

## Darkness 491

### Chapter 491 - The Formation

As the system finally notified about the rise in levels and Kahn finally meeting the condition to become a saint... a dam of happiness was broken inside his heart.

"After so many centuries of wait... I can finally become a saint." said Kahn in an elated voice.

[The host can breakthrough to the saint rank at his will.

The host will need to be in a dormant state for a day and the outbursts of mana and world energy will be noticeable within the 5 kilometers radius.

It is advised that the host chooses a secure and quiet location to initiate the breakthrough.] informed the system.

"Ah... I guess we will have to delay it until I'm done making arrangements.

I'll still die if I become a saint in the forbidden zone or the Verlassen fiefdom. I need to settle a lot of things first and then make my breakthrough." spoke Kahn as he sighed.

He had to contain his excitement for now and complete the mission at hand first.

"Hey Freeloader, do you want the body?" asked Kahn to Rudra.

[No, human. It is not compatible with my body or my current element. It will only cause an imbalance that will adversely affect me in the future.

Kill a fire or magma elemental dragon for me.] replied Rudra in a stoic voice.

"Do dragons grow on trees? Do you not understand that if not for me being the Hero of Darkness, all of us would've certainly died?" asked Kahn as if he was looking at an idiot.

[Tch! Nevermind. I'll let you have this one.

Don't come begging when you need my help next time.] retorted the basilisk.

"Ah, this punk..." said Kahn and then continued his travel towards the main door with the rest.

In 5 minutes, he came close to the main door but unlike the last two times, there was an altar in front of the door.

"Impossible!" spoke Kahn as he saw what lay at the center of the altar.

Six ten-meter-tall statues of beings Kahn was familiar with. Each of which was covered in archaic runes and formations.

"So that's how it was... it was controlling them from here." said Kahn as he looked at the figures.

These statues were the exact replicas of Invimarak, Bjormngandur, Caladrius, Mountain Titan, Ashokvatika and lastly... Vilgax.

"These statues and those runes... I'm certain of it!" spoke Ceril.

"What?" asked Armin who stood beside him.

"I read about it in one of the books master got from that Solomon Elfenheim. This is Puppeteer Formation.

A legendary rank one." revealed Ceril.

"Pup... what?" asked Kahn with a curious expression.

"I think that Ymir sealed that dragon here and used this formation to have it use the Dragon's Sovereignty skill you have on them through this formation.

If my deduction isn't wrong, then the dragon was forced to use his powers and control all those legendary rank monsters we hunted outside the forbidden region." clarified Ceril.

"Then doesn't that mean all of them were intentionally placed in those regions and the annual monster wave that has been happening in the hundred and fifty years is something that was planned by that 8th stage saint?" queried Kahn.

"I believe so. And the Hero of Lightning must have something to do with it as well.

The more I see it, the more it feels like this entire barrier over Verlassen, these legendary rank monsters, and the two mythical rank enemies we faced recently...

All of them are just means to protect something so that people would not come to find what's inside even if it meant millions of people dying." hypothesized Ceril.

"The Tablet of Arcana!" exclaimed Kahn.

This was the only explanation he could find.

The 1st layer was actually the entire Verlassen fiefdom.

2nd layer was protected by Vilgax.

3rd layer had Skoll and Hati, who were defeated and sealed inside the forbidden region 200 years ago.

And finally, the dragon that Kahn killed just now was the last chess piece. Through this Puppeteering Formation, it was forced to use its ability and have the legendary rank monsters to cause annual monster tides in six hotspots so that people would not dare to venture close to the forbidden zone.

Ymir, the 8th stage saint was certainly a magician given how he could use spells and formations to even seal and control mythical rank creatures.

And he was so powerful that the 8000 kilometers long barrier he created was able to prohibit a saint from entering this region.

It was as if other than himself, he did not want anyone else to get their hands on the Tablet of Arcana.

"This is becoming very complicated. Maybe the Hero of Lightning dying here also had something to do with the tablet." spoke Kahn with a serious expression.

"The only way to find the truth..." said Kahn as he looked at the massive 200 meters tall and 50 meters wide construct in front of him.

"Is through that door."

Kahn and the company finally came close to the door and close to the entrance... there were two figures.

One was clad in pitch-black assassins gear while the latter was a chained man kneeling on the ground. There were multiple wounds over his body and a broken nose became the highlight of his current state.

"Who are these people?! And what were those monsters?!"

How did you defeat the dragon?! This shouldn't even be possible!!" exclaimed the man with glasses.

"You don't need to know. But don't worry... I won't kill you now. I might have some use for you." said Kahn with a benign smile.

The man in front of Kahn was none other than his supposed ally from the Pureblood faction who betrayed him at the last moment to lure out the dragon and get inside the door by himself.

"What use?" asked Ezekiel, the traitor semi-saint mage who was caught and beaten to death by Ronin under Kahn's orders before he started his fight with the dragon.

"What if there's another monster?"

If that were to be the case... Then I might need someone to..." said Kahn with an evil grin and revealed his reason...

"Make a Sacrifice."

Chapter 492 - Final Barrier

Ezekiel had an ashen expression as he had a sense of deja vu after he was caught by Ronin and heard Kahn's intention, whom he betrayed for the sake of accomplishing his goal.

"Doesn't feel good, does it?"

Kahn said and their crew tried to enter the door with Ezekiel in chains.

Tuck!

Tuck!

Tuck!

But before he could pass through... their bodies collided against the door with a black aura coming out of it.

"What the hell... why can't I pass through?" questioned Kahn.

Ceril and Ronin tried to inspect it but even after 20 minutes, there was no clue or a loophole.

The door simply prohibited them from entering.

"Omega." spoke Kahn and ordered the Dual Swords Samurai to forcefully open the door for them.

The group then stood 3 kilometers away while Omega turned into his Twilight Armor Form which was his pure destruction mode.

BANG!!

BOOM!!

Even the altar that previously had the statues of the legendary creatures was destroyed by Omega's Black Fang Strike attack but the door didn't budge in the slightest.

And when Omega tried to use the Moonlight Armor form and make a quick slashing attack with Lunar Fang Strike... an invisible force was repelled back from the door instead.

After that, Ronin tried to phase through but he failed and Ceril tried to use magic formations but none of them worked.

"What the hell is this supposed to mean?"

"We killed the guardian, and we should be able to enter now!" exclaimed Kahn in an irritated tone as he placed both hands on his waist.

The treasure was simply one door away but the door was acting like an impenetrable fortress.

"Master! Someone is coming." said Omega.

