire.

So him acting all confident in front of the mighty opponent seemed out of the blue.

"What.. What did you say?" asked Victor as his tone suddenly turned hostile.

"Are you deaf or something? I said if you want a free victory.. You should put in some effort for it." spoke Kahn as he tilted his head and gave a condescending look at the opponent.

"Oh.. Is that so? Then what do you want?" asked Victor as he clenched his hand on the scythe, his brows creased and an irritated expression appearing on the face.

"Beg for it!"

Responded Kahn with a benign smile as he fearlessly declared.

BOOM!! This content is taken from loud burst of dark red aura erupted on the left side of the battle ring as Victor released his strength of a semi-saint after Kahn's proclamation.

"You.. What did you say you filthy insect?!" shouted the demonkin warrior.

"Get on your knees and beg for me to forfeit the match. I might even fulfill your wish if I find it sincere." replied Kahn with a grin on his countenance.

STUNNED!

Let it be the audience in the battle arena, people watching on the broadcasting screen or the top saints of the empire who came to personally watch the match and support Victor since he was the chosen representative of the Demi-Human faction.

Even the dozens of saints from enemy factions were also bewildered after his outrageous words.

They already knew the results of the match yet somehow Kahn had the galls of refuting and even insulting Victor Apopis, the candidate who reached this round by defeating a semi-saint himself.

Despite all that, Kahn's words were too brazen and he publicly insulted the opponent. An opponent who came from the most prestigious background and was also the son of the previous champion.

"You.. Looks there are indeed people who don't know the immensity of heaven and earth.

You're not even worthy of sharing the same battlegrounds with me and yet you want me to kneel and beg in front of you? And that too when our whole empire is watching?

Hey.. Don't tell me you have a deathwish?" asked Victor with an infuriated tone.

The reason why he was holding back was because a semi-saint bullying a peak grandmaster in front of the whole empire would leave a bad impression.

Plus he was a renowned genius who had the best teachers and training from saints of his factions and her, a seemingly weaker opponent was acting all high and mighty in front of him.

"Has that human gone crazy?!"

"What an idiot. Looks like he wants to get beaten up badly."

"He won't come out alive if he angers the demonkin more. Killing is allowed in this round." spoke thousands of the people amongst the audience as they chattered between themselves.

"Alright.. There will be indeed kneeling and begging on this battle ring.

'I'll make you eat your kneecaps and beg in front of me to spare your life!" declared Victor as he finally lost his patience and decided to teach the human in front of him a lesson.

No beating him to death now will tarnish his reputation in the future as if he let Kahn go without cutting off his arms and legs..

Anyone would think that they could badmouth him and go unpunished.

At this point, he wasn't just representing himself but all the noble factions and their members of the empire.

"Alright then. Let's see if you have the ability to do so." replied Kahn and brandished Lucifer in his right hand.

BOOM!!

Just when everyone thought that Kahn's life was gone for good after enraging the halfbreed demonkin and the entire upper class of the society.. And sudden surprise that shook the whole empire in an instant was revealed.

Kahn's black and red aura also erupted out from his body and filled half of the three kilometer wide battle ring.

And as he tyrannical and ghastly aura was revealed to not only Victor but all the saints in VIP rooms..

A vital information about Kahn, the biggest dark horse of this competition, was finally revealed to the entire empire of four billion citizens.

SEMI- SAINT!!

Kahn was now revealed to be a semi-saint!

Everyone watching this match was rooted on the spot. Even the people from seven deadly sins who were told to bet on Kahn's win were shocked to the point they forgot how to breathe.

"Believe me.."

With War Dominance activated, Kahn's body was covered in a dense black and red aura. His tyrannical and deathly voice resounded in the whole battle arena as he targeted the opponent with his killing intent.

"You do not want this fight."

