

Extras 371

Chapter 371 The Warning Of A Familiar

"[Divine Beast Summon]."

Rey's voice echoed throughout the vast room of the 99th Floor, as he made a wide smile.

His heart kept racing for some reason, and even though he didn't need to say the name of the Skill to activate it, he found himself declaring it very boldly.

Perhaps a part of him wanted Ater to hear it.

As expected, after he activated the Skill, a System Window appeared in front of him.

[Select Category Of Summon]

~Divine Tier (SS)~

~Absolute Tier (S)~

~Grand Tier (A)~

~Lesser Tiers (B - C)~

[Warning: You are not a Tamer, so unless you have a Skill that can subdue the Beast you are Summoning, there will be no way to control it.]

[End Of Information]

His smile grew wider.

"Brings back old memories, doesn't it?" Rey muttered, partially talking to Ater, who watched from in front of him.

The black suited Familiar sat in midair and observed the entire process.

His face was a lull, so Rey couldn't properly see what he was thinking of. Of course, due to their bond, he knew Ater was still bothered about the whole thing.

'Shouldn't you be happy about the growth of your Master?' Rey wondered to himself, eventually shrugging it off.

"I wonder if I should go for the Divine Tier this time..." A broader smile formed on his face.

Rey's [Absolute Dominion] Skill was the replacement for [Bonding], and it allowed him to make as many beings his Familiar as long as they were S-Tier entities or lower.

'Of course, Beasts also apply to this equation.'

The problem was that Divine Beasts were a Tier above that, so it would be impossible to control a Beast of that level if it was summoned.

'I'm not seriously considering it, but I could at least try, right? If it misbehaves, I have SS-Tier Skills I can use to subdue or even kill it.'

Rey's excitement was growing even higher.

"I mean... if we both work together, maybe we can subjugate the Beast, and I can—"

"No, Master." Ater's response was curt.

It was very rare to see Ater take such a blunt tone, even when addressing serious issues. He was usually very polite and subservient in his approach on matters.

Yet... his response this time was straightforward and borderline disrespectful.

"Do not attempt to summon a Divine Tier Beast, Master." He added, a serious frown now on his face.

Rey couldn't tell whether he was upset because he would summon a more powerful Beast than him and possibly make it his Familiar, or there was another underlying cause.

Even his connection with Ater gave him muddled responses.

"Why shouldn't I? Scared your position would be threatened by a newcomer?" Rey joked, his face a mask of playfulness.

In response to this, Ater merely scoffed and shrugged.

"There are only a few entities who could threaten my position, and I doubt you'd be able to summon them."

"Tch! Is that a challenge?" Rey responded back, surprised by Ater's rather loose tongue.

'He doesn't seem to be lying, based on our connection. And it seems he genuinely doesn't want me to summon a Divine Beast.'

"It's not a challenge, but a statement. I do not mind Master having more subordinates, as I have also suggested the idea to you in the past." Upon hearing Ater say this, Rey could remember their conversations on the issue.

Ater indeed wanted Rey to expand his influence.

"So why are you against the Beast Summoning?"

Ater shrugged upon hearing the question. His red eyes oozed sheer honesty as he opened his lips to speak.

"Because it isn't necessary at the moment. Master is already plenty powerful, and I am already competent enough as your Familiar. Having another one seems like a superfluous waste."

Rey didn't agree. One could never have too much power or resources.

"I respect Master's decision, however. You may go ahead with the Summon. Just don't attempt to summon one from the Divine Tier." Ater reiterated.

Once again, everything he said was genuine and honest.

"Hmmm... why though?"

Rey already knew his chances of success were low, but he always thought it would be worth a try at least. Besides, even if he didn't succeed, there was the opportunity of learning new Skills from the Beast before killing it.

'I currently have six Divine-Tier Skills. It should be more than enough to handle a Beast of that level.'

It wasn't like he hadn't at least thought it through.

"You will surely die if you summon one now." Ater replied with as much brute honesty as possible.

"H-huh...?" Rey's eyes twitched the moment he heard that.

"What do you mean die? As in, I do not have enough Mana to summon one?"

"No. That's not it. You most certainly have enough Mana to do so." Ater sighed, shaking his head a little as he spoke.

"The problem is that you would have no means to defeat it."

Rey didn't understand why Ater was speaking this way. Perhaps his Familiar greatly underestimated his strength.

"I have six Divine-Tier Skills, you know?"

"I am well aware. However, all of those won't be enough when facing a Beast in that category—at least, if you summon the real thing."

Rey felt even more confused.

'Is he saying Divine-Tier Skills won't suffice for a Divine-Tier Beast?'

"Master, what I am saying is simple..." Ater interrupted Rey's thoughts with his calm words.

"If a proper Divine Beast is summoned to this world, it will spell the end for everything you know and love. Including yourself."