"Alright, all of you hide. Ceril, cast an invisibility barrier.

And keep this fucker gagged." spoke Kahn.

And finally after a while, came a young woman with white hair, two red horns coming out of the sides of her head; one of which was short while the other was longer.

She was donned in black and red armor and on her waist, were two blood-red colored twin swords.

She looked at Kahn who had Lucifer in his hand. And looking at the destroyed surroundings as well as the deep crevices in the ground... she had a fearful expression on her face.

If this was what Kahn could do while still being a semi-saint... then she was no match.

"You're here. Looks like I was early." spoke Kahn.

"How come you're here? What about Ezekiel Nabi? Did you meet him?" asked the young woman.

"No. He probably still hasn't found a way to this barrier.

But for some reason, I can't enter it." replied Kahn as he looked at the halfbreed demonkin swordmaiden.

Celine Armitage... the clan heiress of the Armitage Clan and also the 2nd most talented sword user of the young generation after Kahn.

In this mission... She was his supposed ally from the Neutral Faction.

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Both of them stood silently in front of the massive door as Kahn ran out of ideas to open the door with all his available means.

"Let me try." spoke Celine.

The next moment... she placed her hand on the dense layer of the black aura.

Duddmm!

Duddmm!

Suddenly, the door started pulsating like a vein of a massive creature and soon, the black aura that completely covered the door started waning.

The next moment, Celine took out a small dagger from her space ring and made a gash on her right palm.

"I hope it works just like father said." she spoke.

And without explaining her actions, she placed it on the center of the door.

The blood drops were suddenly absorbed by the door and dozens of red patterns slithered like snakes.

Shwooaahh!!

A loud noise of something cranking from the inside resounded in the surroundings and finally... the entire door opened and opened a pathway for Celine.

[What the hell? Why did it open for her?] thought Kahn and then quickly understood the reason.

[Damn... I should've figured.] he said and thought about how Celine activated the door.

Her blood!

Her blood was the main triggering factor.

[After all... she's the only living descendent...] he thought and looked at Celine again.

[Of the Imperial family.]

On the day before the finale of the Emperor's Chosen competition, when Kahn was summoned by Allister Mor Vandereich to the main headquarters of the Pureblood Faction...

He made his secret deal with the faction leader and signed a contract to complete the mission they were going to give him in exchange for his own conditions he set back then.

But on this very day... he also learned a fact about the other possible contenders who were going to enter the forbidden zone.

And one of them included the Dual Sword Saintess aka Celine Armitage.

From the faction leader himself, he found that Celine had a special trait and history behind her lineage.

Her human grandmother was actually one of the concubines of the lecherous and cruel 7th and the previous Emperor who was said to be a very vigorous man.

After the Great War, the Imperial family was massacred and everyone having any blood ties with them were wiped out.

However, her grandmother gave birth to Celine's mother in secret and no one knew about this relation till her mother was of 30 years of age.

But one day, one of the royal attendees who belonged to the Armitage clan after the coup recognized her and with some digging... he found out about Celine's mother being the rightful heir to the throne.

But instead of claiming the throne and causing a civil war in the process... the Armitage clan forcefully wed her human mother to their clan's heir who was now Celine's father.

Only recently did the other two factions had found that she had the bloodline of the Imperial family. But the Armitage Clan and Neutral Faction of now were untouchable.

And given her importance... she was always protected by top saints of her clan and faction.

Thus, Celine was chosen to be one of their representatives to bring the Tablet of Arcana after she became a semi-saint just this year.

They also assumed that Kahn was also a descendant himself and that's why both the factions were after him desperately wanting to recruit him to get a perfect winning chance if they had both of them on their side.

And now that she opened the door... Kahn was certain that the entire forbidden region had a direct connection to the Imperial family as they only allowed their descendants to enter the last barrier.

Kahn then looked at Celine while the subordinates hidden in an invisibility barrier stood behind them. He spoke in a calm and collected manner while thinking about the dangers they might have to face inside.

"Alright then... Let's go!"

Chapter 493 - The Castle

Kahn and Celine passed through the final door that emitted blinding white light when it opened after Celine used her blood.

The last key was the Imperial bloodline and if not for her being present here... Kahn would've never been able to overcome this final hurdle.

Behind them, all his subordinates and the hostage aka Ezekiel followed without making a sound.

Finally... Kahn and Celine passed through the white fog-like light and saw the new surroundings that they both knew was coming based on the experience from the previous two doors.

But after they saw the scenery... both of them were left speechless on the spot.

A vast and flourishing land with luscious greenery. And in the middle of it... was a ginormous castle that was the biggest construction Kahn had seen in his new life yet.

This ginormous castle located at the hillside region, covered in white clouds seemed so pristine and heavenly that even Kahn was rooted on the spot as he admired a marvel of architecture.

At the front before even the castle's perimeter began, was a gigantic statue of an angel that almost seemed like a living person.

"So this is it... the Imperial family was behind the forbidden region all along." spoke Kahn as his assumption was finally solidified after he looked at the Imperial family's crest in the front of the castle.

After traveling for nearly an hour, they finally reached the gate and again, Celine used her blood to open it while Kahn did the heavy lifting of pushing the massive metallic gate.

This place... was only meant for saints of the Imperial family to enter as far as he could tell.

After both of them ventured inside the now dilapidated yet still very majestic castle... they saw the massive statues and halls that were made of pure gold and rubies.

There were so many jewels spread across the hall that Kahn couldn't even fathom the total wealth.

[I hope Smaug isn't the dragon guarding this place.] thought Kahn and traveled along with Celine.

However, both of them had a job to do so they carried on with their journey.

[Alright... grab it all.] said Kahn and Blackwall, Jugram and Oliver appeared out of his shadow and quietly hid themselves in these small peaks of unbelievable richness.

Afterward, they took out hundreds of high-grade space rings and started pulling in all of the goods as soon as Kahn and Celine went to the deeper halls.

Both of them spent hours going through different halls, rooms and even basements that were filled with ancient artifacts, gold coins, rubies, diamonds and even crests full of epic rank armors and weapons.

Yet there seemed to be no end to this palace that was filled with things left by the Imperial family.

And when they finally walked down to the bottom floors of the castle... they finally found an underground terrain that looked like ancient ruins.

"It's too big. We need to separate from here on, otherwise we won't be able to find the tablet in due time." said Kahn as he looked at Celine.

Celine nodded and just as Kahn turned around to leave...

STAB!

A blood-red blade stabbed right through his heart and the one to do it was none other than Celine.

Blergh!

Kahn coughed up blood as his body dropped on the ground.

