

## Darkness 741

### Chapter 741 The Alchemist

Half an hour passed and finally, Armin came through a flying ship and landed in their main headquarters. A group of guards and servants escorted this supposed client and brought them to Kahn's main meeting room.

Legolas finally gazed at the guest who was brought here by Armin out of nowhere.

A 5'7 feet tall human with ashen hair whose lower half face was covered under a brown cloth, adorning the white robes of an Alchemist which had golden intrinsic patterns in various parts of the clothing while wearing a blue shirt underneath, came into sight.

"This is sir Edmund Thandruil." introduced Armin in a respectful tone.

Legolas nodded and shook hands with this human saint. If Armin was giving him such respect, then Kahn evidently understood that the Alchemist in front of him was no joke.

Soon, Armin explained how he met this person as they sat on comfortable sofas and shared a drink.

Edmund just arrived in Alfheim today and registered himself in the association.

There was a discussion among Alchemists in a hall sharing their knowledge and opinions about Alchemy recipes.

Armin frequently went there in his free time because like-minded people gathered there and shared a lot of knowledge of their craft. Some people also sold alchemy recipes and ingredients if one paid the right price. So it was like Heaven to all the alchemists in this part of Zivot empire.

Armin himself had no shortage of money but he went there to broaden his horizons and also find ways to improve upon his skills.

Unlike other subordinates, he wasn't the kind who often fought battles despite being a part Healer.

And he had mastered a lot of recipes and stuff but he was still stuck at Peak Grandmaster Alchemist rank ever since their time in the Verlassen fiefdom of Rakos Empire.

Because he had abilities received from both Prithvi, a peak grandmaster alchemist Kahn met in the capital Rathna and Ashokvatika, a legendary rank monster they hunted in Verlassen... he possessed top-notch skills for long. Many of them couldn't be matched by the top healers of all 3 empires they've traveled to so far.

But this was also Armin's cage.

Because he never managed to surpass his own skill ranks or created new techniques in Alchemy. Hence, there was no growth in this sector over the past 3 years.

Thus, to look for inspiration and think outside of the box, he often visited the Alchemy Association.

But today, suddenly two saints challenged each other over their mastery of a recipe to cure a type of poison, ending up causing a commotion that led to official competition.

This was a common occurrence in their field and there were facilities in the association to hold such bouts.

Alchemists didn't fight with their fists but with skills and knowledge. And many times, even other Alchemists got inspiration from watching these matches so it was always full.

But today, suddenly one of the competitors turned out to be a Saint Alchemist. Others couldn't sense it but Armin was already a being comparable to a saint so he figured out the truth.

Even in Alfheim, there were only 3 saint Alchemists despite the heavy demand. Each one was a brand on their own. These people were just as respected and in demand as Saint Blacksmiths and Artificers.

Saints were already rare in the world. Even among them, those who reached this rank in Alchemy were like miracles.

And there were over 20 Peak Grandmasters like Armin already so this general had no advantage in this empire in terms of skills.

Armin took this chance and made Edmund's acquaintance while introducing himself as Darwin Groedari, his current persona in the Elven Empire. As he himself was a saint, Edmund decided to give him face and shared a meal with him.

There, they talked about various things related to Alchemy.

But during that exchange of pleasantries... Armin learned that Edmund came here to establish a company of his own and was actually a very rich person with a backing of an Exalted Noble clan.

And thus, he needed a lot of resources that grew in either natural habitats or dungeons to officially start his company.

Right then, Armin revealed his background to the saint alchemist as one of the commanders of Misthios.

Even Edmund was taken aback because he had already heard about Misthios guild.

Alchemists often needed resources that risked their lives in finding, thus hiring adventurers and mercenaries was a common thing. So he obviously inquired about the top guilds of the city.

Hence, Edmund decided to come and meet Legolas after Armin's recommendation.

Legolas then shifted the topic of conversation to business real quick.

Edmund was in need of a large amount of resources and didn't lack money. But time was of the essence for him.

Legolas then told how they usually did business in terms of payment policy.

The 2nd stage human saint was elated and also felt inclined to officially hire them as well.

But right when they were at the end of their conversation...

[Master... make a deal beneficial for me.] said Armin and relayed a few plans of his own.

Kahn then decided to make a proposition.

"Mister Edmund... actually, I have a business plan for you since you're planning to settle in Alfheim. This will be beneficial to both you and our organizations in the long run." spoke Legolas in a calm voice. Edmund was surprised but then gestured that he would at least listen.

"From now on, our guild will provide your organization that you will establish with all the materials required.

Also, our services to your company will be provided free, it includes the protection of your assets and employees as well." proposed Legolas.

"Well... it does sound like a tempting offer. So what's the other side of the deal?" queried Edmund, his voice revealing his age to be a man in his mid-30s.

"In return... I have two conditions.

One, your company should become our official business partner." he stated confidently.

"Hmm... I might consider it. What's the other?" asked the human alchemist with a curious gaze.

A deal like this would greatly save his expenses and solve many troubles even if he had to share profits. Because in the end, he too knew about the reputation and might of Misthios guild.

"As the last one... it's a very simple one." spoke Legolas as he revealed his intentions.

"Make Darwin your disciple."

#### Chapter 742 Business Prospects

Legolas outright proposed his idea for a business plan for the Saint Alchemist's future company and tried to reel him on their side.

Although they had Armin as Peak Grandmaster alchemist... Alfheim already had 3 saint alchemists setting their enterprises since decades. Thus, they had to use his skills only for taking care of their own people and creating their own supplies such as potions for health recovery and poison antidotes.

But after Armin introduced Edmund to him, he felt like this was a godsend opportunity for them to venture into a new business sector. Hence, the elf guild leader couldn't help but make this proposition.

Edmund on the other side was too stunned and was absorbing this information. One could feel that he was lost in deep thoughts despite half of his face being covered under a mask.

With each passing second, he racked his brain and went through the pros and cons.

Saints could think at an extremely fast pace than normal inhabitants of the world so it only took him 10 seconds to reply.

"I accept this arrangement. If you hold your end of the deal, I will hold mine." spoke the man in alchemist robes.

Although it seemed it was a quick decision, the human saint had given it a thorough thought.

Because in this setting, there were too many benefits for him no matter how he looked at it.

First, one had to spend a lot of money to buy the ingredients and raw materials for alchemy products at market price. Unless one had billions of itikar or owned a vast territory full of resources... there was no other way around it than purchasing all these resources by themselves.

Second, the operational cost could not be overlooked either. Acquiring and processing these materials, then using storage facilities as well as spending a great amount on transportation costs along with the money spent on the security of their products; the burden on one's wallet was never negligible.

But in this deal proposed by Legolas... the Misthios guild was going to acquire these resources, take care of transportation as well as security and deliver the materials to their company safely. And all of that for free.

Even if Edmund shared 50% of profits, he'd make a ton of money than normal standards because he's saving a lot on manpower, protection, and buying resources on his own.

Three, taking Darwin as his disciple... It wasn't a big deal.

Instead, having a Peak Grandmaster Alchemist working under him would save him a lot of trouble than hiring one to work for his company at a high salary. This would also greatly alleviate pressure from his own shoulders.

In all ways, this was a winning deal for him.

The only downside was that he'd be greatly dependent on the Misthios guild and will have to share his assets and income.

There was no free joyride in the real world. You had to lose something to gain something of higher value.

In the end, overwhelming benefits always won against considerable sacrifices.

Thus, the saint alchemist accepted this business proposal instead of playing hard to get.

Legolas and Edmund then formed a contract between themselves and the former also promised to provide help in establishing the latter's new company in Alfheim.

What he didn't know was that Kahn Salvatore...

Was as devious as they come.

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2 Days Later.

The Misthios guild's envoy arrived at a particular region, the group was led by none other than Raiden and Rudra, the two poster boys of the guild who were famed to be 4th stage saints.

And the territory they had come to visit was ruled by one of their oldest clients.