Ater was a Beast himself, so Rey had to grant some credence to his words. Perhaps he knew something he didn't know about Beasts.

'I should trust his words...' His thoughts trailed as a sigh escaped his lips.

"Fine. I won't summon a Divine-Tier Beast."

"Maybe don't summon any at all."

"Don't push your luck."

"O-okay..."

Rey clenched his fist in annoyance, with a tinge of frustration. He really wanted to try seeing the full extent of the Skill.

It seemed Ater noticed that.

"Don't worry, Master. In the fullness of time, even Divine Beasts would beg to be your slaves."

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Chapter 372 Crimson Flurry

"In the fullness of time? Are you trying to make me feel better?" Rey smiled at his Familiar.

"Well, there's that..."

Rey shook his head and chuckled. Ater was also grinning, but it wasn't at all in amusement at all.

It was excitement.

"But there's more as well. Master, your power is incredible. I'm sure if you keep up your growth, you'll be able to tame a Divine Beast before the year runs out."

Rey didn't know what to say in response to that.

'A year seems pretty long...'

It had only been about three months—most likely even less—since he and his classmates arrived in this world, and yet he was already this powerful.

'Will it really take a year before I can get a Divine-Tier Beast as my Familiar?' Rey wanted it to merely be an underestimation, or a way for the Familiar to attempt stalling for time, but he knew how unrealistic that was.

Ater was bonded to him, and they shared a connection that made it impossible for the former to lie to him.

As a result, Ater always spoke the truth.

'It must be an accurate evaluation of my current state and growth rate.' Rey sighed.

He didn't allow himself to despair, though.

'I should just be content with my current state and summon what I can... for now, at least.'

Rey stared at the Status Window in front of him and picked the obvious choice—[Absolute Tier (S)].

The moment he did so, a Magic Circle appeared before him, and bursts of light and energy began to manifest from within it.

Rey had previously activated [Divine Power Ascension], a Buff Skill that granted him an immense boost in his Stats... especially Mana.

This was to prepare for summoning a Divine-Tier Beast. However, since he settled for a Tier lower, he didn't even feel any strain of Mana on him.

~FSHIIIIII!~

The bright light that emanated from within the Magic Circle was blazing red, and the walls of the 99th Floor radiated the bright crimson power that surged from within the limited space.

'This should be good!' Rey found his heart pounding with excitement as he watched the magic happen right before his eyes.

Despite his initial disappointment, he was super invested in what was emerging.

Ater, on the hand, rolled his eyes and shook his head. He even leaked out a tired sigh as he watched the whole thing play out.

It felt like he was impatiently waiting for it to be over.

Fortunately for him—and for the expectant Rey—the swirling crimson lights began to converge on a single position.

It revealed the identity of the newly summoned Absolute Beast.

"T-that is...!" Rey's eyes bulged, his eyes nearly popping out of his sockets as he gazed upon the mighty thing that appeared.

His lips trembled at the sight.

"Oh...?" Even Ater leaked out a little voice.

Neither had expected this outcome, so it was clearly a surprise—albeit an unpleasant one.

"... What the fuck is this?!"

Sitting at the center of the Magic Circle was an egg.

It looked just a bit larger than a chicken egg, but it had the same shape and a similar-looking texture. The only difference was that this egg was bright red, which made it appear more plastic than authentic.

It looked like one of those toy eggs he used to play with as a kid.

"An egg...? That's my Familiar?" Rey muttered in disbelief.

"Technically, it's not yet your Familiar. You have to—"

"Yeah, I know. Thanks for reminding me, Ater." Rey dryly replied, making a wry smile in the process.

"You're welcome, Master."

Rey felt his veins nearly pop when he heard that. It was either that Ater didn't recognize sarcasm when he heard it, or he knew what Rey meant and chose to also give his own sarcastic reply.

Either way, Rey found himself to be the loser.

'I can feel it. Ater is happy right now!' He frowned his face as he stared at his Familiar, who was busy looking at the egg.

'This guy...'

Ater was most likely rejoicing that he ended up with a cheap looking egg and not some ultra-rare Overpowered Absolute Beast.

'Oh well... I can't judge a book by its cover.' Rey sighed, finally recovering from the disappointment that echoed within him.

'Absolute Appraisal'

[System Information]

~A crimson egg~

[End Of Information]

'E-eh...?'

Rey couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the only details that his [Absolute Appraisal] gave.

'H-hold on, this could mean either of two things.'

It could either mean that the egg was too strong for [Absolute Appraisal] to properly identify it.

If that was the case, then Rey felt like he had hit a jackpot.

'But if that's the case, shouldn't it have shown no information at all? Maybe it would have shown something like [Error] or something...' An intrusive thought entered Rey's head, but he quickly shrugged it off.

He didn't want to have to consider the second possibility.

—A chance that the egg was a bust.