"Why?" he asked with a horrified expression.

"Sorry, mister Salvatore... you were never supposed to see this place. It was one thing if you managed to assist me in beating some strong opponent. But now I think that you've outlived your usefulness... it's time for you to close your eyes." spoke Celine with a lifeless expression.

After a minute... Kahn's struggling figure stopped moving and he closed his eyes for the last time.

And once again... Kahn was betrayed by those who were supposed to be his allies.

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20 DAYS AGO

In the main meeting hall of the Armitage Clan headquarters in the capital Rathna... Celine stood in front of her father, a pure demonkin and 6th stage saint archer.

"Celine... you know what you have to do, right?" asked her father, Walter Armitage.

"Yes, lord father. I shall be the one to get the tablet no matter what." she replied.

"Now that Cassandra Mikealson is out and Victor Apopsis is on the run... It leaves only Nabi and Salvatore.

Ezekiel Nabi is just another sheltered brat despite his talent in magic... but Kahn Salvatore poses a big threat to all of us.

And since it was Cassandra who seduced Kahn Salvatore and brought him to their side, we really can't afford for him to be the one to retrieve it.

And if the rumors are right... then he too is a descendant of the Imperial bloodline." he spoke with a somber expression.

"If the tablet is retrieved by him, Damon Mikealson will be the one to become the next faction leader.

And Salvatore will be wed into their clan. He will be protected by them and with the bloodline of the First Sage in the play... Kahn will have the claim to the throne of the Rakos Empire.

The Mikealson Clan will push the entire neutral faction for it and there will be a war just like 100 years ago.

This time... even we won't have any merit despite your bloodline. So of all people... Kahn Salvatore must be killed when you're in the forbidden region." said Walter Armitage in an authoritative tone.

"I understand, lord father." spoke Celine and bowed respectfully.

Since the Emperor's Chosen competition... Celine was overshadowed by both Kahn and Cassandra.

One was the strongest semi-saint of the youngest generation while the other one was the strongest mage of them all among their peers.

While their name spread across the masses and they gained more fame and acknowledgment from the whole empire...



Celine's name faded from the topic of discussion and once the most talented swordswoman who had been the center of attention from the entire capital, her clan and the three factions was now tuned into...

A Nobody.

Chapter 494 - The Hall

Celine now stood in front of Kahn's lifeless body which was bleeding profusely from the heart after she sneak attacked Kahn when he turned his back on her to search for the tablet on his own.

As for the reason why she killed Kahn... it was because of her own jealousy towards him.

In the past decade, she was always compared with Cassandra Mikealson no matter what she did.

Celine also felt inferior because despite being a worthy fighter herself... Sometimes, people said that compared to Cassandra... neither was she strong nor was beautiful enough.

In the past 8 months... her name had been completely forgotten by the people of the Rakos Empire and nobody even cared if she was nicknamed as the Dual Sword Saintess among the young generation.

And after Cassandra's heroic deeds in the Kaldris region of the Verlassen fiefdom when she faced a legendary rank monster on her own and Kahn glorifying her bravery throughout the empire...

Those two became a thorn in her eyes.

With each passing day... Kahn had risen to popularity, public support, and authority while Celine was being looked down on by her own clansmen because she didn't even make it to the finale.

And after she was oppressed by Kahn in the Aesir whether it was his Throne hall or when she was forced to work under the semi-saint commander Nadia Cenmiko... she had become basically someone without any authority and prestige as if she wasn't a semi-saint prodigy but a roadside beggar.

This ended up in Celine developing an inferiority complex and hence, she hates Kahn to her core.

But with her father's permission to act on her will in the forbidden region... she had a perfect chance to let out her anger while acting as an ally with Kahn.

And now... the Raven Sorceress, who was her biggest competitor lost her ability to use magic while the strongest semi-saint of the empire lay in front of her... completely dead.

"Sorry, Salvatore. My clan's fate depends on it. If you deliver the tablet... It will be the Mikealson Clan who will benefit the most.

You will become their son-in-law and enter the clan and once Damon Mikealson becomes the faction leader... my clan will be on the losing end. The damage you could do to my clan and me... I hope you understand.

Besides... You should've known your place since the beginning. If not for your arrogance, you wouldn't be here and I wouldn't have had to kill you." spoke Celine with a condescending look.

Celine gave a last look at Kahn's horrified face and then departed for the ruins that seemed to be the final path.

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Right at this moment, a man in a black and gray longcoat along with a silver-haired man with four katanas on his waist were in front of a maze.

"Man, I understand their circumstances but it hurts to be backstabbed all the time." spoke the real Kahn.

[How's the situation there? Did you record it all?] he asked through the Telepathy Link.

[Yes, master. We finished the task perfectly. She didn't suspect anything.] replied Ronin.

An invisible barrier was deactivated as 3 figures appeared at the site of the crime.

Ronin, Ceril and the dead Kahn on the ground whose appearance suddenly started to change.

And the man who had his heart stabbed by Celine and died a horrible death was...

Ezekiel Nabi.

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After learning from his experience with the semi-saint mage, Kahn already expected Celine to betray him for the Tablet of Arcana as well.

But given her usefulness because of her Imperial bloodline which opened all the doors for them till this point, Kahn had been acting all trustworthy and clueless.

After they finally found the ruins at the bottom of the castle, he knew that it won't be long before the dual swords saintess turned on him as well.

But rather than acting on an impulse... he decided to use her instead.

When they entered the ruins... Kahn created a doppelganger while he left with Omega using Shadow Walk skill.

And right when he suggested to part their ways, the doppelganger Kahn who was just real Kahn in an extra body, quickly used the Lucid Reality skill he got from Bjormngandur on Celine without her noticing.

This ability was something that messed with all senses of the enemy during a battle and temporarily put you under an illusion for one minute.

And during that one minute, Ceril put Ezekiel, who was chained and gagged in Kahn's position.

The doppelganger Kahn then disappeared and just as they expected... Celine chose to betray him at that moment when he looked without any guard.

The one she thought to be Kahn was actually the semi-saint mage and the clan heir of the Nabi clan while the real Kahn had already traveled 20 kilometers deep in these ancient ruins thanks to Omega's

gravity law skills that stopped all the traps and spells from attacking them as the duo was simply levitating in the air.

On the other side... Kahn had ordered Ronin to record this whole scene of her killing Ezekiel.

This was to create evidence of her killing Ezekiel which Kahn could use later to either blackmail her or have the Nabi clan and the pureblood faction hunt her down in case she got the tablet.