Count Horik, the Exalted Noble and their 2nd client for whom Raiden had killed 4 legendary rank monsters for.

This time, seeing both Raiden and Rudra... the count and his sons were perplexed and felt a lot of pressure on themselves.

Last time, because of the arrangement with cores in the payment and giving them the bodies, their territory and treasury recovered by a lot and their losses were mostly recovered by now.

Raiden was already a very powerful being in their eyes but now after seeing Rudra, another 4th stage saint, the old count with waistlength gray beard was dumbfounded.

Omega then handed out a letter written by Legolas to count Horik.

The latter was already thankful for the last job they did for his territory. Thus, they wanted to create deep ties with their guild.

With the Misthios guild now becoming really popular even among other noble factions as well as having another powerhouse join them, he was even more eager to do so.

"So he is calling in the 'favor', huh?" said the old man after reading the letter.

The sons also read the letter and frowned. But after discussing a few things between themselves... they resigned to their circumstances.

What Legolas was asking them to do was going to cause them a few losses in earnings.

In the letter, he was "requesting" to give the Misthios guild special treatment for a particular form of a deal. And the trade they were going to deal was...

Natural medicine ingredients that grew in the county's territory. Legolas was proposing to purchase them at a cheap cost.

Previously, when Legolas came to this Exalted Noble's territory... he saw how it was filled with natural resources, more than what people could harvest from dungeons.

The territory's main commerce came from these very things as they were one of the biggest trade points for alchemy resources found in the nearby 500 kilometers.

Thus, Legolas decided to use the favor they owed him after he gave a very big discount when they killed all the 4 legendary rank creatures.

To Edmund, it would seem like Misthios guild bearing the operational cost to get the materials that obviously would not come cheap.

But in reality, Legolas was spending 20 to earn 50. His profit being 30, one and a half times more than what he invested.

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1 Week Later.

A group of tall humanoid beings visited the guild headquarters. And the guests being their 3rd clients.

Orion Grayborne of the Grayborne tribe, composed of Lukion species, showed up with the tribe council members.

In this meeting, Legolas made an agreement with them. That they will provide security for the clan every year for free from now on during the monster tide.

But in return, they had to sell them natural minerals, ores and metals that were mined in their territory at a big discount to the Misthios guild.

Sigurd aka Blackwall was specifically present in the meeting.

Feeling his presence, the envoy of the Grayborne tribe was instantly reminded of his skills and how he single-handedly saved their tribe without causing any bloodshed.

He was the only person in Misthios guild they honestly respected.

Thus, they didn't show much reluctance and made a deal with Legolas.

However, none knew that this was a crucial part of the elf's plans he made the very day they came to him as clients.

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2 Weeks Later.

Legolas met with their first ever clients, the 3 Qebika merchants.

In the end, using a quick and effective route was a really important factor. The Misthios guild needed a traveling network to easily roam across various regions close to Alfheim.

So who better a choice than a corporation that had widespread channels of trading routes and multiple flying ships.

Legolas made a similar deal with the the three Qebikas namely Ruben, Hariv and Zipon.

He proposed to lower the payment in return for having easy access to their caravans, flying ships and space to store the raw materials that they were transporting.

This way, they also saved a lot of money and could traverse to various regions for other jobs and clients easily as well.

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1 MONTH LATER.

The Misthios Weapon Forging Company officially made its debut.

And the enticing, as well as selling point of this company was that it was led by a Saint Blacksmith.

The person whose name was on the banner was a newly ascended old human who was also Saint Blacksmith.

And that was none other than... Zeus.

Zeus was a persona Kahn used in the Rakos Empire as the main leader of Seven Deadly Sins. Even there, other than the core members, no one had seen him.

So using this identity here was no problem at all.

One of the doppelgangers Kahn had allocated for Blacksmithing practice took Zeus' identity. In reality, all 5 of them were going to work for this company and make top-grade weapons and armors.

This was also a way for Kahn to make use of his skills and knowledge he learned from Throk in this empire.

A Human blacksmith saint... this was more than enough to gain instant fame in Alfheim.

There were a few Saint Blacksmiths in the city. But given Misthios guild's reputation and big guns... even if they started a company of their own; who in the hell would dare to create adversities for them?

So the new business avenue got settled real quick and they offered their services to a lot of their high-profile clients as well.

Kahn and his subordinates already had great experience in running a business in both the Rakos and Vulcan empire at this point. So it came in really handy to stabilize their new businesses and assets.

This way, the situation was turning favorable to the guild in many ways.

Now, they mainly dealt in the mercenary business, had a reputable Alchemy Company as their partner and owned a renowned Blacksmith company as a subsidiary corporation.

One after another, Kahn was expanding at a rapid pace and also creating his business empires with all his knowledge from both lives.

As for now, the total number of employees in the guild and the blacksmithing had risen to 18 thousand people and the headquarters was furthermore evolving as new buildings and sections were being built.

With these factors in their favor... Misthios guild had gained way too much attention, fame and created connections in top places of Alfheim let alone be it the business world, nobles or the military.

And because of the rising fame and being the leader of all of this skyrocketing enterprise... Legolas Ragnarsson gained a new moniker given by the people of Alfheim.

The Mercenary King.

Chapter 743 The Hunting Dogs

As more weeks passed and the Misthios guild was becoming a publicly recognized powerhouse in Alfheim, Kahn's plans to quickly establish themselves and make a good standing in the Zivot Empire were finally realized.

With Sedaris and Ranobes dead... LNP guild was now an empty husk. With internal infighting within the guild for the leader's position... many people tried to annex the guild and even forcefully took over their territories and clientele.

All because their leaders created trouble for the guild led by the Ironborn Elf, the establishment that existed for 3 decades was now destroyed completely.

Now, even the 12 Valkyries had no choice but to adapt to the situation and hand over their title as the number one mercenary guild to Misthios. What they achieved in 5 years was accomplished by Legolas Ragnarsson aka Kahn Salvatore in just 6 months with his cunning planning, experience as a businessman and exploiting the weaknesses of his competitors.

However, this was his limit. Because monopolizing the trade and taking away the food from other people's plates furthermore would create unnecessary threats and enemies. Who knew if suddenly, another force came from outside of Alfheim or from the capital Eitnall and started targeting them because he pissed off the wrong people?

One should always leave a leeway for the opponent. Otherwise, even an injured dog wouldn't hesitate to fight against a tiger when pushed to the edge.

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The next day, thousands of kilometers away...

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

One after another, 12 cloaked figures varying in sizes and species suddenly appeared in a desolate mountain range filled with dilapidated constructs and ruins of an ancient civilization.

Every single one of them was a Saint of different classes and even the weakest among them was a 6th stage saint. And the place all these powerful individuals appeared at was...

No Man's Land.

One of the saints who was 4 meters tall and had two brown horns coming out of his hood while having his entire body covered in a gray cloak, slowly descended towards a dark cave entrance.

This cave was the very spot Kahn had stayed in for over 10 days after running away from the Vulcan empire.

He stretched out his gray-skinned hand with long black nails and soon, a ripple of blue pulsating magic formation spread across the cave.

He opened his eyes which had yellow iris in them and flew back towards his allies in the sky.

"No wonder we didn't find him in those empires till now. The Hero of Darkness was hiding here quite some time ago." spoke this tall being who seemed to be a 7th stage saint based on his aura.

"So he used those two 7 stage saints to create a decoy, so we'd follow them and meanwhile, he came back here. If we had known it before... we would've found him long ago.

This new Hero is indeed crafty." said a female in a blue cloak who had gills on her neck and lustrous skin with fish scales on her arms.

"Yes. But there is no more trail left.

Just as I suspected... he has unlocked the Dimensional Law and even received enlightenment in it.



Given the way he chose to travel using True Dimension... I'm confident that he has received at least 2 enlightenments in Space Law." spoke this figure who investigated the cave.

This 7th stage saint was a being from the Erdve empire... the one which served the God of Space.