Chapter 297 - Man Vs Devil

Two tangible dense and chaotic auras clashing against each other filled the entire battlefield as the figures releasing it looked at each other with their battle instincts raised to the peak. After Kahn's sudden revelation of being a semi-saint, all the citizens of the empire watching this match were shaken to their cores.

"How is that possible?! Where does this boy come from?!" spoke a 3rd stage saint in one of the VIP rooms.

"Impossible!! How come there was another semi-saint in the competition and no one knew it yet?!" exclaimed a saint from the neutral faction.

"Which faction does he belong to? Who is his backer? Did he use a recommendation token?" asked an elven saint to his aides.

Soon, millions and then billions of people started discussing this new information while the two combatants in the battle ring were only focused on each other.

Although Victor was also taken aback at first, he quickly recovered his composure and put on a guard lest his opponent uses that opportunity and attack him when he was careless.

"You.. Which clan do you belong to?" asked Victor with a cautious tone.

"Bah, do you really want to waste time on chit-chat and my origin story? Or do you want to fight and see which one of us is stronger?" asked Kahn with a smirk on his face.

"Besides.. My audience thinks the plot has been dragged down too long already.

And they want to see a good fight." he said and released War Dominance at full power this time.

Kahn could already sense that Victor was at least 5 levels above him so there was no need to hold back.

The reason why he chose to reveal his rank as semi-saint now was because of two main reasons.

One, he couldn't defeat Victor with his restricted ranks and stats. And second, after Stronoff's visit to his manor, Kahn knew that he will be targeted by him and the pureblood faction sooner or later.

In order to prepare against whatever that was happening behind the scenes which he still didn't know anything about.. Kahn had to become the center of attention and have people keep talking about him.

That way, no one would dare to cause him harm or try to oppress him when everyone was watching.

"Fine then. Let's talk after I put you in the ground first. Don't expect me to show any mercy." said Victor with an expectant look as the warrior within him was yearning for a good fight.

Soon, fifty scythes made from his red and highly compressed aura formed in the air above him. Each of these Scythes were 5 meters long in height.

Shrill!

On the other end, Kahn also used Sword Savant skill and created fifty greatswords made of black and red aura that were identical to Lucifer in appearance. The five meters long greatswords made from 5 different elements such as fire, ice, lightning, earth and wind hovered in the air.

STUNNED!

Not only Victor but all the saints were stunned on the spot in their respective rooms on the highest floors of this battle arena.

And the fact that his aura swords were made from 5 different elements at once already made him worthy of being called a prodigy born once in a century.

Because Swordsmen had the most difficulty when mastering different elements and forming aura blades.

Although Kahn was already known to be a magic swordsman in the eyes of the audience, he had revealed mastery over 5 different elements.

Even Veronica Mikeelson who was called the 2nd most talented swordswoman of the younger generation in the whole empire could use only 4 elements.

This also displayed that Kahn, one without any prestigious faction or clan's backing was as talented and of the same caliber as Victor who was trained by some of the best of the best teachers in the empire.

This display of skills was too shocking for everyone within the whole empire.

"Who the hell is this guy?! I want to know everything about him!!" commanded a 4th stage lionkin saint from the Demi-Human faction.

On the battlefield, Kahn looked at his shocked opponent and his greatswords pointed their tips towards the demonkin opponent.

Kahn had activated all of his battle-related passive skills and soon, the entire battlefield was filled with loud clashing noises and explosions as the aura weapons created by both the combatants filled the battlefield.

BOOM!!

An ear-deafening noise sent shockwaves as both Victor and Kahn covered in their auras finally clashed against each other in a head-on attack.

The battleground made of hard stones already started cracking from the impact where both the participants engaged in their first clash.

Sparks flew in between the sharp edges of their weapons as two 5 feet long weapons hit against each other.

SHRILL!!

Just then, One of Kahn's aura swords attacked Victor from behind while he himself had locked the enemy's movements.

BOOM!

But before the sword could hit, it was attacked from the scythe on the left and deflected the sword in the stead of its owner.