He had no intention to be understanding of her situation and simply didn't care if she lived or died. To him, other than Cassandra, all the top prodigies of the Rakos Empire only seemed like power-hungry brats who betrayed and killed in the name of ambition and helping their clan.

As for the traitor snake named Ezekiel who sacrificed Kahn to lure the guardian dragon and almost got him killed...

Karma was a bitch.

[Keep the body. We will have some use for it.] ordered Kahn to store Ezekiel's body because at the end of the day, he was a semi-saint and Kahn could get a useful and strong subordinate if he was in need.

Using the Earth Sense skill that was his 10 kilometer wide radar system which allowed Kahn to inspect and map out the ground and all living beings on it... he directly found a pathway to the end of this maze ruins without falling for any booby traps.

And Omega got rid of anything that stopped their advance. After half an hour... both of them reached a white door.

Omega simply slashed it apart and finally, both of them reached a dilapidated hall that had broken and worn down magic formations and a massive golden tablet was placed in the center of it.

Omega destroyed these worn-down magic barriers but before they even reached the halfway...

"Ah... finally, one of my kin is here."

An ancient and tyrannical voice resounded in this massive hall.

"Wait... you're not my kin. You..." the voice continued in a furious and ghastly tone.

"You're a chosen Hero!"

Chapter 495 - Ancient Entity

A chill ran under Kahn and Omega's spine as they heard this ancient grim voice that instantly put them on a high alert.

Omega quickly activated Gravity Domain to get an upper hand in case a surprise attack came their way. Kahn on the other end had Survival Instinct on high alert and was ready to activate somir scales, Drakos Armor and even Asura Mode if they were to be attacked.

"Who... who is it?" asked Kahn as he had Lucifer equipped in hand and tried to use Earth Sense to notice this entity whose voice they heard just now.

"Why is a chosen Hero here? Ymir said he took the necessary measures.

And why hasn't anyone visited this place from over a century? What about the Imperial family?" asked this majestic voice which even made Omega feel a threat to his life.

"Hate to break it to you but there is no Imperial family anymore. They were massacred in a coup 100 years ago.

Everyone, including the previous emperor, Norodogir has been killed." revealed Kahn.

[Make sure she doesn't find a way to come here.] he commanded Ronin & Ceril who were 30 kilometers away and tailed Celine.

"What?! How dare you speak such nonsense, boy?! How can the Imperial family be massacred?

What were the founding clans doing? What was the Mikealson clan doing?!" shouted the entity and asked in a furious tone.

"Well... most of the founding clans as well as the Mikealson clan were the ones who led the coup.

The three 7th stage saints joined hands and killed the 8th stage emperor, Norodogir. The Rakos Empire of now is run and controlled by the factions that formed after the founding clans separated themselves.

There are currently three factions... Pureblood, Demi-Human and the Neutral faction. Each of those saints who killed the emperor is currently their leader." revealed Kahn without hesitation.

Because if he wanted to leave out of here alive... he at least needed to show that he was on the side of the Imperial family.

"Then how come you are here? This is a place that can be accessed only by the Imperial bloodline." spoke the ancient voice.

"Tell me... the new Hero of Darkness. How did you manage to come here? And why are you here in the first place?" asked this being in its tyrannical voice.

"You... you know who I am?" asked Kahn with an alarmed expression. His identity was already known to this ancient persona he couldn't even see.

"Of course. I knew a lot about the cruel and overly prideful imbeciles called the chosen heroes.

Otherworlders who were brought into our world for that so-called mission of killing the Demon God.

Those pretentious and entitled scums... I fought and killed many of them in my time." revealed the grim and deep voice with a domineering tone.

[The fuck! Who am I talking to? He isn't Ymir for certain and neither is he Norodogir.

But he found out about me and knows about the chosen heroes very well.

If I don't play my cards right... I might as well get killed here.] thought Kahn with an aghast expression.

"You... how did you know I was the Hero of Darkness so quickly?" asked Kahn with an alerted face.

"Because there was a time when I fought the 6th Heroine of Darkness... Aponia Welschimer.

And we once fought together against a common enemy as well. She was a very remarkable and admirable woman compared to all the heroes I came to know.

You give off an exactly similar aura of darkness just like her. But you're hundreds of times weaker than her.

Tell me, which number are you?" said the ancient voice.

"I'm the 9th." replied Kahn with a cautious tone.

"Tell me something... what is this place? And why are there so many barriers and monsters guarding it?

Do you have any idea how many millions of people have died in the past hundred years alone?" asked Kahn as he was finally seeing a way to get the answers he wanted for a long time.

"Well, since you've managed to reach her despite all these adversities. It doesn't hurt me to tell you the truth.

This region is where the Imperial family trained, raised their levels and ranks after gaining the right. This place has always been unknown to all the other clans and factions of the Rakos Empire.

But two hundred years ago... The Hero of Lightning from a nearby empire found this place. At that time, the 6th Emperor, who was an 8th stage saint magician, fought with that invader." revealed the voice that echoed in this 300 meters wide hall.

"But unfortunately... Ymir was mortally wounded in order to kill that bastard. The injury was so grave that he had only a few weeks to live.

This whole region, which is around 3 thousand kilometers, was actually their battlefield. It completely changed the terrain and created different environments because of their clash and powers.

And to protect the fate of the Imperial family, he made arrangements and used the Hero of Lightning's core as a source to create a barrier that would bar any saint, who does not belong to our family from entering inside the Verlassen mountain range since a soul of a chosen Hero is many times stronger than ours.

He placed various legendary rank creatures as guardians in the outer layer to stop armies of semi-saints and forces from other empires to come for the Tablet of Arcana.

And finally, he sacrificed himself to provide a source for all the barriers in the inner region to keep it running. So that no one other than the members of our Imperial family, who reached at least a 5th stage saint would be able to enter this place." revealed the ancient entity.

"What the hell?! He killed a chosen Hero on his own, someone with divine abilities, and used his core to create the barrier over Verlassen fiefdom?!" exclaimed Kahn.

"The barrier over Verlassen, the six hotspots of monster tides, and the mythical rank guardians.

All of that to protect the Tablet of Arcana." spoke Kahn with a baffled tone.

And top of it... this ancient entity knew about one of his predecessors as well as killed other heroes on his own.

"O' great elder... may I ask who exactly you are?" he asked.

"Me? I'm not someone worth mentioning. Well, I'm sure no one even knows my name since my kin have been eradicated." responded the entity.

"Please tell me... it is only right for me to address you properly." said Kahn as he tried to goad the archaic persona into revealing his identity.