'Logically speaking, it's more likely that it's a special egg that [Absolute Appraisal] can't properly detect.'

After all, Skills were supposed to deliver according to their functions, so it would be a big problem if his Divine-Tier Skill made such a silly mistake like this.

'Besides, both Alicia and I have used it to summon Beasts before, so I know it's legit.'

Rey couldn't properly detect how much energy the egg had, but when it was summoned, the immense crimson energy that appeared told him that it had to be somewhat powerful.

'It had an intense Mana, after all.'

After piecing all of this together, Rey abandoned his disappointment and stepped forward to use his [Absolute Dominion] on the thing.

[Dominion Successful]

[Congratulations! You have acquired a Familiar, and a secure 'Bond' has been established between the two of you. The Familiar will forever be subject to you, and will be molded according to your will]

[Unfortunately, the Familiar is in a suspended state. Please wait patiently for the suspended state to be over]

"Haa.. and how long will that take?" Rey wondered aloud, his thoughts nearly a mess.

[3 Weeks, 5 Days, and 11 Hours from now]

Once Rey saw this, his face deflated and he had no choice but to croak his response.

"U-understood..."

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Chapter 373 Another Try

"There, there, little egg."

Rey caressed the small object in his hand, whispering to it as he watched Ater approach him.

"You better grow to be big and strong so you can prove your big bro Ater wrong, okay?"

Ater chuckled as he heard Rey say this. He had an air of ease around him, nearly shrugging aside all the events that had transpired.

The Magic Circle was long gone, and since the task was complete, it was time to return home.

"Shall we leave now, Master?" Ater asked with a sparkling smile on his face.

"No."

"E-eh...?"

Ater's surprise at his Master's words caused his handsome and calm face to display hints of nervousness.

Somehow, he already knew what was on Rey's mind.

"I'm going to try again!" Rey declared, snorting out steam from his nose.

"B-but Master... you said you'd try one at a time."

Ater's complaints fell on deaf ears. Rey's determined face made it clear that he wanted to have another Absolute Familiar.

"How have I been inadequate, Master? I'll try to be better, so let us just stop for today..." He pleaded even more.

However, Rey shook his head as he maintained his stone-cold face.

"I can only pray for something special to come out of that egg. But, I also need something I can use now."

Since his [Absolute Dominion] allowed him to make as many Familiars as he wanted, as long as he could handle them, he wanted to give it another try.

"But Master, excessive summoning causes space to experience an imbalance. It might not be safe to use a Summon Skill of such a scale again"

Rey shook his head again and raised it in determination.

"My [Absolute Spatial Domain] tells me that this space can handle at least one more Summoning. If I manipulate the space around me, I can make it handle two or even three more!"

Rey's stern demeanor shattered apart as a wide smile crept on his face. He seemed to be the very personification of evil as he grinned with bloodshot eyes.

His desperation was palpable.

"But Master—!"

"You just sit back and watch..." Rey stepped forward and prepared himself for what was to happen next.

He placed his egg within his [Grand Inventory], and inhaled deeply.

"I'll summon something good this time."

[Moments Later]

"Another egg?!"

Rey nearly shed tears as he held a similarly shaped egg in his hands.

This time, the egg was blue, matching the bursts of energy that flowed from within the Circle when the Summoning took place.

"Why...?" Rey muttered.

Why was he so unlucky today?

Of course, he knew that whatever was inside the eggs would be competent and strong, but they would take quite a long time before they hatched.

Just one look at the System Panel in front of Rey told him that fact.

[3 Weeks, 5 Days, and 11 Hours from now]

'The same amount of time as the red one. What's going on here? Are they siblings or something...?'

Rey sighed and hung his head in shame, until a hand fell on his shoulder.

He looked up and saw Ater smiling at him while raising a thumb in encouragement.

"Why not try again, Master? Who knows... you could get something a lot better this time!"

Rey beamed the moment Ater said this.

He didn't expect the guy who was so against all of this to encourage him this way.

"Alright..." Rey wiped away his nonexistent tears and placed the second egg in his [Grand Inventory].

It was time to try his luck a third time.

'I'll use [Absolute Spatial Domain] to stabilize the space around me so it doesn't cause a problem to summon something else.'

Ater stepped aside and smiled at Rey. The two of them exchanged nods and waited in anticipation for what would come next.

'Give me something good this time!'

[Moments Later]

"It's purple this time..." Ater commented as he looked at the egg clasped in Rey's hands.

Just like the previous times, Rey managed to summon another egg.

"This is impressive in of itself. I've never seen anyone consistently summon the same thing three times." Ater smiled as he rubbed his chin.

"You're pretty amazing, Master."

Rey thought the praise sounded sarcastic, but that wasn't what his bond with Ater told him.

"I'm tired of this..." Rey sighed, placing the third egg in his Inventory. "This purple egg will take three months to hatch, unlike the previous ones. That's even worse."