"Not bad. You have good control." said Kahn as his figure disappeared from the place in an instant.

Swoosh!

Kahn appeared 20 meters away from the opponent and just then, more than five aura scythes hit the ground where he stood moments ago.

BOOM!!

Another loud explosion shook the battlefield as Kahn barely escaped the onslaught from the massive scythes in the last moment thanks to Survival Instinct blessing.

The swirling storm of aura scythes had completely surrounded Kahn and he realized that the opponent wasn't intending on test his limits and decided to fight him at their peak.

However, as soon as the explosion waned, a sight that shook the whole empire appeared in the middle of the battlefield.

But before they could even digest what just happened, another loud explosion happened on the swordsman's end.

A massive explosion of heat filled this side as if a volcano had erupted. This heat was so intense that the stoned battleground itself started melting.

Thud! Thud!

A man donned in black and crimson armor that was literally on fire walked out of this explosion.

His appearance looked even more demonic than the opponent who had chosen to finally use his bloodline as well.

At this moment, Kahn had finally summoned his armor for the first time in this competition.

And now, he was wearing..

Chapter 298 - Two Demons

Two auras, one dark red while the other crimson red filled the battlefield as both the combatants decided to reveal their hidden cards after just a few minutes of fighting each other on equal footing.

Victor already sensed Kahn's strength after the small exchange of moves and the formation of aura swords that his own scythes faced. Unlike before, he was now extremely alert of the opponent because he felt an immense danger coming from him.

Kahn on the other end had sensed that his loss would be imminent if he faced this powered-up enemy who was using his bloodline skill.

And hence, he quickly summoned his Drakos armor for the first time in the competition as well as activated the Draconian bloodline effect.

He gazed at Victor's figure that had transformed into something else at this point.

The old Victor from minutes ago was completely gone and now in his place, stood a 3 meter tall red demon with two giant horns on his head and two coming out from the sides of his jaw.

Victor's body had completely turned red and his hands now had sharp black claws.

The upper body that was once in the dark green armor was now completely exposed to the public while his skull no longer looked humanoid but that of a monster.

Ripped muscles and large arms came to be in everyone's sight as Victor finally revealed his True Demon transformation.

This was the highest degree of his capacity which he hadn't even revealed in the quarterfinals against the semi-saint Ezekiel, the representative of the Pureblood faction.

This showed how seriously he took Kahn as his opponent.

"What is this... His Devil Trigger or something?" wondered Kahn.

On the other side however.. Stood another demonic figure. Yet his aura was completely different from the former.

As if it didn't belong to a human or a demon, rather a completely different species altogether.

Kahn finally used the Drakos Armor, the one made by Albestros after he gave the old man the remaining body parts of the magma drake. And this was also the lifesaving armor he used in the fight against Arkham and Solomon.

But compared to the previous incident, this time the armor was much stronger and exuded more blistering heat and chaotic aura since Kahn's rank and levels had risen.

And the Drakos Armor and Lucifer that shared the draconian bloodline effect with him also grew in strength along with his own rank and levels thanks to Kahn's own draconian bloodline he absorbed from the drake.

Albestros had successfully completed the blood-bind ritual which tied Kahn's body with them. So now, not only Kahn, but even one of his biggest trump cards had leveled up a league above.

Because of which, the armor wasn't just leaking heat.. But it was literally on fire just like the magma drake, who also shared this effect.

His dragon-like face and the two big horns on the helmet made him look like he had just risen from the pits of hell.

Since he already had Thermal Body skill he absorbed from the drake, Kahn wasn't affected in the slightest. But it had greatly alarmed the opponent.

As for the people watching the match throughout the empire.. They were gasping in surprise. Because at this moment...

They couldn't tell which among the two was a true demon.

"So that's the rumored best creation of the peak grandmaster blacksmith Albestros Winston?"

Where the hell did he even get so many body parts of a drake? And to make a complete armor set out of it.. This shouldn't even be possible.