"Then it leaves us with only two possibilities.

He is either hiding in Rakos Empire or the Zivot Empire." said a being under a yellow cloak who was very thin in stature and had a voice that of an old aged man.

"Can't you track back time and see where he went from here?" asked the female from the Tenger empire which served the God of Sea.

"Not possible. My time tracking skills can't track someone if they left that place more than 2 months ago.

If we had come here sooner, he would already be in our custody." replied this individual who had wrinkled skin and the aura of a 6th stage saint.

"Then where should we go?

Rakos Empire... they're very hostile to us.

Even though they don't have an 8th stage emperor now... the empire still has many arrangements made by the previous imperial family as well as magic formations to detect and kill us.

Not only that... If we go there, it will be a declaration of war.

No diplomatic approach would solve the misunderstanding and both Vulcan and Zivot empire would be the ones to bear the brunt of an open war.

If we are the root cause of this incident... none of us will be able to bear the consequences despite our previous agreements.

There's a limit on what we can do." spoke a being in a dark red cloak whose body was constantly emitting small waves of fire.

This individual was none other than the Fireborne prince who faked his death to avenge the 7th Heroine of Fire after the 8th Hero of Darkness killed her 300 years ago.

"Yes, our authority does not reach there and we will be attacked. Even staying in No Man's Land for too long is risky enough to cause an international dispute.

Our time is limited here." spoke the 4 meter tall saint from the empire of space.

"So I guess it leaves only one choice.

We must leave for the Elven Empire." another 3 meter tall saint who was also a 7th stage saint, cloaked in brown clothes spoke with a grim voice.

Just then, one of the saints donning a green cloak decided to speak up as he took off his hood.

Long ears, golden hair and bright white skin.

This individual revealed himself to be a High Elf.

Nobody here knew his origin other than the fact that he belonged to the Elven Emperor class from the imperial clan of the Zivot Empire.

"I will relay the message to his majesty.

That we will conduct our search in my home empire first. If we do not find him there within a year, then we will have no choice but to infiltrate the Rakos Empire despite the risks." he spoke with a reassuring voice.

"You're right. Entering the Rakos Empire should be our last choice." spoke the saint who had perfectly hidden his appearance in a brown cloak.

Just then, the fireborne prince spoke again.

"The new Hero of Darkness... we have to find him at any cost. Otherwise, he will create a great imbalance with his 2 Divine Keys when the time comes."

In truth, all of these people had a secret mission other than capturing Kahn.

To find and get his core for themselves and their respective empire.

This whole Revenge team setup had hidden intentions as well. In truth, everyone was as divided as they could be while maintaining the facade of unity under a common cause of hunting the new Hero of Darkness.

But little did they know... that their next destination was exactly the place where their prey was hiding.

Chapter 744 sudden Upgrade

The following day, Legolas was running through some documents while going through a tally of records regarding their income and expenditures along with all the new tiers of mercenaries they had rearranged after hiring thousands of new employees recently.

With each passing day, he had to do more work inside the office than out in the field. Thankfully, he had 5 more doppelgangers after his rank up to 3rd stage saint who worked inside the Dimensional Domain. Thus, his workload was greatly reduced compared to his beginning days.

But right when he was completely focused...

"Master! Pull me inside your domain!" suddenly, Ronin in his Scorpion persona appeared out of nowhere and urged Kahn.

"What happened?" asked Kahn.

"No time to explain! Just do it!"

Kahn didn't spare another moment and pulled Ronin inside his domain at a particular region of his domain which was now 30 kilometers in total range.

Right at this moment...

[The subordinate Ronin is making a breakthrough.] informed the system.

BOOM!!

A massive and chaotic burst of green and black aura erupted and Kahn was thrown a kilometer away just from the shockwaves.

Thankfully, his domain was like a separate pocket dimension that didn't exist inside or affected the real world, otherwise this eruption of world energy would've destroyed their entire building like an atomic bomb.

Kahn adjusted his footing after deactivating the Darkness Barrier he had used to protect himself at the last instant and saw the aftermath.

"Arrrghhhh!!!" screamed Ronin in pain as if he was undergoing some sort of torture.

[Congratulations to the host. The subordinate Ronin has leveled up and become a being comparable to a 2nd stage saint.] reported the system in its usual lifeless voice.

However... this wasn't the end of it.

Visible ripples and waves of white and golden aura suddenly started exuding out of Ronin's body and he transformed into his Thanatos form.

This was Ronin's true legendary rank form that he had only used once in a battle so far.

He had only one red eye at the center of his head while two 10 meters long blades as his forearms. There were four blue extensions coming out of his back while the waist had a 50 meter long tail. His entire body was covered in white and red exoskeleton armor and his entire figure was 150 meters tall.

But in the following moments, his aura started becoming denser and more oppressive even to Kahn as Ronin was undergoing a transmutation and his body was reforming at a visible rate.

Soon, his height rose by an additional 100 meters and the blade forearms were covered under golden flesh as they turned into proper arms this time.

The red eye disappeared from his face but then reappeared at the center of his chest.

Many golden vine-like extensions came out of his back along with 4 long horns on his head and soon, his white and red exoskeleton armor turned into a combination of white and golden.

The transformation finally stopped and Kahn walked closer to him.

[Master, stop!] warned Ronin despite his sorry state.

BOOM!!

Another massive explosion erupted and sent Kahn flying again. This time, the intensity was 5 times stronger and covered 5 kilometers of radius inside the dimensional domain.

"Ah... I'm going to die soon." spoke Kahn with his haggard and charred face as black fumes appeared in the perimeter.

This time... Ronin's aura had completely changed from Green and Black to Golden and White as Ronin himself had transformed into a completely new being.

[Congratulations to the host. General Ronin has ranked up to Mythical Rank.] reported the system out of the blue.

"What the bloody hell?" spoke Kahn with a befuddled voice.

"Show me his details, quickly!"

[Following are the statistics and abilities :

Name : Ronin

Species : Thanatos (Variant Soul Reaper)

Job : Spirit Assassin (Legendary Rank)

Rank : Mythical Rank

Level : 460

Strength : 45719

Agility : 60183

Dexterity : 509342

Defense : 16037

Mana : 29402

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Following are the abilities and skills :

Spiritual Sense (Saint Rank)

Poison Immunity (Legendary Rank)

Spiritual Replica (Saint Rank)

Phase Shift (Saint Rank)

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Soul Collector (Legendary Rank) (Passive) :

General named Ronin can absorb and collect the souls of his victims to increase his rank, levels and effectiveness of all skills.

Note : The stronger the soul consumed, the more additional effects and levels will increase.

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Phantasm (Saint Rank) (Active) :

Ronin can use the collected souls of the enemies in a battle and turn them into a supplementary source of world energy.

The subordinate can use this energy to replenish his reserves of world energy and use the skills that require it without running out of reserves.

Note : The more souls are collected by the subordinate, the more energy will be absorbed and converted.

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Existence Concealment (Legendary Rank) (Active) :

This is an upgraded version of the Invisibility skill.

General Ronin can completely seal his presence while turning invisible and erase his energy signatures. No being under a 7th stage Saint rank or Mythical rank will be able to sense his presence.

Note : This ability can rank up only after the next evolution to Godbeast rank.

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Following are upgraded abilities and skills :

Fear Toxin (Saint Rank)

Grappling Extension (Saint Rank)

Shadow Walk (Saint Rank)

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Bloodline : Vilgax

Bloodline purity : 100%

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New ability acquired by the general after this rank up :

Soul Transfer (Legendary Rank) (Passive) :

Allows the general to create a spectral form of himself and possess any living being's body right at the moment of his death.

Note : The time limit for soul possession is only 48 hours. After that, the subordinate's soul will be kicked out from the possessed body automatically.

The possessed body cannot be of a higher rank saint or a monster than general Ronin.] reported the system.