As he slumped to the ground, sitting on the dirt, Ater's voice came to him.

"Why don't you try again—?"

"Shut up! You've made your point already!" Rey cried out, resting his back on the floor as he held his head with both hands.

"I get it! I'll just rely on you more."

Ater's smile widened as he heard that, and Rey felt his joy resonating within him.

"This guy..."

Rey couldn't blame him for the whole thing, though. Just like him, Ater was also a spectator to the whole event.

No one could have guessed what came out.

"Don't look so sad, Master. You only need to be patient for a short while to see the fruits of today's labor." Ater smiled intently.

"Yeah, yeah..."

As Rey's voice trailed and his sigh echoed in the deserted Floor, a sudden thought manifested in his mind.

"Hey, Ater... do you know what's inside those eggs?"

In response to his, Ater narrowed his gaze and his smile deepened.

"I can't be sure, but I can make a guess. Want me to tell you?" He asked with a calm demeanor.

"No, don't spoil it for me." Rey responded with a relaxed smile. "I want it to be a surprise."

The excitement he had when he used [Divine Beast Summon] and didn't know what he was going to get... Rey didn't want to lose it when the eggs hatched.

"Just tell me one thing." Rey turned to look at Ater.

"Are they strong?"

Ater took a few seconds to process the question. He placed a hand on his chin and closed his eyes while inhaling deeply.

"Well, if I had to say, then..." A genuine smile formed as he stared back at Rey.

"... Yes, they are strong."

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Chapter 374 Astonishing Growth

"That settles it, then. I guess I'll just be patient."

The smiling Ater nodded as Rey made his conclusive statement.

"That is most respectable."

Rey pushed himself from the ground, and in a huff of wind, he was right on his feet. Ater was right behind him, and they were both smiling.

... Almost as if they just finished having a round of fun.

"So what now, Master?"

"Well, the most urgent matters have been dealt with already. The only thing of immediate concern is completing the Royal Dungeon Raid." Rey answered.

After that was over, he suspected there would no longer be any reason to remain in the Capital.

"Calculating their current growth rate, they should be done with the Raid in about two weeks." He turned back to look at Ater.

"Then what?"

"Well, I suspect we'll finally get drafted to the battlefield. It's about time, considering we would have spent three months here." Rey replied.

"True. And do you think they will be ready for the Dragons by the end of the two weeks?"

Ater's question caused a moment of silence to permeate the room. Despite the decorum, however, there was no tension.

Rey's expression remained as relaxed as before.

"I guess we'll see once the time comes. Besides, there's no reason for them to be anxious..." His confident grin complemented his words.

"... After all, I'll be there."

Ater's smile deepened and he nodded at his Master's words.

"Fair enough. I look forward to seeing your exploits in battle." He bowed his head while placing his hand on his chest.

"Likewise. I still haven't seen you fight."

"Haha!" The Familiar laughed in delight. "Then, I suppose we both have something to look forward to."

Once they were done conversing, Rey opened a portal and the two departed away from the 99th Floor, and by extension the Royal Dungeon.

—Ready to visit it the next day.

[Two Weeks Later]

"Alright, everyone..."

Ralyks stood in front of the team of nine—ten, if they counted Snow—who were currently on a Raid of the Royal Dungeon.

They were on the 97th Floor, the last viable Floor of the Royal Dungeon, and not only had they finished dealing with the mobs, but they now stood in front of a very massive double-door.

The thing looked like a fortress—an impenetrable wall—only divided by a thin line. All they had to do was push the two sides to open the door, but its imposing presence made the entrance seem a lot more difficult.

... At least, this was what they would have thought two weeks ago.

However, these Otherworlders were not the same as before.

Despite standing before their final—and probably most difficult—hurdle, they all had smiles on their faces.

Excitement flowed within the room as Ralyks stood to address them.

"As agreed on, I won't render any assistance, no matter how bad the situation is. This is your final test, and if you are unable to cross this hurdle, none of you will be qualified enough to go to the War."

Despite saying that, however, Ralyks had a mild tone.

He was merely following formalities, as he already knew the capabilities of the Otherworlders and there was no doubt in his mind about the outcome.

"Don't slack off or embarrass yourselves here." He said, almost in an amused chuckle.

"I expect nothing short of flawless victory."

The looks on the faces of Adonis, Alicia, Billy, Belle, Clark, Justin, Eric, Trisha, and Rey all showed the same expression.

"Is that understood?" As the question was posed to them, they unanimously gave the same reply.

"Understood!"

And so, the gates were opened, and the group of nine charged forth to meet the denizens of horror.

What they met... was an army.

Not just any army resided in this massive hall that was the 97th Floor's Boss Room, but Monsters that looked incredibly similar to the S-Tier creature they defeated before.