"Well... I had many names and outrageous titles. This weak and humble old me is called..." replied the ancient entity as he finally revealed his identity.

"Rathnaar Whitlock, The First Emperor."

Chapter 496 - The Founder

Kahn and Omega were left speechless as they heard the name of this ancient entity. The one who they were conversing with till this point.

"The... the first emperor... Rathnaar, the Conqueror?" asked Kahn with a flabbergasted expression.

[Master... isn't he...] asked Omega.

[Not now... let's hear what he has to say first.] replied Kahn.

Kahn looked around the ceiling of this underground hall and ruined architecture. He bowed on the left while Omega bowed on the right.

"Our greeting, great Emperor." he said.

"I'm right in front of you, you idiots!" spoke Rathnaar.

[The hell... why can't I see him then?] thought Kahn.

"But... you're supposed to be dead. And that too more than 800 years ago. How can you be still alive?" asked Kahn in a befuddled voice.

"I said I'm right in front of you!" exclaimed Rathnaar again.

"Don't tell me... you're..." replied Kahn as he looked at what was in front of him.

"Yes, I'm inside the Tablet of Arcana." said the first emperor.

"Don't... don't tell... how come you're not dead yet?" queried Kahn again.

"My body has perished. But I have left half of my soul bound to the tablet.

And it's powerful enough to sustain my remaining soul essence." replied Rathnaar in a thoughtful voice.

"What is this Tablet of Arcana?"

If I'm not wrong... And three factions, they wanted it for themselves and caused the Great War under the pretense of a coup against the Imperial family for it." said Kahn.

"So you mean to say that the founding clans turned their back on my descendants for the tablet?" asked Rathnaar in a grim voice.

"Well... that wasn't the first time this empire had a coup.

Many times because there was a slavery system, shunning of particular races and species... war between clans and powerful figures. And from the historical records I read once... the Whitlock family did a real shitty job in managing the empire.

And the previous emperor was the worst of them all. He oppressed and massacred too many people who stood before him. He even wiped out some of the loyal founding clans because he was afraid of their authority.

The records call him the worst emperor of the Rakos Empire. Although I don't know how much of it is true... it is what it is." revealed Kahn based on the knowledge he had about the history.

"This... this cannot be. No one told me anything about it." spoke Rathnaar as his voice sounded that of a dejected man.

"Of course, they didn't." said Kahn as if it was obvious.

"I created this empire to provide a safe haven for different species and races around the world.

Back then... those gods, their churches, their monasteries, and those anomalies called the chosen heroes caused a lot of bloodbaths, massacred and launched a crusade against different species and races.

Some tried to eradicate humans while some deemed demihumans as a race to be annihilated. Those bastards had killed billions of people throughout the world in the name of their God's decree and divine judgment.

Anyone who looked different or belonged to a certain race... anyone who didn't follow the doctrine of their God or questioned the authority of their representatives... all of them were purged.

Many species and races went extinct during those times." revealed the first emperor with a crestfallen voice.

"That was when I and many who believed that the bloodbath in the name of religion was simply too cruel; decided to work together and create a place where all the races and species could live in harmony.

It took me 200 years just to establish the Rakos Empire... but I guess all was for naught.

And based on what you said... the empire is still divided into three factions.

Looks like in the end... I failed very miserably." spoke Rathnaar. His defeated tone gave Kahn a sense of understanding of the man.

"I guess you're also to blame. You created a system where only the strongest of your bloodline became the emperor or an empress.

The truly capable were disqualified because they were weaker and thus it ended up dividing the Imperial family and founding clans.

The great war... was just an end to a thousand-year-long battle for power. It only delayed what should've happened centuries ago." responded Kahn with his honest opinion.

Rathnaar then kept quiet for a while and spoke again with an authoritative tone.

"You still haven't answered my question though.

Even if you were a chosen Hero, you could not have come here since you do not have the Imperial bloodline.

Why and how are you here? Are you also here for the Tablet of Arcana just like that Hero of Lightning from two centuries ago?" asked Rathnaar in a ghastly tone that sent shivers to both Kahn and Omega's bodies.

"If that's the reason... then you might as well return, boy.

No one other than the Imperial bloodline can access the tablet and what lies inside.

You cannot even touch it unless I grant you the permission myself.

So get out of here while I'm being considerate." spoke Rathnaar in a domineering voice.

[Master... I don't think that even I can do anything against that tablet. The aura it's giving off... it's too strong.] said Omega.

[Let me handle this.] replied Kahn.

"You're right... I came here for the tablet and I was able to enter here without even having the imperial bloodline.

Not because I found a way to get inside... but I was allowed to." outright lied Kahn.

"Impossible! The barriers will not let you pass unless it is someone from my kin. Tell me the truth!" Rathnaar's angered voice shook the surroundings.

"Well, I don't know anything about the bloodline but I think the barrier recognized me as one of your own." replied Kahn.

"What nonsense! Why would the barrier recognize you as one of my descendants?" asked Rathnaar in a curious voice.

"Maybe because of this..." said Kahn and soon, he took out something that covered the entire hall in a blinding white light.

A big sphere that was the size of a full-grown elephant suddenly appeared in between them.

"I bet you recognize this." spoke Kahn with a benign smile.

"You!... This can't be! You're not only the Hero of Darkness but also..." spoke Rathnaar in a trembling and bewildered voice.

"My Successor!"

Chapter 497 - The History

The First Emperor's surprised voice resounded in the wide hall as soon as Kahn revealed Rathnaar, the Peak Saint's core.



"How did you manage to get it?! I told Lezron to hide it away after my death even from my children!" exclaimed Rathnaar as a wave of heavy pressure landed on Kahn and Omega's bodies.

"I acquired it by luck. And I guess you can sense that the core is now tied to my soul. So basically I'm its master." spoke Kahn as he looked towards the tablet.

"Ha ha ha! Haha ha ha!

I... Rathnaar Whitlock, the one who hated the gods and killed many of their heroes with his own hands, has a God's chosen Hero as my successor.

How ironic." said Rathnaar as he laughed hysterically.

"That explains a lot. It is natural that the barrier recognized you as one of my kin if that were to be the case.

What is your name... my successor?" asked Rathnaar.

"Kahn Salvatore." he replied casually.

"Not a bad name. So tell me... what are you doing in my Rakos empire?

Shouldn't you be summoned in the Abyss Empire instead of being here?" he asked.

"Abyss Empire? What's that? The only thing I know is Abyss Forest that's said to have Godbeasts living in it." he replied with a stupefied expression.

"Huh? What do you mean?" asked Rathnaar curiously.