"Wait what?! How did he suddenly break through to Mythical Rank?" asked Kahn, his eyes widened in disbelief.

"And how can he use that Soul Transfer skill when he doesn't have a soul?" he questioned again, the doubt in his mind being conspicuous.

Just then, the system sent another warning that completely shocked Kahn.

[Subordinate Ronin now has a Pseudo-Soul.]

Chapter 745 The Spectre

With the system's sudden notification that was even more surprising than Ronin suddenly rising to Mythical Rank, Kahn was left bamboozled.

What transpired here in just 10 minutes took him off guard as he couldn't find a proper explanation for it.

What was a Pseudo-Soul?

It was something not everyone could create and so far, only Demi-Gods or True Gods could grant it to other beings without a soul.

Kahn looked at Ronin's new transformed figure that looked extremely strong and agile at the same time if he were to fight someone like Rudra, Blackwall, Jugram and Omega in their true forms.

In terms of stats alone, he was now 4th strongest individual in their group if Kahn counted himself on the list. In terms of speed, he was only second to Omega.

As for hiding his aura and possessing skills to assassinate someone... even Kahn wasn't his match because now, even a 7th stage saint couldn't sense or track Ronin after his rank up.

"How?" asked Kahn to Ronin.

At this moment, Ronin was level 460... he had broken through twice in succession and became a being comparable to a 3rd stage saint on the spot. This was an occurrence that didn't happen normally.

"Did you get it from a Deity as well?" he queried cautiously.

"No." responded in a tranquil voice as his massive figure, which was 250 meters tall in total.

"Master, I have absorbed 9 souls so far.

7 from the Hero's Party, 1 belonging to that 3rd stage saint from LNP and finally, the Hero of Fire.

Even after I finally managed to absorb and use their souls to rank up...

Axel's soul was too strong. It was bigger, denser and more potent than the others by at least 5 times.

Even after I ranked up and used all the souls of the saints...

There was still a considerable part of it left and it merged with my body.

Since I'm now a being who has control over Souls, I managed to harness and transform it into a Pseudo-Soul on my own." explained Ronin in a stern voice.

Kahn finally understood the real reason and found it completely logical.

Ronin not only had the skills but also his body catered towards collecting and using souls of other beings let it be legendary rank monsters or saints.

Just then, Kahn suddenly remembered the time while he was talking with Rudra and Omega when they brought Sedaris' head... Nobody including himself had managed to sense Ronin when he appeared out of thin air.

His powers were developing on their own without anyone noticing and his skills were far beyond what Kahn could even achieve by his own means.

Thus, this situation could be explained.

"Hey system, check Ronin's soul." ordered Kahn vigilantly.

After a while, system replied in its lifeless voice.

[General Ronin's is not affected by anything and there are no traces of any foreign will or remnant soul.] reported the system.

"Phew! Good.

Means there is no will or anything that could influence him later." said Kahn as he sighed.

Because the matter of souls wasn't that easy. For example... Rathnaar died 800 years ago and even half of his soul that Kahn was extremely strong.

If not for the help from the system, Rathnaar was fully capable of controlling Kahn's body and pushing him into the backseat at his will.

Thus, Kahn was wary of Axel's soul somehow affecting Ronin.

"Soul Transfer, huh..." spoke Kahn with a skeptical tone.

Although Kahn had the means to resurrect his subordinates as long as he could provide the required resources... Ronin's new ability was simply too terrifying.

This was a life-saving ability even for someone like him as it would give you a 2nd life and a chance to resurrect yourself if you had made prior arrangements such as a suitable body in advance.

So in a way, if Kahn had this ability, he won't truly die and could resurrect himself within the next 2 days after his death.

Even though it couldn't come close to Death Absolution or would get him the same body... it was still an ability that could greatly extend your lifespan.

All you had to do was look for a fresh corpse in good condition and then possess it after your death. An old man could simply possess a young kid with this ability and start his new life. Or a sick person can possess the healthy body of a strong individual.

Even for Ronin... this was very useful as he could come out alive if he was ever caught by a powerful being and Kahn couldn't resurrect him for some reason.

"I guess it should be given at this point. We didn't have anything mind-boggling in the current arc so far. This checks the box." said Kahn as he moved to the next topic.

Now... Kahn had 3 subordinates at Mythical Rank. Each having their own unique abilities and skillsets that were rare even among both monsters and saints alike.

In the end, it was good news for him. Because their total manpower was rising by a ton compared to his time in Rakos & Vulcan empire where they had to keep low for many years.

At least in Zivot Empire, they could do things freely and weren't being oppressed by others.

The days of Kahn having to act like an underdog while hiding his strength were long gone at this point.

Their current lineup was something like this...

Rudra and Omega were at the 4th stage saint rank.

Kahn and Ronin were at 3rd stage saint rank.

Jugram, Blackwall and Oliver were at 2nd stage.

And finally, only Ceril and Armin were still stuck at 1st stage saint.

The last two seemingly having some sort of strict conditions to breakthrough to the next rank even with all the cores they had on hand.

But even so, Kahn was elated to see that they were no longer weak and could hold themselves in a battle even against a 6th stage saint at this point.

If Axel and his party fought them at this point... they'd be completely decimated within an hour.

"I guess good things do come to those who wait enough." said Kahn in a merry voice.

Little did he know that Ronin's sudden upgrade to Mythical Rank...

Was going to play a very crucial part in the upcoming future regarding the matter of life and death.

#### Chapter 746 New Disciple

The next evening, Legolas came to visit a particular building with intrinsic architecture full of light brown and green, giving it a sense of calmness and a classic forest-like feel as the massive 10 story building spread across 2 kilometers came into his sight.

Trismegistus Alchemy Enterprise.

This was the name of this company which was owned by Edmund Thandruil aka the Saint Rank Alchemist and also the official business partner of the Misthios guild.

Legolas was escorted by official attendees and then came to visit the human alchemist. However, the place he met them was not an office but an Alchemy Laboratory.

Various equipment such as beakers, flasks, boilers, tripods and many different forms of machinery that operated on magic cores as a source of energy was revealed to him.



It hadn't been even a month yet the entire company was set up in the best way possible. This showed Kahn that Edmund wasn't a newcomer to running an operation of this scale and a company this big where more than 3 thousand employees worked to produce quality products.

The section Legolas was led to being the place where the main boss himself along with Darwin aka Armin's alternate persona worked on different and extremely difficult recipes themselves.

"Greetings, Mr. Ragnarsson." spoke Edmund in a hasty voice without even sparing Legolas a glance as he was partially submerged in the process of extracting medicinal properties of a few delicate materials while using both the equipment and infusing his world energy inside the material at hand.

Legolas then looked around the fully ventilated wide room and after seeing hundreds of small but varying pieces of equipment as he asked in a curious tone.

"It's very different from how I imagined.

I thought you guys used a cauldron and some sort of mystical flame that burned the raw material and revealed the medicinal extracts to create pills or something."

However, the following second... both Edmund and Darwin stood rooted on the spot and looked at Legolas.

Darwin had his jaw wide open and facepalmed himself, averting his gaze from this ignorant and stupid master of his.

"To be honest... We're not that close. I don't even like the guy." spoke Darwin as he refused to acknowledge Legolas as his acquaintance.

Edmund on the other end had his eyes turning red as he questioned...

"What the hell did you just say?!" clamored the alchemist, his voice being overbearing.

"You know... like burn raw material, extract the useful stuff and then mix them to form medicine and stuff... that's how it works, right?" spoke Legolas with a visible confusion on his countenance.

"Which! Fucking! Idiot! Told you that?!" exclaimed Edmund in rage as if he was greatly offended at this moment.

"Wait... that's not how it works?" asked Legolas, slightly retracting his footsteps.

This time... Edmund let out a deep breath and tried to calm himself.

"If that's how it worked... all of the ingredients will burn.

Most of the materials are vulnerable to fire or any kind of heat and will get destroyed on the spot.