Of course, these ones were a lot smaller, but they also had Mana Crystals protruding outside their bodies, and their entire self reeked of immense power.

Then there was the Boss.

It was much larger than the horrid creature they faced that day

—undeniably a more powerful S-Tier Monstrosity.

Having to fight an army of A-Tier Monsters was not enough, but they also had to defeat an S-Tier Monster as well.

It was an impossible task to ask of teenagers.

Fortunately, these weren't ordinary teenagers. They couldn't even be considered mere Otherworlders any longer.

No... they had become more.

Each and every one of them were at least in Level 90, and they possessed even more Skills than they previously had before.

Some—like Eric Belle, and Rey—had even gotten advanced variants of their initial Class.

Needless to say, they were even more monstrous than the Monsters that surrounded them.

"I'll take on the Boss!" Adonis declared as he raced ahead of the team, his gleaming Divine Sword in hand.

No one argued with him, and none of them gave any look of concern as the Hero charged at the creature of unimaginable mass and incredible power.

Why would they?

The way Adonis cut down the obstacles in his path, all to reach the foe, said it all.

He was strong enough to face the Boss!

And what of the rest of the Otherworlders? They were surrounded by incredibly violent and bloodthirsty creatures, but none of them wavered in the slightest.

Instead, they stuck to their formation and executed their strategy with absolute calmness and precision.

No one lagged behind—not even the weakest of the bunch, Rey.

Even he... he was also at Level 90!

He had gotten an advanced variant of his Class too, and despite being objectively weaker than pretty much everyone, his display of skill exceeded nearly everyone in the group.

It wasn't just Rey that displayed impressive feats, though.

Everyone played their roles well, and in just under ten minutes... the Raid was complete.

Victory belonged to the Otherworlders, and it wasn't even close.

This was never a battle, to begin with.

It was a massacre!

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Chapter 375 On Another Level

"Fuwahh! That was tough!"

Whether this was a sarcastic statement or not, it didn't matter to Justin, the blabbermouth. He stretched his body as he said this.

Those around him couldn't help but smile and laugh, though some agreed with him to some level.

"Well, we did go down five Floors at once today. It's understandable if you're exhausted." Eric snickered.

This seemed to quickly change Justin's disposition.

"N-no, that's not what I meant. Of course, I'm not exhausted."

More laughs echoed from the students around as they made small talk among themselves. Of course, they weren't idle either. freeweb novel. com

Rather than let Ralyks' Undead subordinates to harvest the Monster Cores, they took it upon themselves. Since they were a bit ahead of schedule, they had a lot of time to spare.

All of them had also gotten the hang of harvesting Monster Cores, so it was pretty easy.

"As I was saying..." Justin said as he poked his hand into the corpse of the Monster before him. The dense skin felt like a thick layer of butter as he slipped inside and got the prize.

"... I just thought they were a little tough. Mobility definitely played a big factor in the fight."

"Well, I suppose..." Eric rubbed his chin with one hand as he used the other to shave off the Mana Crystals from the bodies of the fallen creatures.

Clark and Trisha were beside them, so they too joined the conversation—all of them discussing alternative ways they could have dealt with the Monsters, even after the fact.

It was a heartwarming sight.

As for Adonis, he was busy with the colossal corpse of the Monster, harvesting all its useful parts by its lonesome.

"Its body was already on the verge of expiration, so the Monster Hide won't be useful for anything..." He muttered with a slight frown.

"It seems its rapid evolution ended up killing it. No wonder there aren't any S-Tier Monsters..."

Even with the corpse itself being of no use, the Monster Core, Mana Crystals, and specific parts of the Monster's body—like the jaws and claws—could be useful as raw materials for certain Enchanted Items.

Adonis smiled as he turned to see the rest of his classmates, all of them working hard in their respective locations. He couldn't help but feel a warm sensation course through his heart.

"They're all here..." His smile deepened.

Everyone was in a group, socializing. Billy and Clark were speaking to each other, and Trisha was talking to the boys. Alicia and Rey were working together, with Snow closely by Alicia's side.

Belle was the only one who separated herself from the group, but that seemed to be intentional.

'She's talking to Sir Ralyks again, huh? Those two seem to be getting close these days...'

Adonis could never hear their conversation, no matter how hard he tried. He figured it had something to do with interference from Sir Ralyks, so he stopped trying to find out.

He only hoped all was well.

'I still don't know who this man was in my past life. He's helped us out a great deal, but... if he was this powerful and kind, then where was he in the past?'

Adonis was sure a lot had changed in the world thanks to his interference, but... surely, there had to have been some trace of Ralyks in his past life. Yet, no matter how long Adonis thought of it, he couldn't get anything.

'Well, Belle seems happy talking to him... so I'm happy to see that.' Adonis smiled.