"Well... a situation happened quite some time ago." spoke Kahn.

Since Rathnaar already knew more about the heroes than Kahn... he decided to tell the specter about his situation because of the deeds done by his predecessor.

"Haha ha ha!! Ha ha ha ha!!

I'm going to die again just from laughing!

I wish I could've met your predecessor before he died. He and I would've become good friends." said Rathnaar as he laughed out loudly.

"A hero without an empire's support... no wonder you're the weakest one I've ever seen.

In two years' time, any chosen Hero would at least be a 3rd stage saint with the resources given by their respective empire.

Tell me... what do you know about the other heroes?" said Rathnaar he kept laughing again and again.

"Absolutely nothing." said Kahn in an embarrassed tone.

"You're so screwed, my successor. And what about your divine weapon? You at least have that, don't you?" asked Rathnaar.

"What divine weapon?!" exclaimed Kahn as he found a piece of new information out of the blue.

"Ha ha ha ha!!

You're definitely the unluckiest hero ever summoned. Haha ha ha ha!!" Rathnaar ROFL-ed.

"Tell me?! What the hell is a divine weapon? Even God of Darkness didn't tell me anything about it!" exclaimed Kahn he felt like he was on the very end of the cliff.

"How are you going to kill the Demon God if you don't even have your divine weapon?

Forget him... how will you even face the other Heroes if they try to kill you without your divine weapon?

How come I know more about your role than yourself?" questioned Rathnaar multiple times.

"Just tell me what you know." spoke Kahn in an exasperated tone. He was finally getting some information but Rathnaar kept leaving him on a cliffhanger like a certain someone who did it at the end of every

"A divine weapon is a chosen Hero's signature weapon. Without it... they can never fight at their full capacity or use their souls to power up their attacks and skills.

Usually, they are guarded and handed down to each generation of the summoned heroes by the empire that serves their respective god.

But in your situation... there is no one left to serve the God of Darkness anymore.

The only way I can think of to find your divine weapon..." revealed Rathnaar and continued in a serious tone.

"Is to find the remains of the 8th Hero of Darkness." declared Rathnaar.

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Kahn was too stunned to speak after Rathnaar revealed so many facts about how the summoned heroes had their divine weapons while Kahn barely had Lucifer which was only made from a drake's fangs.

"Will... my sword do?" asked Kahn as he showed the black greatsword with crimson vein patterns on the blade.

"It has potential but it will never be enough.

You need at least a Royal Dragon's fangs and bones to forge a weapon that can withstand against a divine weapon. And that's possible if you're evenly matched against a chosen Hero in terms of ranks.

I had one as well. I killed 9 ignorant heroes myself when they tried to attack my empire.

But it was destroyed automatically after I died since a soul marked weapon destroys itself after its master dies." revealed Rathnaar casually.

"You... you... killed 9 heroes yourself?" asked Kahn as he stuttered because of the shocking information he just heard.

"Eh... nothing noteworthy. Those losers relied too much on their divine abilities and weapons.

Most of them lacked real battle experience and mastery over their skills. I even killed 2 at once who were a rank above me.

Those idiots never understood that just rising in ranks is never enough. Maybe that's why none of them ever managed to kill the demon god.

As far as I remember... he wasn't even a demi-god back then." spoke Rathnaar as if he was casually having a chat over a cup of tea.

[This guy!... Is a serial Flexer!] said Kahn to himself.

Rathnaar was talking about killing a Royal Dragon, 9 chosen heroes, including even those who were higher ranked than him in a laidback manner as if it was as easy as breathing for him.

[How badass was this guy when he was alive?

Wait... My predecessor killed all the other 12 heroes and a Royal Dragon as well! How badass was he?!

And Rathnaar is talking about Demon God as if that guy was his junior in high school.

Why am I so behind on everything?!] Kahn gasped as one by one, too many mind-boggling revelations were made to him.

But before he could ask another question... Rathnaar asked in a serious voice.

"Tell me... Kahn Salvatore. What do you want to achieve?

Sacrifice your life while trying to kill the Demon God... on someone's war that you have no reason to fight? Or become the master of..." the deep and ancient voice resounded in the dilapidated hall as the first emperor presented Kahn with a proposition.

"Tablet of Arcana."

Chapter 498 - Tablet of Arcana

Kahn was too stunned to speak after Rathnaar, the first and founding emperor of the Rakos Empire suddenly offered him to become the owner of the Tablet of Arcana.

His mission so far was only to retrieve this tablet that was so precious to all the three noble factions that they went as far as to start a coup against the Imperial family under the disguise of usurping the cruel and tyrant emperor.

Even the previous Hero of Lightning died trying to get it while the 6th Emperor sacrificed his life to create this barrier and placed so many monsters in the Verlassen mountain range to protect it.

But now... Rathnaar was offering him to become its owner out of nowhere.

This went against his deal and many of his plans.

"Why? Me being your successor is a different thing and the Tablet of Arcana is another matter.

So why are you offering it to me?" asked Kahn with a suspicious gaze.

"I guide others to a treasure I cannot possess."

Replied Rathnaar as his somber voice resounded in the hall.

"I'm not giving it to you for free. In return, I want to make a deal with you." he said.

"What kind of deal?" asked Kahn.

"Now that I no longer have any descendants left and you're my successor at the same time...

I have no choice but to rely on your help." he spoke in a serious tone.

"Just tell me what the hell is this tablet first. I'll listen to your proposition after that." said Kahn.

To his unruly words... Rathnaar replied in a calm tone.

"Tablet of Arcana is actually a key... or more likely a door to the Chamber of Exaltation."

"What is that?"

"Chamber of Exaltation is a pocket dimension where I and all the other emperors and empresses of Rakos Empire raised their levels and ranks after crossing the 5th stage.

You see... Most of the species in the world, regardless of their talent and resources, cannot exceed past 9th stage saint rank or a Godbeast rank in some cases.

There are too many reasons such as one's species, quality of bloodline, and even method of cultivating their bodies to be capable of reaching that rank.

And that is why... there hasn't been a single being other than myself who reached peak saint rank in the past 5 thousand years.

And also... it contains another secret to it." revealed Rathnaar.

"What secret?" asked Kahn as a visible curiosity appeared on his face.

"The secret to becoming a... Demi-God."

Revealed the former peak saint rank emperor.

"What?! Really?!" asked Kahn with a dumbfounded expression.

"Don't get worked up, kid. I've hidden the secret with the other half of my soul and sealed it in a place no one other than myself or my successor can reach." revealed Rathnaar.