And on top of it, all ingredients require different methods, temperature as well as procedure to extract their efficacies.

And even while mixing them, we have to measure the proportions and perfectly balance them for the desired effect.

Otherwise, it would turn into a poison instead of a cure." explained Edmund with great control on his face.

[Master, if it was someone else instead of you... my mentor would've kicked you out of this building already. And let's not even mention the beating you would've received during the meantime.] warned Armin through their mind link.

"Even if there were to be such ingredients... the majority will lose the medical efficacies during the procedure.

Next time someone tells you this nonsense... punch them in the face for me." spoke Edmund as he contained his rage.

[Ah... So those fucking Chinese Cultivation novels lied to me.

That whole using spiritual qi and random divine fire to refine pills was nothing but bullshit.] thought Kahn, ashamed of his prior assumption.

"Why are you here?" asked Darwin.

"Actually... I was here to negotiate the terms of our contract with you, sir Edmund." spoke Legolas in an apologetic tone.

"What alterations do you want?" asked Edmund with a slightly hostile expression.

I hope you can include him in this deal." said Legolas and pointed towards the exit door.

Step!

Step!

In the following moments, a young man in his teenage years who had slightly long and wavy black hair walked in.

This young man with blue eyes was donning a very high-quality white and blue robe of alchemists.

His height was short and his overall figure was lithe. But the impression he gave off was that of an intellectual scholar.

"Who is he?" asked Saint.

"His name is Merlin Kimiya." introduced Legolas.

"It's an honor to make your acquaintance, sir Edmund." spoke Merlin, the young alchemist.

"I hope you can accept him as your disciple as well." requested Legolas.

In reality, this was another one of Kahn's new doppelgangers he gained after the rank up to 3rd stage saint.

Just from the earlier exchange, it was apparent that Kahn was nothing but an oblivious fool to the Alchemy Profession.

And since Kahn was busy leading Misthios as Legolas and most of the other doppelgangers were already busy with their respective tasks... he decided to use one of the new 5 doppelgangers to learn Alchemy.

Mind connection, skills and memories were shared between him and his doppelgangers in real-time. Thus whatever he acquired through knowledge and skills would go to the original body as long as the doppelganger was within 100 kilometers radius of the original body.

So this morning, he created a new persona of a youth who aspired to be an alchemist.

He changed his appearance using the metamorphosis bloodline, he looked like a young and thin and short stature man. But his enema was that of a scholar.

As for why Kahn was asking to learn from the Saint Alchemist?

It was because he had already seen the tremendous benefits of learning from the best in the profession.

What he learned and gained from Throk as his disciple was something he could never accomplish on his own.

And he didn't have time to acquire knowledge bit by bit like the others.

Given his blessings from War Deity and his Eidetic Memory... it was going to be a much rapid growth if he learned from a Saint Alchemist himself.

Even if he only worked as an assistant and started from the basics... He would avoid too many mistakes and improve really quickly.

So why would Kahn let go of such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity?

This was also something he planned back a while ago.

First, he let Armin in his Darwin persona become a backbone for the saint Alchemist to rely on in the past month.

And after seeing the results and help he was getting for free...

Edmund was not only impressed but also subconsciously reliant on the latter.

Now... having Merlin as his new assistant was going to be like gaining another helping hand.

Once Merlin learned the basic skills and gained experience... Edmund would also become certain that this new guy Legolas recommended would turn out to be another great pawn.

Little did he know...

Although Kahn was doing the work for free... in the future; he was developing himself to excel in this profession too.

Not only Kahn was gaining a lot of wealth by partnering up with the Alchemist's company...

He was getting the best of both worlds.

747 The Dungeon Boss

After giving it a thought... Edmund was certain that Merlin had some sort of huge background or belonged to some house with high standing in society.

Otherwise, why would Legolas Ragnarsson, the ironborn elf leader of the strongest and most popular mercenary guild who had numbers of people lined up to hire them, would personally come and recommend this teenager to be his disciple?

On the accords of appearance, Merlin was a human and didn't even have the insignia of the Misthios guild on his clothes. Also, his clothing was that of someone from a noble background.

[Who is he?] asked Edmund to Legolas using a telepathic communication artifact.

[Although I cannot tell you his true identity... just know that he's the son of an Exalted Noble.

They made me a promise to become a long-term client of your company if you let their son learn from you. And trust me... the number of profits would be huge.] responded Legolas.

Kahn had already created a backstory for his Merlin persona and was going to persuade the alchemist to accept his proposition one way or another.

[Good. Means it will be worth sparing some time in grooming this child.] said Edmund and nodded back at Legolas.

Kahn had already figured out that not only this saint alchemist was a talented fellow... but he also coveted wealth and fame greatly.

The more popularity and prestige he had, the more satisfied he would be.

This personality trait could be associated with narcissistic behavior so Kahn created this fake story.

Because even someone like Edmund understood that Merlin could bring him a lot of benefits and by being his mentor... this noble house would also become his unofficial backer.

In the end, Merlin was just going to receive his tutelage and learn the basics of the trade while all Edmund had to do was act as his mentor figure.

Edmund wasn't being hired as his teacher or had any obligation to turn this boy into a great Alchemist either. Given his reputation and rank, many noble clans were already queued up to have their members learn from him.

Just that Legolas brought this boy who was going to bring him the most benefits in the long run.

What Legolas was doing is favoritism and making a 'recommendation' to accept him as a disciple.

Merlin would be the one to do the work and Edmund would be doing a big favor to Legolas while also benefiting at the same time.

"Alright, boy. From now on..." spoke Edmund as he declared his final decision.

"I'm your mentor."

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"I'm simply too busy these days." spoke Jugram.

"I have a mission to escort 3 helicarriers today. I'm committed." replied Oliver, under his mask and hood.

"I'm busy with my magic study. I have to make a breakthrough soon. I can't be behind these dimwits." responded Ceril as if he was running against the clock.

Given his infatuation with being Kahn's strongest subordinate and yet being the only a 2nd stage currently, Ceril was greatly disappointed in himself and thus he was training and trying to make a breakthrough day and night.

"Master, I'm busy at the Alchemy company. I'm close to making a breakthrough soon." spoke Armin.

Omega and Blackwall were also busy with a lot of work for top-tier clients so they also declined.

"I guess I'll have to do it this time." said Kahn as he sighed.

Just then... Ronin, who had been resting and concentrating his world energy and aura inside the Table of Arcana ever since he broke through to the Mythical Rank showed up out of thin air.

"Master... you're needed here to protect the headquarters and also do a lot of work as the guild leader.

Also, you can't be seen in both the office and on a job at the same time.

So I'll go." he declared in a deep voice.

"On top of it... it's just a mere high-tier dungeon anyone." he said in a casual tone.

"This fucker! Now he's treating a high-tier dungeon as nothing worth worrying.

Just wait! I will break through to Mythical Rank as well!" exclaimed Ceril in an infuriated tone as if Ronin was stepping on his pride.

And Ronin being Ronin... he just ignored Ceril as if he didn't hear anything.

"Alright. But be careful. You're supposed to be an assassin and not a damage dealer.

With your skills... killing a high lord dungeon boss won't be a problem either. But you're not going alone. So maintain secrecy." warned Kahn.

"Alright then... it's decided. Go and earn us more cores. At this rate, we will cross our target of 80 million SS Rank cores soon." said Kahn and clapped.

The next moment, all of them disappeared from the spot and went to different tasks and places they were supposed to.

[I must say, boy. Although you're by yourself and without any backing of an empire like the other summoned heroes...

Your group isn't any weaker than their parties at all. Besides... you're earning a lot of money by yourself.

The majority of the summoned Heroes were too much dependent on their empires and churches for even their single meals. Compared to them... you're very independent.] spoke Rathnaar in Kahn's mind.

However, the latter scoffed off.

"What's there to be proud about?"

I always have to work for money and resources to increase my strength and also train by myself at the same time inside the dimensional domain.