After they were done harvesting the Monster Cores, they would leave the mining of resources to the Undead that Ralyks commanded. The reason was due to just how many minerals they had to mine.

... Including Adamantite, the strongest metal in the world.

None of the students had tools necessary for mining Adadmantite, and the entire process wasn't only very time-consuming, but also incredibly tasking.

'We've all worked hard enough for the day, and we're even mining Monster Cores...' Adonis nodded in satisfaction.

Ralyks had taught everyone everything they needed to know about exploring a Dungeon, so Adonis was convinced he was a veteran Adventurer.

As a result of his teachings, all the Otherworlders knew how to mine, harvest cores, and a bunch of other Dungeon activities that Adventurers practiced.

It led to a very satisfying and wholesome result.

'I'm in Level 150 now, about 100 Levels higher than what I expected to have at this point.'

Everyone had also grown a lot more than expected.

'Now then...' Adonis smiled as he thought of something that had been on his mind for a while.

'We should be ready for it—The Great Calamity!'

'Impressive! They've all grown spectacularly well!' Rey grinned as he conversed with Alicia.

They were talking about cats, specifically about petting them.

Fortunately, after his experience with Ater, he could relate to the conversation. He found himself silently appreciating his Familiar for choosing the reward that he did.

That way, he and Alicia were able to get engrossed in their discussion.

As she spoke, though, Rey couldn't help but go over what truly made him excited about the day.

'Everyone has grown so strong.'

Even though Rey couldn't see Adonis' Status Window, he estimated that the guy was around Level 140-150... somewhere within that range.

However, for his other classmates, seeing their growth was as simple as using [Absolute Appraisal].

'Alicia is currently in Level 99. That's a big step-up from when she first started.' Rey grinned as he looked at the girl next to him.

She was about two Levels higher than the average students who averaged at around Level 97. There were exceptions to the rule, however.

Billy, for one, was in Level 101. Belle was even higher, with a Level of 105.

'Ater must really be motivating her. She's been grinding like crazy...'

Her Class even changed from Great Mage to Heretic Mage—

having the same Class Tier as Lucielle, though hers focused mostly on offensive abilities rather than a balanced approach.

Eric, thankfully, also advanced his Class to a B-Tier Class called Arcane Mage, which involved manipulating energies and controlling stuff, rather than utilizing elements the way an Elemental Mage would.

'He's in Level 97, but I'd say he had a big win getting a Class advancement...'

'Clark, Justin, and Trisha are also in Level 97. They've all grown a lot too, and it seems they've added a couple Non-Exclusive Skills to their arsenal.'

All in all, it was undebiable progress.

'Even Snow has advanced.' Rey cast his gaze on the white rabbit that constantly stood beside Alicia.

'She's Level 15...'

Beasts found it difficult to Level Up, and most of the time, Rey had to give the students chances to grow so it wouldn't be too much in favor of Alicia and her Familiar. As a result, Snow's options were limited.

Despite that, she was able to reach Level 15.

'I find that impressive.' He beamed, opening his lips to respond to Alicia's question about—who could have guessed it—cats.

'With everyone growing so strong so fast, it makes me wonder...'

Even as Rey spoke, his mind was still working just fine. An image appeared in his mind, and it caused his eyes to darken a little.

'... How strong Adrien has become.'

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Chapter 376 Farewell Presents [Pt 1]

The ambiance within the Royal Estate was sullen that evening.

As everyone stood in a straight line, all of them facing the man who had guided them thus far, an electrifying energy rushed within their hearts despite the solemn atmosphere.

A tint of orange dyed their faces thanks to reflections from the sky above them. All the students—some more than others—had glistening eyes. Even the two surviving members of the Royal Council were present, standing behind the Otherworlders as they looked at a single man.

"Sir Ralyks... on behalf of everyone here, I'd like to thank you for everything you've done for us." Adonis stepped forward and bowed his head.

"THANK YOU, SIR RALYKS!" They all bowed in respect.

The man shrouded in darkness said nothing. He merely watched their display of respect in silence.

"The Royal Council also thanks you greatly." Vida and Conrad stepped forward with respectful smiles plastered on their faces.

"Not only did you help train the Alliance's greatest asset against the Dragons, but the resources that this Raid has contributed to the cause is more than we can imagine. It will definitely have a positive impact on the battle to come."

Every word they said was genuine. It was obvious that every single one who stood in that plain field had one thing or the other to be grateful to Ralyks for.

He saved them.

He made them stronger.

He made them richer.

... All without getting anything substantial for his troubles.

There was a lot of mystery about his identity, and it was easy to suspect him for several things. However, no one dared to do so.

Who could sully his good name?

He was the Dark Adventurer, the Reaper, the Hero of the Capital.

No one could deny it any longer—Sir Ralyks was the strongest, most compassionate, and most brutal man they had ever laid eyes on.

And these qualities were what made him deserving of all the affection and respect he recieved.