"You see... Many cannot succeed in becoming a Demi-God because they are limited by the restrictions of species and bloodlines.

As for us humans... we are one of the weakest species but also with the highest versatility in Vantrea.

No matter how stronger you get... there are limits you can't cross." he spoke.

"And the Tablet of Arcana is something that was left behind a Demi-God from ancient times which I found in a ruin 1200 years ago.

Chamber of Exaltation is a separate dimension that was created by that very being. It's a secret that cannot be shared with the world.

The reason I told Lezron to hide my core and choose a successor was because my children back then were more worried about my throne instead of trying to strengthen our empire.

The politics was simply too bloody back then and as my final days came close... Even with the Tablet of Arcana, I found that I couldn't become a Demi-God because of one of the required conditions.

So I had no choice but to have my core hidden in a remote place and split my soul into two parts. And the Chamber of Exaltation only became a training ground for my descendants.

And only when one of them became a worthy candidate, I would tell them the location of my other part. Besides, anyone who can't even become a 9th stage saint doesn't even qualify to know the secret." revealed Rathnaar in one go.

"You even hid it from your kin? Why is that?" asked Kahn as this fact bugged him the most.

"You do not understand the gravity of the situation, Kahn Salvatore.

Anyone who got their hands on it would simply spell the doom of the empire and attract too much attention from the other empires around the world.

They'd go as far as wiping out the entire Rakos empire to get the tablet and my core is the best source for even a chosen Hero to become a Demi-God.

"But why are you offering it to me then? Just because I found your core?" asked Kahn.

"Yes. You're a chosen Hero with divine abilities. And with my core and the knowledge of how to use the Chamber of Exaltation... you can become not only the strongest among other heroes... but also a Demi-God when you meet the requirements and retrieve the other half of my soul." he revealed his reasons.

"And I guess you want something in return?" asked Kahn.

"Correct. I will impart my knowledge and help you meet one of the conditions as your mentor. You can know about the other two conditions when you become a 9th stage saint and retrieve my soul.

But in return... I want you to make a soul-pact with me." replied Rathnaar.

"Ummm... why do you want me to do that?" asked Kahn again.

"It should be obvious to you already.

I have lived and bled for this empire in my entire lifetime. I founded and protected it till the end of my days.

And now that you're the only one whom I can rely on and has the potential to even surpass me... you're the only person in the whole world I can ask to complete this mission." spoke Kahn.

Kahn rolled his eyes in annoyance.

[Great! Another mission.] he thought.

"And what might that be?" asked Kahn in a serious tone.

To his query... Rathnaar replied in a tyrannical voice as if he was delivering his imperial decree...

"Become the new Emperor!"

Chapter 499 - The Soul-Pact

Out of a sudden, Rathnaar proposed to become Kahn's mentor, his guide, and even wanted to help him become a Demi-God. And in return, all he wanted was for Kahn to become the next Emperor of the Rakos Empire.

As for the reason why? Kahn had no idea.

"Why do you want me to do that? Don't tell me you trust me just because I'm your successor?"

To be honest, I'm the sovereign of the Verlassen fiefdom now. But I have no attachment to the rest of the empire.

What you want me to do is too much unnecessary risk." he spoke truthfully.

"Touch the tablet and meet me inside.

We need to talk about this face to face." said Rathnaar.

[Omega... store the core.] ordered Kahn as he took a necessary measure first.

Omega stored the massive core in his space ring and disappeared from the place in the next moment.

Kahn walked forth and placed his hands on the huge golden tablet.

Voom!!

The following second, everything around Kahn suddenly turned white. There were no stones, no ground or any construct as if Kahn entered a different realm.

"Is this... the chamber of exaltation?" he asked himself.

"No. This is just a passage. The one you cannot pass through without my acknowledgment and permission."

A tyrannical and stoic voice came from behind Kahn quickly turned around with an alarmed expression.

A massive 10 meter old man sitting on a giant red and golden throne came into sight.

On his head, was a golden crown and a grizzly white beard, as well as a mustache, was the first thing Kahn noticed.

This giant man was covered in gray and golden armor while on the left side of the throne, was an 8 meter tall greatsword hovering in the air.

Kahn finally saw what Rathnaar Whitlock, The legendary first emperor of the Rakos empire looked like.

His appearance was oozing with power, responsibility, charisma, leadership and honor.

He looked like those heroes of the legends or someone who trained those heroes himself.

"Don't worry. This is just my soul form. I'm actually not that big." said Rathnaar.

"What do you want to talk about?" asked Kahn.

"You don't see the big picture, Kahn Salvatore.

You need me, my knowledge, my methods to survive against the heroes, their churches and if that punk called the Demon God really achieves the realm of True Gods... you know what will happen.

Only having the Rakos Empire behind you will help you survive and give you enough manpower, authority, and resources to repel your future enemies.

Because sooner or later, your identity will be revealed to them even if you don't want to.

What I'm offering you now is your only chance to protect yourself since you don't even have your divine weapon." said Rathnaar.

"What do you mean? How will they find out?" asked Kahn as he noticed another revelation.

"The moment you become a saint, every other God and their religious institutes will sense your presence.

No other hero has been an exception to this.

You're lucky to have survived even till now without anyone finding out about your real identity.

Just because Rakos Empire doesn't support any God or follows their doctrine doesn't mean they will look favorably on you either." elaborated Rathnaar.

"But still... there should be better alternatives than me. If what you say is true... then I will become the biggest threat to the empire itself since others will come after me.

Me becoming the emperor will spell more trouble. So why would you want to risk the fate of the whole empire?" asked Kahn curiously as he found some answers of his own.

"You're an otherworlder. Unlike us, I know that you won't have to leave the world of living even after you become a Demi-God since you're not naturally born in Vantrea.

What more could I ask for if a Demi-God will protect my empire?" explained Rathnaar.

"As things stand in the current situation...

You need me more than I need you." he continued in an authoritative tone.

"Fine then... I accept." spoke Kahn instantly.

"Good. Let me begin the Soul-Pact." spoke Rathnaar and soon, 20 different archaic formations surrounded Kahn's body and Rathnaar's soul form was being absorbed by Kahn through a white fog-like wave.

After one hour... the procedure was finally done and Kahn returned outside of the tablet.

"You in there?" asked Kahn.

[Yes. Our souls have been attached perfectly.] replied Rathnaar in Kahn's mind.

Omega then appeared in front of Kahn and handed him the peak saint's core.

But the very moment Kahn took the core back in his space ring...

[Finally! I am free!] Rathnaar's voice resounded in Kahn's head.