Don't you know how taxing it is on me?

I'd rather slack off and depend on some sugar-mommy instead of working day and night tirelessly." complained Kahn.

Although Kahn was not under any empire's control... he never had the option to be dependent on anyone else either.

"Besides... none of them have a group of powerful saints hunting to kill them.

I'd gladly switch places with any of those heroes." he iterated in an exhausted and helpless voice.

[Ha ha! Well, that... I can't argue against.] even Rathnaar took joy in Kahn's misery.

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Two Hours Later.

Ronin stood in front of more than 3 thousand mercenaries and employees grouped together in one of the open assembly grounds of their headquarter.

"All of you, I have explained what you have to do after we reach there.

I will not allow for any detours and anyone wasting time doing something we're not supposed to.

Anyone who breaks the rules will be kicked out of the guild without any second warning.

So do you all understand?!" clamored the spirit assassin general aka Ronin in his Scorpion persona.

AHOO!

AHOO!

A group of B-rank guild members shouted in unison.

This was the War Cry of Mithios guild. It meant that they were ready for the job or a battle.

In response, Scorpion replied calmly.

"Good. Now get inside those magic trains..."

We're going on a dungeon raid."

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5 Hours Later.

50 kilometers outside Alfheim, was a high-tier dungeon named Demeter.

The main reason why Ronin chose this job was because it included harvesting rare minerals that only grew inside the final floor of this high-tier dungeon.

Unlike their time in Flavot City, dungeons in Zivot Empire were classified in tiers.

A high-tier dungeon was the 2nd hardest dungeon and had a total of 81 floors.

The last being the Dungeon Boss floor.

But right now... the Mithios guild was warily on guard while the miners of their guild who also worked in their Blacksmithing company were fearlessly doing their work. Not worried in the slightest.

However, at this moment... it wasn't only the Mithios guild that was present inside this vast final floor.

More than 15 thousand people... mostly Adventurer armies from guilds were present and stood in battle formations.

"Give us the dungeon boss! It's our kill, your mercenary bastards!" shouted an Elf Archer donning golden armor.

GROWL!

GRRR!

To his rude demand, a heart-wrenching growl resounded in this 15 kilometers wide floor.

A 200 meter tall black monster whose upper body was similar to a human but the head and lower portions along with multiple legs were that of a scorpion.

This was none other than the legendary rank Dungeon Boss.

Normally... one would require a group of at least 5 thousand soldiers to kill this beginner legendary rank monster. But for some reason... the boss was greatly in pain and terrified. It didn't attack any people from the Mithios guild who were working around 1 kilometer radius of his body and excavated the rare materials from his domain right under his vision.

Just then... another loud voice reverberated in the surroundings, reaching every Adventurer force in 5 kilometers radius.

"Shut the hell up! I already said we're not here to kill this boss.

We're only here to mine the rare minerals." a stern voice revealed its presence and soon...

SHRILL!

A ghostly shrill spread in the region as a powerful being revealed their killing intent.

And the source of origin being the head of this massive dungeon boss.

"Master said killing the boss would create unnecessary trouble. Otherwise, I would've killed all these morons already." said a green-haired individual who was casually sitting on this massive monster's head.

Ronin is simply sitting on the boss' head while resting, using his saint pressure that had greatly upgraded with his rank up to suppress the dungeon boss while ordering his men to harvest the material.

There was a time when Ronin couldn't even face a High Lord on his own.

Now... he was sitting on top of a Legendary Rank dungeon boss while chilling.

After he revealed his aura... thousands of adventurers on guard were forced to kneel and felt like facing great calamity.

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Chapter 747 The Dungeon Boss

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Chapter 748 Chessboard Pieces

2 Days Later at the capital Eletnall.

At the central region of the capital, the Emperor and the Abbot were sitting quietly in the throne hall.

Just like before, the two Thrones at the top were occupied but this time, there was another individual kneeling in front of them at the bottom of the stairs.

"You may now speak, Iskamir." spoke Nievan Triscal Insalor Venric, the 8th stage emperor of Zivot Empire in a domineering voice.

This blonde-haired elf with bright white skin and the aura of a 6th stage saint spoke in an obedient voice.

"Thank you for granting me this audience, your Majesty." spoke this elf.

This individual was none other than the elf from the mysterious group tasked with hunting the new Hero of Darkness.

"Leave the pleasantries aside, nephew.

"What is your progress in finding the Hero of Darkness?" asked Maeral Sez Insalor Venric, Abbot of the Monastery of Life.

By lineage, Iskamir Vegar Insalor Venric was one of the members of the imperial clan and also their family relative.

"Lord Uncles, we did make some progress.

He's not in the Vulcan empire. Previously, we tracked him to the nearby empires but found that it was just a decoy.

Now... we're certain that he's either in Rakos Empire or in ours." he reported.

"But everyone is too cautious around each other. There's no guarantee that everyone won't turn on each other as soon as we catch him." he added to his report.

"So what do you know about him?" asked the emperor.

"We investigated the site of the battle between him and Hero of Fire.

He indeed has two 7th stage saints with darkness element as his aide like the Emperor of Vulcan Empire informed us." he revealed while still bowing his head.

"I thought the Cult of Darkborne was eradicated. But it seems like there are still descendants of the cult who still wish to use him to reestablish the Abyss Empire." spoke the young elf.

"Of course, how can the cult that existed for more than 10 thousand years get wiped out so easily?

Even with the fall of the Abyss Empire, there were bound to be few secret branches left in other empires.

I'm surprised that they found Hero of Darkness first before anyone else." said the Abbot with a stern voice.

"Iskamir, You must make sure that he falls into our hands. He is too precious to let go after he absorbed the Hero of Fire's Divine Key." commended the emperor and the next moment, a bright green orb appeared in front of the 6th stage high elf saint.

"This..." spoke the elf with great surprise.

Soon, the orb lost its luster and a jade pendant appeared, floating slowly in the air.

"Yes, this is the former Hero of Life's pendant. You already know that this was one of his most useful life-saving artifacts." said the emperor.

"With each use, you will lose 30 levels. But you will be transported out of the danger zone and get teleported to 1000 kilometers away.

Use it wisely and only after you capture the Hero of Darkness." revealed the Emperor.

"We allowed you to join that group 300 years ago because we know he was like a big brother to you until the 8th Hero of Darkness killed him and all the other members of your Hero's Party...

But you shouldn't forget that although your revenge is necessary, you must bring the Divine Keys for the current Hero of Life." spoke the Abbot in an authoritative tone.

"Once Ervalen absorbs both divine keys... he will become a 6th stage saint. His soul and body would also transform.

You know the aftereffects of absorbing another Hero's core, don't you?" asked the emperor.

"Yes... not only can they get partial ownership of the divine weapon, but they can also fuse both their original divine weapon with the new one since their bodies also gain affinity of the other Hero's element.

Once the hero breaks through the 5th stage saint, they will be able to perform that feat and become even more powerful.

This was rumored to be one of the reasons why the 8th Hero of Darkness caused that massacre." replied Iskamir as he clenched his fists tightly, his eyes turning bloodshot.

Iskamir was the only survivor of the previous generation's Hero's Party and had witnessed the massacre of all his friends and teammates. The previous Hero was a kind individual and he greatly admired him.

But after that massacre and losing all the people who were close to him... Revenge became the only goal in Iskamir's life.

He gave up on his claim or any right to the contendership to the throne despite being in the line of succession only after the Emperor's son, to join the group that was formed to hunt the 8th Hero of Darkness at that time.

He also partook in the destruction and massacre of billions of people of the Abyss Empire in heat of rage 300 years ago while he was only a 4th stage saint.

"After all... they can establish a domain of their own. The more elements it has, the more powerful that domain will be." spoke Iskamir.

"Correct.

This cannot be achieved by any beings in the world other than the Heroes if they absorb other Divine Keys." revealed the Abbot as he nodded approvingly.

"Your majesty...