"Your thanks are misplaced. It shouldn't be me you should thank."

His words rang of modesty, but the tone in which he spoke them seemed reminiscent of a bit of anger and regret.

"In any case, you should all be proud of yourselves." He quickly changed the topic. "You did well."

No one knew what Ralyks looked like under the mask, but there were theories.

Some thought he was a man scarred by something—both physically and emotionally—so he embarked on a journey to become strong. There were variants of this Origin Story, with some speculating that a Monster killed his family, while others theorizing that it was a Dragon.

Either way, this theory hinged on a tragic past that spurred Ralyks to don a mask and become strong. It also explained why he was so concerned about strength and his desire for all the Otherworlders to become strong.

Some thought he was a weakling in the past, which was why he decided to personally train Rey until the boy could hold his own with the other members of the team.

Some thought he was an old hermit, while others felt like he was simply a young genius.

There was a particularly weird theory that claimed Ralyks was actually a woman in disguise. Of course, the proponent of this was none other than Justin.

Regardless of which theory was right or wrong, everyone who saw Ralyks at that moment and heard his words of praise felt the same thing.

'He's smiling under that mask!'

"You completed the Raid faster than I expected, and as a reward for that... I have decided to give all of you presents."

Everyone appeared excited once they heard this.

Now that their Levels had increased drastically, their Equip Limit had also gone up. That meant they could get even more Enchanted Items to aid them on the next phase of their journey.

Sir Ralyks truly was considerate!

"Step forward once I call your name." He began, looking at the leader of the team as the first on the list.

"Adonis Levi."

The golden haired boy stepped forward in all his grace. A determined look fueled his face, and he appeared tense despite the calm atmosphere.

"You were the most exceptional throughout the raid. I truly believe you have incredible potential—enough to surpass the 'Ralyks' that is before you."

No one knew why the Dark Adventurer chose to speak of himself in the third person, but they went with the flow.

"Here. Have this." Floating atop his hand was a cube.

The cube had multiple colors, and it warbled while floating. A mix of ominous and pure sensations wafted from the object as Adonis stared at it.

"T-this is...!"

"So you know what it is and what it does, huh? Interesting..." Ralyks said in slight amusement.

"Sir Ralyks, where did you find this item?"

"You don't need to concern yourself with that. Just take it."

Adonis looked very conflicted as he stared at the floating cube. On one hand, he eyed it greedily, but on the other hand, he was very reluctant to accept it.

After a single second of deliberation, however, the box was in his hands.

"I believe you do not need to hear this from me, but use it sparingly, okay?"

"Y-yes! I understand." Adonis nodded.

"Good. Now then, on to the next..."

Adonis caressed the box in his palms as he went back to his position on the line.

"Belle Vanitas. Step forward."

The excited blond girl seemed to race to Ralyks' front the moment she heard her name.

"You surprised me the most out of everyone. Your start was a bit rough and average, but you've really grown a lot. That is very pleasing to see."

"Kyaaaaa!" Like an incorrigible fangirl, Belle shrieked with delight.

Everyone could see how heavily she was blushing, and some began to put to question the nature of her relationship with Ralyks was.

They also wondered how 'appropriate' it was.

"For your hard work and dedication... here." Right in Ralyks' grasp was a ring, so pretty that no one could get their eyes off it.

It glittered even more than diamonds.

"This is yours, Belle. Take it."

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Chapter 377 Farewell Presents [Pt 2]

Once people saw the ring, their questions grew into suspicion.

Why was Ralyks giving Belle a ring? Of course, they didn't particularly question Ralyks' integrity, as they had noticed it was Belle who constantly flocked around him.

He also behaved appropriately at all times.

As such, no one could really blame him. Besides, people became adults at the age of 16 in this world, and so it wouldn't be strange if Ralyks treated Belle as an adult.

He wasn't averse to putting them in harm's way, so he probably thought they were all mature enough to handle themselves.

When one put all of these factors together, it would be a really far off assumption to blame Ralyks for what just transpired. However, no matter how clean a record one had, there would always be one person who saw another angle to it.

"That's very sus..." Justin commented while giving a naughty smile.

Unfortunately for him, he was stifled by the jabs and knocks from his fellow students before he could say any more to disgrace himself.

Needless to say, most of the students accepted the ring in good faith. It looked like a powerful Enchanted Item, and was bound to help the wielder well.

No one had any complaints, and other than Justin, they all sort of received it well.

The only other person who seemed to take the perverted approach was none other than Belle herself.

She was blushing violently as Ralyks handed her the ring, despite it having no romantic connotations at all. Tears fell from her eyes, and she staggered back a few steps, almost as if she was going to faint.

Thankfully, it didn't happen.

Instead, she took the ring with shivering hands and bowed her head to Ralyks—probably to hide how intensely she was blushing, though it was already too late.