Even the other two grandmaster blacksmiths said that it will take them a great amount of time and resources just to forge it properly." spoke a 4th stage saint from the pureblood faction.

Not just him but the majority of the saints were gasping in surprise after looking at Kahn's Drakos Armor.

Because an armor lighting up with fire while the owner remains completely unaffected was simply unheard of. And no one had seen the attack and defense buff effects of the entire set yet.

If the rumors were true, the sword held by Kahn was also made from the same material and with all of them being part of a set..

What Kahn wore in this fight was comparable to Legendary battle gear worn by top figures of the past.

This created a great sense of respect towards the old man Albestros in their mind.

[System, tell me the changes in the Drakos Armor. What are its current stats and skills.] asked Kahn.

[Draconian Armor set skills.

Drake Armor (S Rank) (Upgradable) :

Physical Defense while wearing this armor has risen by 120% and the Agility has increased by 75%.

Reformation (S Rank) (Upgradable) :

Using the host's mana and bloodline as a source, the armor will be able to repair itself over time once it has been broken. This bloodline effect will be active as long as the host is still alive.

Draconian Sword skill :

Drake Momentum (S Rank) (Upgradable) :

Strength while using this sword has increased by 90% and Dexterity has increased by 86%.

Note : The Attack, Defense and Agility armor effects will increase with the rank and levels of the host.]
replied the system.

"Good. It's more than enough." said Kahn after noticing the rise in rank from A to S for both the
bloodline buff skills for the armor and sword.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Kahn's steps cracked the platform as he approached the enemy with a menacing gaze.

The blistering heat and the growling noise coming out of his armor sent chills to all the audience present
in the battle arena.

While chaotic and destructive aura from Victor in his true demon form raised the small pebbles from the
cracked ground in the air.

Two imposing and domineering demonic figures charged at each other with eyes full of killing intent.

Dhang! Dhang!

Kahn ran with Lucifer in hand while Victor clenched both his hands over the scythe.

Their aura weapons also pointed towards each other and prepared to attack along with their respective
owners.

Kahn murmured to himself as he spoke with a light grin under the helmet..

"I'm about to end this man's whole career."

Chapter 299 - Killer Move

In front of billions of people watching throughout the empire, two monstrous figures one of whom was
3 meters tall in height while the other one was of the normal 6 feet and 3 inches human size. Both the
figures with four and two horns respectively were clashing in a death battle.

Sparks flew on the battlefield as two sharp-edged weapons banged against each other while trying to
tear through the opposition.

Sizzle! Sizzle!

The battleground sizzled from the intense heat released from Kahn's Drakos Armor while it crackled
from the other end as Victor in his true demon form had released an immensely chaotic demonic aura.

"You.. Can't defeat me." growled Victor as his voice echoed after the demonic transformation.

"Is that so? Just minutes ago, didn't you say I'm not even worthy of standing in the same battle ring as
you?" asked Kahn in his mocking tone.

Swoosh!

Just then, a lightning sword broke through the aura scythes and broke the first wall of defense as four
more aura greatswords infiltrated inside the storm created by Victor.

Bang!

Multiple explosions happened around the 3 kilometer wide battlefield when Kahn and Victor's massive aura weapons clashed in the air while their owners were attacking each other with multiple swings and slashes in a matter of seconds.

To the majority of the audience, they could only see two red figures clashing against each other so fast that most of them only registered blurs and sparks.

Clang!

Kahn threw Victor on backfoot as he barraged the enemy with his five meter tall aura greatswords and put the buffed-up opponent in a defensive stance.

The reason why both of them often used these aura weapons was that if either of them landed their attacks, the damage done by the highly compressed aura and mana inside them was akin to boulder stomping on an ant.

And hence, both of them were trying to land that one lucky hit and get an advantage in the fight.