If Ervalen gets the divine keys... not only will he gain Hero of Fire's absolute control on fire and Hero of Darkness' control of the darkness element...

He will also gain the Dimensional Domain." spoke Iskamir as he revealed intriguing news.

"What is this Dimensional Domain?" asked the old Abbot.

"My lords... so far, we know for certain that one of the Divine Abilities he chose is the Dimensional Law.

This was confirmed by the saint from Empire of Space as well.

And not only that...

He has received 2 enlightenments in Space Law." informed the elf.

To this revelation, both the emperor and abbot were shocked.

"2 Enlightenments in one of the strongest and hardest laws to master?

All on his own and without a Saint in Space Law as his teacher?

What kind of talented freak is this summoned hero?" the emperor couldn't help but be astonished by this news.

"As per my information, even the current Hero of Space has received only 1 enlightenment in Space Law despite being mentored by top experts of Erdve Empire." added Iskamir.

"His growth is too astounding. He should already be a 2nd stage saint after absorbing the Divine Key, Flamescion.

This can't do." spoke the Abbot with a wary tone.

"So tell us, what do you need?" he asked curiously.

"As per the pact our clan made with other empires... we need authority and access to search for his traces in our empire.

If he is indeed in Zivot Empire, then we're sure to find him within a year by working together.

All the empires have ways to track him using artifacts and formations we acquired while destroying Abyss Empire.

But they are restricted by range. Thus, we need unimpeded access to all the regions and people to aid us in the investigation while keeping these matters secret." he stated.

"Then you and that group shall have it.

Let's hope he's here and not in Rakos. Otherwise, things will become unfavorable." spoke the Emperor without a second thought.

The early bird gets the worm.

Any delay and they'd lose the advantage.

What if Hero of Darkness was in some other empire?

Then they'd be restricted and couldn't use many plans and means to capture him for themselves.

After a few discussions, Iskamir left the throne hall.

Soon, the brothers started talking between themselves.

"The time is coming close. After 2 months...

Ervalen and Hero's Party will have to go to that dungeon." spoke the emperor.

To his words, the Abbot replied confidently.

"This time, I believe we will definitely succeed."

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On the southern end of the Zivot Empire, inside Alfheim...

Kahn held a meeting with his group in their main headquarters building.

"Our growth is fast. We earned 2 trillion itikar in just 7 months.

And our main goal to earn 80 million SS Rank cores is also close to being achieved.

All of that thanks to the Blacksmithing company and our partnership with Trismegistus Alchemy Enterprise." revealed Kahn to his subordinates.

"Yes, we wouldn't have managed to achieve all of this while only being a mercenary guild." spoke and nodded Ceril.

"So what's our next plan?" asked Blackwall.

"There is no next plan. We have perfectly settled ourselves in the Elven Empire.

Each year, we can also go and collect Resources from the Rakos Empire.

Given our numbers and resources at hand along with the Chamber of Exaltation...

All of us can at least rank up easily once a year for the next 5 years." declared Kahn with a satisfied expression.

"After that... our demand would greatly increase.

But by then... we will be strong enough to make big moves and do things on a bigger scale.

We just have to be patient." he iterated calmly.

"So it leaves only with our expansion." spoke Omega in a doubtful tone.

"Yes, the only question remains about how we are going to expand our numbers and reach from here.

Blatantly hiring would send a message that we're desperate for expansion to everyone else." said Jugram as he folded his arms.

"I have an idea." spoke Kahn.



"We will simply use a strategy.

It's the thirsty man who goes to the Well.

Not the other way around. Here, we are the Well." stated Kahn with an evil grin.

"We need to exploit that fact in our favor." spoke Kahn and gave a command.

"Announce this to the whole Alfheim.

We're creating a safe haven for all the mercenaries and all their families.

Regardless of their job, profession and origin, everyone is welcomed to join.

From now on... Mithios won't be just a mercenary guild." said Kahn as he revealed a very big move that would greatly affect their future.

"It will be a Sanctuary."

Chapter 749 New Settlement

One Month Later.

Thousands of people were heading towards the southern end of Alfheim after anticipating and being excited as they looked forward to a particular event that was about to happen today.

All the roads, flying ships and magic trains were full of people whether they were someone who was going to partake in what was about to transpire or just act as spectators.

In the past month, the entire city spanning 150 kilometers in radius had heard of the Mithios guild officially establishing a new settlement as they expanded their headquarters and also hired new mercenaries as their guild members.

However... this new announcement didn't just include offering employment to anyone with fighting class professions and the ability to use magic, but to their families as well.

The Mithios guild was basically going to adopt the entire family as their employees and other than the individual with required qualifications, they'd also offer homes and various forms of facilities and institutions such as free education, magic academics and work related to the families of these members.

This was a step no one had ever taken in the history of their empire, especially not in the Mercenary profession.

In a way... this step was too enticing for thousands of people regardless of their race with the ability to use magic.

Because not only their employment along with fair compensation to their families was promised should they die during a job... but their families would get a lot of benefits and job security.

However, if not a single member of the family could meet the conditions, then this offer wasn't available to them.

Yet, to many people at the bottom of the social structure and those who were poor and needed jobs, this was a huge opportunity.

Thus... thousands of people who awaited this day were flocking like birds towards the main headquarters of the Misthios guild.

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Kahn in his Legolas appearance was waiting inside his office while all the subordinates were tasked to overlook the affairs of the launching ceremony.

Many top-tier clients, their respective forces, business organization heads, people of the imperial rule and even officials from the military were invited for their opening ceremony.

There was a section arranged especially for these top figures of Alfheim and were treated with care and respect while receiving a warm welcome.

As for why did Kahn go so far?

He knew that just having a mercenary headquarters and a Blacksmith company wasn't going to cut it. There was a limit on what they could achieve as just a group of hired bodyguards or hunters.

Kahn was once a sovereign in the Rakos Empire, the person who made decisions that decided the fates of 230 million people depended on when he was their Sovereign.

So he decided to make an establishment of their own. Like a small town that they would use as a base to further their income.

Soon, they'd start their own businesses in various sectors and build buildings and houses.

As for the Business... Kahn used his connections here.

First, he offered Denzel, the 3 Qebika, Lukions and count Horik to establish their branches here, out of their domain.

And thus, their establishment was going to become a massive trade hub let it be a mercenary or adventurer.

They even made an academy for magic practice.

Thanks to the efficient elven construction methods and dozens of massive machines that worked on magic and earth element... their construction greatly expanded in the past month and now, 80% of the establishment was developed and ready to use at this point.

As long as people signed up according to the qualification... they'd be taught skills to make a living in the world.

They'd also be given jobs in the settlements and new companies or establishments Misthios was building like restaurants, construction companies, service sector.

With their connections with powerful people and bribing the honest men and also offering to do work for them at half the usual price no matter what it was... Legolas had gotten clearance from imperial authorities.

His identity as an Elf came in handy and his top-level clientele which also included a lot of Exalted and High Noble houses played a big part.

Even the President of the Mercenary Association was now trying to create a friendly relationship with their guild given their prestige and standing in society.

In the end, strength was the quickest way to rise in Vantrea.

The strong and powerful would also be favored upon.

Thus... it led to the current scenario where the 10 kilometer radius established filled with houses, enormous buildings and many squares were full of visitors and those who planned to join their guild.

However, the atmosphere around this estate was that of a merry celebration as thousands of people adorning weapons and armor along with their families including the young children had gathered in the widespread open spaces as if there was some cultural festival.

There were no guards or soldiers to maintain peace, rather it was the people amassed here who were the ones in charge of making sure that no one caused any form of trouble since everyone present thought of this occasion as a life-turning event.

Thud!

Thud!

Tall and monstrous creatures with horns and different colors of furs also trode among this crowd.

Tap!

Tap!

Finally, when the mood was settled... the main tower surrounded by various buildings, extended a platform forward towards the crowd below.

A group of people walked on this platform, adorning different armors and weapons of their own.