And Kahn then completely lost control over his body.

[Do you think I'm a fool, boy?

I was a peak saint when I was alive.

Do you really think I can't sense that someone with my family's bloodline is coming here?

Did you think I revealed all that information because I trusted or empathized with you?

Do you think I needed you to tell me that you had my core?

I sensed it as soon as you crossed the final barrier. I was simply waiting for you to come here.] suddenly Rathnaar's voice gave Kahn a sense of ominous foreboding.

[I told you everything I knew about the chosen heroes so that you could trust me.

I used your sorry situation against you to make you feel that you needed my help and had to rely on me in order to survive.

Since you already have my core... you shall become my vessel!] his grim voice sent shivers to Kahn.

"You bastard!! Was that your plan from the beginning?!" asked Kahn in an enraged tone.

[Yes. Although I have a descendant coming here... you're a far better choice.

Last time, I failed to become a Demi-God.

But with the body of a chosen Hero with divine abilities... and my core back to me...

I can reach the pinnacle very quickly. I will rip apart everyone who massacred my descendants and reclaim my throne.] he declared as Kahn kept losing control over his body.

[Hahaha haha ha!!

You must be really dumb, boy. If you want to survive in this world...

You need to look for the worst in people even if they seem trustworthy.] said Rathnaar and finally, he gained full control over Kahn's body.

"Sit in the back from now on. I'm in charge now." spoke Kahn... now Rathnaar.

But before this celebratory scene continued... the real. Kahn spoke...

[System... do it!]

Chapter 500 - Moment of Truth



As soon as Rathnaar formed the soul-pact with Kahn, he immediately tried to take control over the latter's body and revealed the truth about that being his main intention since the very beginning.

[System... do it!] ordered Kahn.

Soon, Kahn's body arched down and he took a deep breath.

"You really need to stop looking down on others if you want to be in charge." spoke the real Kahn this time.

[What the hell is this?!] shouted Rathnaar in his mind.

At this moment... Rathnaar's soul form was put in a different space as if some sort of jail was created just for him.

"Can I destroy his soul?" asked Kahn.

[No. The subject's soul form is currently too strong for the host to destroy.

The host will need to at least become a 9th stage saint to completely overpower and absorb or eradicate it.] replied the system.

"I see. So I'm stuck with this old geezer for some time." spoke Kahn.

[Hello there.] a sudden grim voice resounded in Kahn's mind but this time, it was directed at Rathnaar.

[What the hell! Why is there a Basilisk here?!

Wait... What kind of basilisk is this?!

What are these monsters!]

Exclaimed Rathnaar again and again as he saw Rudra and the rest of the members of the Legion inside Kahn.

[You even have a mythical rank dragon's body in a separate dimension!

What kind of freak are you?!] shouted the first emperor.

"The kind that outsmarted you." replied Kahn with a grin.

[How? How did you know that I would betray you?] asked the peak saint.

"Well, you played your part perfectly. If I was a fool, I truly would've believed you seeing your sincerity.

But the thing is... your deal was simply too shady." said Kahn and continued...

"If you truly wanted to share the tablet and the truth about how to become a Demi-God with someone worthy...

You wouldn't have made the whole successor thing in the first place.

Back when I acquired your core 2 years ago, all Lezron Mikealson, the First Sage's remnant soul did was just inquire about me being a citizen of the Rakos Empire.

He did not test my capabilities, background, intentions or loyalty toward the empire or the imperial family.

He just bound the core to my body as if he wanted to get rid of it." elaborated Kahn.

"And after hearing about how you chose not to tell even your descendants about the secret or even your core... I came to a final conclusion.

The whole Successor thing was just a front. In reality, you just wanted a body to control and return.

Anyone strong and greedy enough would've eventually contacted the imperial family after finding your core and hearing the final message from the First Sage in order to become the emperor and they would've been brought here by your descendants.

I'm certain you made arrangements for everything.

Just that the Imperial family getting wiped out was not under your expectations when you planned all of this." explained Kahn with a smile on his face.

"Hence, I already prepared for you betraying me as soon as we made the soul-pact."

[Haha ha ha! To get outplayed by a brat who was born yesterday...

I really have gotten old it seems.] spoke Rathnaar as he kept laughing hysterically.

"Have you gone senile old man? Are you sure you should be still laughing?" asked Kahn with curiosity.

[You don't get it, do you? You're still screwed regardless of who's in charge.

Only I can control the tablet of Arcana and have the access to Chamber of Exaltation. And know the location of my other part of the soul which holds the truth to becoming a Demi-God.

Do you think those three noble factions sent you here to retrieve the tablet without knowing about it? Why do you think they went as far as eradicating my kin?

And now... if they want it... they'd have to extract my soul from your body.] said the old emperor.

Kahn's eyes were wide open as soon as he heard the peak saint.

[To extract one's soul from a body... I guess you're smart enough to know what it truly entails.] he said and kept laughing like a maniac as he rejoiced in Kahn's current predicament.

"You mean... The factions already knew about this and sent all of us here regardless?

That no matter who got the tablet among the young generation... their fate was going to be the same?" asked Kahn with a flabbergasted expression.

[Hahaha. You have a good head over your shoulders.

Whether it was you, that mage who was killed or that halfbreed demonkin girl with my bloodline; if anyone of you got hands on the Tablet of Arcana... they planned to kill that person to get the ownership of the tablet as soon as you exited the barriers prohibiting a saint from entering here.

All of you were nothing but small pawns since the beginning.] revealed Rathnaar.

"Lies! You're just making a fat lie to get in my head so that I'd be forced to listen to you now that you can't control my body." said Kahn in denial.

[Tell me, why did you decide to make the pact with me if you knew I was most likely to double-cross you?] asked Rathnaar.

"What choice did I have? If I put you in a box, I'd get the tablet and leave peacefully. And rest would be their problem." replied Kahn with a serious voice.

[Look at your options now, boy.

When you become a Saint, your presence will be noticed by the Gods and their representatives.

But if you stay here, you will be hunted down by the noble factions for the Tablet of Arcana.

And you can't stay inside Verlassen unless you want to stay as a semi-saint for the rest of your life. Even here, you will have to be constantly at war.

On one side of the Rakos empire, there's only Abyss Forest where you will definitely die since any Godbeasts will be able to sense your presence after you become a saint.

Everything is against you at the moment.

So tell me... who should be the one laughing now?] elaborated Rathnaar.

Like a lightning bolt... Kahn was struck with this unforeseeable truth.

And with a terrified voice, he spoke to himself...

"I need to get out of this empire!"