Despite Victor's true demon bloodline transformation, Kahn with the attack, agility and defense boost was evenly matched with the opponent thanks to the Drakos Armor & Lucifer with the draconian bloodline effect.

[What kind of element is he using?] thought Kahn during their fight.

There were no elements infused in Victor's attacks but the chaotic energy in them was evenly matched with Kahn's elemental aura swords. To him, it was already comparable to his darkness element attacks and skills that had a lot of power and destructive force in them.

However, Kahn felt a sense of familiarity with this element as if he had seen or felt it before.

BOOM!!

A loud explosion shattered the ground as Kahn dodged an aura scythe that tried to cut him in half.

[So that's what it was!] exclaimed Kahn in his mind as he remembered exactly when he had felt this type of element before.

[It's the Chaos element.] he thought.

Because the last time he felt this element was when he upgraded Jugram, the Berserker subordinate to High Lord rank by mixing him with the demonkin semi-saint, Dormammu Volstov.

Jugram had awakened a bloodline specialty after getting merged and unlocked a Unique rank monster variant species called Chaos Demon.

And on the day of his evolution, he exuded the same aura that matched the one from the true demon opponent.

Kahn hadn't paid attention to it back then because he wasn't efficient in sensing minute details about elements or mana since he wasn't even a beginner rank magician at that time.

But now, he could tell the difference and feel how powerful his opponent was. If not for his armor, Kahn would've already lost the match since he couldn't even activate the Hero of Darkness title during daytime and using Berserk God Mode in front of so many saints was an extremely bad idea.

Because even the rare bloodline of the true demon only made Victor 3 times bigger and stronger while Kahn's berserk god mode made him 5 times stronger for a short time and that too without making any visible changes to his body.

Apart from that.. The Asura Mode was also out of option since Kahn was a pure human and not some halfbreed or descendant of a rare bloodline either. So with limited options, the Drakos Armor was his best choice.

Crack! Crack!

Victor launched dozens of sharp aura blades and Kahn used the flash steps techniques instead of using side hopper skill as this was also the best method for increasing his mastery and proficiency in this skill.

The curved aura blades made of chaos energy tore through the stone platform and Kahn kept using his new movement skill consistently to avoid them.

If the platform made from stone wasn't able to endure the attacks, then his armor will be pushed back as well.

Kahn started running around the battlefield to avoid the slashing attacks from the enemy as he was looking for an opening.

[System, how much?] he asked.

[Current progress in Flash Steps technique is 58%.] replied the system.

[Good. Inform me as soon as I complete the mastery to 100%. Then I'll settle this match.]

For the next half an hour, the battle continued as the two fierce warriors kept attacking, dodging against each other. Both of them were equally matched in terms of strength and mastery over their respective battle styles.

The battleground kept getting destroyed here and there as the ground shattered after loud explosions and burn aura blades from both evenly matched combatants.

However, in the meantime, Kahn became extremely agile and almost impossible to touch in the eyes of the audience as if he was possessed by a ghost.

His figure kept flickering from time to time whenever Victor almost managed to hit him but the swordsman always came out unscathed. Unlike the true demon who had the advantage is raw brute strength, the opponent wearing the drake armor was as fast as a bullet.

But even now, none of the two were fatigued or lost their strength. The audience was in complete disbelief given how Kahn was controlling the flow of the battle like a seasoned warrior who was unknown to them as a semi-saint swordsman till this match.

[Flash Steps skill progress : 100%

The skill is now available for merging with the Side Hopper skills.] informed the system.

[Later! First, activate them all!] commanded Kahn as he gave a hidden command that only he and the system understood.

Swoosh!!

The next moment, he appeared 500 meters away from Victor.

"Hey, Victor.. As much as I would love to keep sparring with you.. I think it's about time we...

Ended this!" spoke Kahn in a grim tone and let out a burst of fire that lit up his side of the battlefield.

The 3 kilometer wide battlefield was already big enough to hold a thousand people fighting at once but after Kahn's Drakos Armor released this massive explosion of energy, everyone among the audience became certain that they'd be incinerated on the spot if they were present near Kahn.