A white-haired hybrid, a mage, an assassin, a berserker, an archer, a healer, a tank and finally, a trident warrior appeared at the top of this platform and the crowd turned silent.

Raiden, Loki, Scorpion, Dante, Icarus, Darwin, Sigurd and Rudra made their appearance.

But soon, all 8 of them parted ways and divided into 2 groups of 4, standing quietly on opposite sides.

Step!

Step!

Finally, a short white-haired humanoid figure came out of the top of the tall tower and walked forth towards the end of this platform.

Legolas Ragnarsson aka the guild leader had his arms folded behind his back as he proudly gazed at all the people down below.

After he reached the end of this long platform and gazed down at the crowd of 30 thousand people, the majority of whom were warriors and magic class fighters... the surrounding froze and no one even dared to breathe loudly given the prestige of this person.

"Welcome to my humble settlement." said the ironborn elf.

"Free education for your children. Free living quarters allocated to each of you and your families.

We have already built practicing grounds to hone and perfect your battle skills and spells for each class and profession.

Soon, there will be multiple hospitals built and free medical care will be provided to everyone who is registered as part of our organization.

After we are officially open, there will be work for everyone who can't use magic including women and the elderly based on their experience and capabilities in the businesses in the settlements we're to establish.

For those who can use magic or invoked any particular skills... we will provide them with resources and training facilities to increase their strengths and mastery of their skills." declared Legolas, using various artifacts, his voice resounded in 5 kilometers radius and reached the ears of all the attendees.

All the people who heard these words spoken by this saint in the 5 kilometers vicinity had an excited as well as worshiping expression towards the individual who had given them a new life and provided a haven for their families.

"So tell me, Mithios..." spoke Legolas as his prestigious and domineering figure gazed from one end of the crowd to the other.

"What is your profession?!"

AHOO!!

AHOO!!

AHOO!!

Suddenly, the entirety of the crowd chanted together.

Everyone belonging to a fighting profession class started banging their weapons on shields or with other weapons. The mages, enchanters and summoners stomped their staves and scepters on the ground.

While the archers on flying monsters shot their arrows high in the sky that exploded loudly, releasing different elements and colors similar to grand displays of fireworks.

"This isn't just some settlement of hooligans and a ragtag bunch of outlaws. You're no longer without a place you belong to." said the elf as he raised his right fist high in the air.

Everyone present here looked towards this enigmatic yet oddly reliable figure with vehement eyes as if they were gazing at their life savior.

"This is your Sanctuary! This is your new home!" he roared like a lion, his voice reverberating and sending goosebumps to everyone present.

"This is Sparta!"

AHOO!!

AHOO!!

AHOO!!

Chanted more than 30 thousand people collectively spread across the 3 kilometers wide open grounds as they released their War Cry.

Those without weapons and fighting professions started stomping their feet. Even the ground trembled from the vibrations and loud cheers.

"All hail our mighty leader." screamed thousands of people in joy and excitement as all of them praised their ultimate leader to whom they had pledged their loyalty.

"The Mercenary King!!"

Chapter 750 Reaping Profits

One month passed in the blink of an eye.

Sparta, the settlement established by Kahn was now one of the biggest trading outposts in the southern region of Alfheim and thrived unceasingly.

Sparta became too famous and successfully took over the economic lead very quickly in the past month after Legolas and the commanders pulled all their connections and made use of all of their assets, making a large investment, spreading it further to a 20 kilometers wide region.

Over a million people of all races and various jobs came to Sparta for their own purposes. The availability and range of products in this settlement was something that exceeded Kahn's previous expectations.

At this point, even Adventurers and many merchants who dealt in various goods came here to do business.

This place sold the best stuff around the southern region of Alfheim altogether.

High-quality natural resources from Count Horik and many other Noble House's territories, various provisions and materials sold by the Merchant Guild established by 3 Qebikas; rare minerals and ores for crafting, construction and forging sold by the Lukion tribe, then top quality Alchemy products by Edmund's company which was their partner.

To add to the menu, Sparta also had a newly established branch regarding marine products and rare aquatic goods from Denzel Harrington's organization which was already a reputed and famous brand.

As for the Misthios guild, they provided high-grade weapons and armors through their own Blacksmithing company and sold their products to all fighting-class individuals as well as many of their powerful clients and nearby territories. As long as you needed a weapon, you could buy them here no matter which profession you were from.

On top of it, Kahn as Legolas had offered the same deal to many of his top clients to open their branches here and gave them security at the same time for a mutually agreed percentage from all these respective businesses.

Even so, how could this be enough for him?

This was just the attraction and why people came to visit Sparta. To find products they wanted and also sell their own stuff to big organizations here.

Just through the percentage in profits, Kahn and the gang earned 200 million itikar in only 1 month.

But it wasn't their biggest gain because the real money... was made using some other means.

With Sparta being bustling with millions of people on daily basis, what became the source of income that was the Service Sector.

Restaurants, food vendors, hotels, inns, transportation services, tour guides and every form of service a guest or an outsider roaming Sparta or coming here to do business would need was actually owned by Misthios guild. And all the people working as employees in these fine franchises were none other than the guild members and qualified individuals from their families.

Service sector always made a lot of money and if you owned all of it along with the share of profits from many renowned businesses... it would even outrank the profits you made by more direct jobs.

Passive income was always the best income even on earth. So with Kahn's business mind and his experience, he ventured into this field for the first time but still managed to make huge profits.

So far they made 550 million itikar just using these sources of income.

In simple words, business was booming.

And this was just the beginning era of their territory. There was always some room for improvement.

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In the beginning, Kahn suffered immense losses with the half-payment policy and had to spend a lot of money from his own pockets, the money that he printed on his own, to be honest.

But along the way, that very approach helped them establish a lot of connections in high places and create bonds with those who were in need of their help. And now... all those people turned into his reliable allies as well as business partners to a small degree, which helped him build this small domain within just 9 months of their arrival in the Zivot Empire.

Whether it was money or resources... Kahn and the group now had everything in Alfheim and just their name was enough to become a force of deterrence.

Now, nobody even dared to create trouble for this behemoth in Alfheim. Because everyone understood one thing. That this wasn't achieved through luck but pure skills.

History tells us that powerful people come from powerful places.

Well... history has always been only one depiction from the side that won the battle in the end.

What history written by those who do not want you to know the truth often doesn't tell you is that...

Powerful people make places... Powerful.

-----

One week later in the evening.

Schwooom!

Schwooom!

Multiple green and golden warships flew over Alfheim and stopped in the vast open grounds of the military headquarters of this city which was located at the western end.

Thousands of soldiers formed lines and the grandest welcome was offered to the VIPs who exited out of the 200 meter tall warship.

"The Hero's Party and Lord Ervalen Baslaark, the Hero of Life have graced us with their presence.

Let us all formally welcome them to Alfheim!" shouted a military officer.

Thousands of soldiers bowed in respect along with 4 saint rank officials who were the highest authority here.

"My Lords, allow us to escort you to living arrangements. Also, there will be a banquet held for you since this is the first time your lordships have visited Alfheim." spoke a 3rd stage saint official.

But the very next moment, a gentle voice reverberated in the surroundings.

"No need. We need to rest and plan for tomorrow.

I reckon you have everything ready for our 'adventure'?" said and asked Ervalen, the halfbreed elf chosen hero.

"Yes, lord Hero. Please rest tonight.

We leave tomorrow at noon." replied the official in an obedient and respectful tone.

At this very moment, inside the headquarters of the Mithios guild...

A meeting was held in Legolas' main office with all the subordinates present.

There was another saint present who was familiar to all of them since he was an ally.

"I want to hire your entire guild." spoke Edmund Thandruil, the saint alchemist and their business partner.

"For what job do you need our entire guild?" asked Legolas with a confused and curious countenance.

To his query, the human 2nd stage saint replied with a smile.

"For a Dungeon Exploration."