Clatter! Clatter! Clatter!

Kahn suddenly let go of Lucifer and the greatsword levitated high in the air.

Soon, all the aura swords made with different elements flew back to his side and one by one, the 50 aura greatswords started merging in the air.

[Finally.. All the efforts of past month's training are proving useful.] thought Kahn as he, along with all the audience throughout the empire watched a miracle happening in front of them.

The 50 greatswords, each one of which was 5 meters long in height coalesced together around Lucifer and just in a dozen seconds..

A 250 meter long greatsword came into existence!

"Impossible!! It cannot be!" exclaimed a 3rd stage snakekin saint in a VIP room.

"Nonsense!! He's just a semi-saint! And he's not even a mage or a summoner!!" shouted a 5th stage demonkin mage from the neutral faction.

At this moment, there were three godly figures sitting at opposite ends of the battlefield and watching this match calmly. But now, even they also had a surprised expression on the faces.

An old Elf with a hunched back, a white-bearded Tigerkin and a silver-haired Vampire gazed at Kahn who was forming his attack skill.

"I.. I've really underestimated this human." spoke the old vampire in his deep and hoarse voice.

All of them had a baffled as well as a very curious expression on their faces.

The aura of the greatsword was so strong that even all the saints watching it were extremely surprised.

At this moment, Kahn was finally using the skill he created by practicing over a month since the competition started. He wasn't sitting ducks like an ignorant fool when all the other semi-saints were receiving their training from the saints of their respective clans and factions.

Kahn, who had no teacher was creating something of his own on a daily basis, he was attempting to create a new technique after breaking through intermediate rank mage and merging these different elements to create an attack skill after his understanding of magic and mana itself rose to a different level.

"Sorry.. But don't expect me to show any mercy." spoke Kahn in a tyrannical voice that sent shivers in Victor's body.

"Hey.. Somebody wake me up. This.. This isn't real.. This can't be real!" spoke Victor in a jittery voice and shuddered in fear as he felt an inevitable sense of death.

The true demon opponent was rooted on the spot as he saw this gigantic greatsword that was made from blistering heat at the center while lightning and compressed wind blades crackled around the edges. The highly compressed water blades swirled around this enormous sword and the earth element acted as its solid body.

Kahn on the other end moved his right hand towards the air and made a grabbing gesture towards the towering greatsword. As if he grabbed it in hand, Kahn made a vertical slashing move and shouted so loudly that every single person inside the battle arena heard his domineering voice...

"Dragon Strike!!"

Chapter 300 - Revealing The Potential

Kahn finally used the first-ever skill that he cultivated himself after an entire month's effort and hard training. His fruits of labor finally had a proper moment to be used.

Ever since he started training in magic, his priorities were always about building a solid foundation and hence, Kahn had extensively studied and mastered different elements to a degree that compared to other mages, the spells and skills cast by him were already 3 times more effective than others of his rank.

Although he wasn't close to someone like Ezekiel, the semi-saint mage of the pureblood faction, he wasn't far off in potential since the latter was a semi-saint while he was only an Intermediate rank magician.

But throughout the past one month, he was trying to mix different elements by using the Elemental Fusion and Elemental Transformation skill he got after eating Solomon's core.

These two elven species' innate skills allowed him to operate as well as restructure mana and form a synergy between these different elements.

And that was why, apart from the Holy Magic or Light Element, Kahn had very good control over other elements of nature.

Because of this, his rigorous training and experiments in infusing these different elemental swords that counteracted each other most of the time finally balanced themselves to form this gigantic greatsword.

And now, it became Kahn's ultimate swordsmanship attack skill as he could also add darkness element to strengthen it even more.

"FUCK!!" cursed Victor and put all of his aura scythes and activated all of his defensive skills to save himself from this godly sword.

As soon as Kahn loudly shouted the attack skill name and made the swinging movement from where he was standing, the ginormous sword that reached close to the top floors of the arena attacked the opponent.

BOOM!!!

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

Four layers of giant defensive shields and aura scythes tried to protect Victor but in front of this force of pure destruction.. All of them cracked like an eggshell instantly.

The battleground shattered and hundreds of long and deep crevices formed in the 3 kilometer wide battle ring.

The impact from the Dragon Strike skill sent tremors in the ground and the entire battle arena shook as if there was an earthquake.

Millions of people among the crowd were scared witless as most of them thought that soon, everything will collapse and that'd be their last day of life.

[Congratulations to the host for successfully executing the Dragon Strike skill.

The skill has been registered. Would the host like to know the detailed information?] asked the system as it was the first time Kahn successfully created a skill without any form of assistance.

Kahn already knew that he couldn't always rely on the system and in the future, he had to create skills by himself so this was just a first step for him.

[Not now.] spoke Kahn and used his Hunter Intent to locate Victor amidst the large cloud that formed after the explosion from his Dragon Strike.

After two minutes, the dust cloud finally settled and a red demonic creature with bloodied and wounded body was finally revealed to the whole empire through broadcasting screens.

Victor, the fan-favorite and the most betted person on was now lying in the ground, barely breathing. Even after using all of his lifesaving skills.. He barely managed to hold onto his life and not die on the spot.

Thud! Thud!

Kahn's heavy footsteps echoed through the battle arena as he walked among the debris of the now shattered battle ring.

Soon, he reached close to the opponent who was barely conscious and gave him a contemptuous look through his fiery helmet.

If Victor looked like a demon, then Kahn in Drakos Armor looked like the boss of that demon.

"I.. I cannot lose. Not to you... not to anyone." spoke Victor as he groaned in pain.

He tried to muster every bit of strength in the body but apart from his mouth, he couldn't move a muscle.

Step!

Kahn stepped on the bloodied and profusely bleeding chest of the 3 meter tall true demon in front of the whole crowd and whispered something that only they could hear.

"Know that you're still alive only because I want to avoid the unnecessary troubles and consequences of killing you. So swallow down your defeat like a warrior and move on.

The whole empire is watching, so at least lose gracefully." spoke Kahn as he summoned Lucifer back in his right hand and released the blistering heat from his body again.

Shrink! Shrink!

At this moment, Victor's body shrunk back to its original size as he panted heavily and tried not to faint.

Silence! Complete silence!

Not just the crowd in the arena but all the people throughout the empire were stunned on the spot.

The young swordsman whom they hadn't even heard of before this competition had successfully defeated one of the most favored candidates who came from one of the highly prestigious clans and background in the empire.

To normal people, he was only a swordsman but to the saints of the empire.. They saw his true potential as someone who even surpassed the other magic swordsmen of their generation in terms of potential.

Because currently, there were only 4 swordsmen in the whole empire who had mastered 5 different elements and could use them in their swordsmanship attack skills.

And two of those names included Stronoff Mikealson, the commander of the Mikealson Clan from the neutral faction.

While the other one was the clan leader of the reputed Vandereich clan from the pureblood faction, Ismaetrazel Mor Vandereich.

The number one and number three strongest swordsmen of the Rakos Empire.

In their eyes, the Dragon Strike skill used by Kahn was comparable to a first stage saint even though it's half in size, strength and without world energy. Especially to Stronoff and Ismaetrazel, both of whom are actually watching the match.

"This kid.. He doesn't know how to hold back at all.

Revealing his rank and that armor set was acceptable but this skill.. It's just too flashy.

Now things will get more complicated if I try to recruit him." spoke Ismaetrazel to himself.

In the now destroyed battlefield, Kahn looked down upon the barely conscious opponent as he put the burning lucifer on his shoulder.

His figure appeared like a legendary warrior as he spoke in a domineering voice..

"My power shall be absolute!"