"I am g-grateful for this gift, Sir Ralyks. I will strive to do even more to please you."

Many felt Belle's words were a bit off, but they assumed she meant something along the lines of "I won't fall short of your expectations." or "I won't disappoint you."

Only Justin found it incredibly suspicious, but he couldn't risk saying another word.

A few eyes were already focused on him, waiting to see him run his mouth so they could get another satisfying round with him.

Belle returned to the line, and the next person that was called was Rey, whom everyone knew was the most obvious option.

He had, by far, the most surprising contribution to the mission.

From someone who could be seen as incredibly incompetent, he was able to distinguish himself as a valid member of the fight force, mostly relying on his very impressive combat abilities to make up for his lack of power.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that all the students who watched him step forward now respected him. The nods they gave as he walked towards Ralyks showed just that.

The camaraderie was palpable.

Out of everyone, Alicia's smile was the brightest, as she even leaked tears as she watched Rey receive some kind of necklace. He turned back to watch his classmates, smiling and waving at her in particular.

She smiled at him so sweetly, you would think they were more than just friends.

While everyone had grown to respect Rey, Alicia already respected him for some time. She was just so happy to see him gain the recognition he deserved.

The only other person who showed this level of happiness was Adonis, and a few steps lower than that was Trisha.

"Good job, Rey..." Were words that trailed from Alicia's lips as she looked at her friend.

"Next is Alicia White."

It wasn't surprising to anyone that she would come next. Not only had she improved her overall abilities, but with her Familiar by her side, she was an even bigger force to be reckoned with.

As Rey returned to the line and Alicia stepped forward, the both of them made a high five—with the clap echoing throughout the field.

It was clear to everyone that each celebrated the other's success.

It didn't take long for the entire ceremony to be over, and afterwards the Otherworlders were dismissed to their living quarters.

They all had smiles on their faces, though one particular student wasn't all too pleased despite the facade he put up.

"That damn Ater... what the hell was he thinking?" Rey's thoughts trailed.

'He didn't tell me he would be giving everyone gifts. Where the hell did he get those items from?'

Rey suspected that he got most of them from the KariBlanc Group, and after using [Absolute Appraisal] on them, he was able to confirm that to be true.

The only exception was the item he gave to Adonis.

'The Unknown Box... where did he get that from?' Rey wondered to himself.

The Enchanted Item had one function, and it was to bring forth the full potential of a particular Skill, irrespective of the Mana Cost and the likes. It could only be used by its wielder once a day, and there weren't any Tier Limits placed on the Item.

'It's an S-Tier, so I should assume that its limited only to S-Tier Skills, right? Also, did Ater make it himself?'

Rey wasn't particularly jealous that Adonis had recieved this gift. After all, the current Rey had more than enough Mana to activate any of his Skills.

He wasn't even mad about Adonis' present.

It was what Ater gave Belle that greatly concerned him.

'I ignored what they had going because it was helpful to Belle's growth, and he wasn't controlling her in any way. But this... this is too much!' Rey's thoughts echoed in his mind.

Why would Ater go and give her a ring, especially despite knowing how Belle currently viewed Ralyks?

'I feel like I would be a scummy person if I ignored this...'

The good news was that Ralyks was pretty much gone from the lives of the Otherworlders now that the Royal Dungeon Raid was over.

His involvement was just a device meant to facilitate the growth of everyone involed.

'And now... it's all over.' Rey smiled as he sighed in relief.

'All that's left is to wrap things up nicely.'

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Chapter 378 Secret Meeting [Pt 1]

"So... how are things now?"

Ralyks was seated on a couch within the vast reception hall of the main building within the Royal Estate. He was such a distinguished individual that the Royal Council considered him more than worthy to be treated with the utmost courtesy.

The entire room sparkled with luxury. The curtains were made of fabrics of the highest order. The same could be said about the carpets and furniture.

Exquisite paintings could be seen in all directions, and the fine decor radiated such pristine elegance that it could only belong to the very top of the social ladder.

Of course, the most expensive kind of chandelier was affixed to the cieling, and the sheer radiance it depicted could make any man shed tears.

The fact that Ralyks was not overwhelmed by this experience simply spoke volume of his character, and how he was probably used to this kind of excessive luxury.

He was clearly unfazed.

"Things have stabilized, thankfully." Conrad answered his question. Seated beside him were Adonis and Vida, both of whom were parties to the secret meeting between Ralyks and the Alliance's higher-ups.

The goal on the side of the Royal Council—which the Hero was informally now a part of—was simple, yet difficult.

... To make Ralyks a permanent ally of the United Human Alliance.

His strength and resourcefulness was enough to make them unanimously decide that this was the best course of action that they could take.

They were willing to ignore his unknown identity and shady abilities.

As long he was on their side... that was all that mattered.

"That is good to hear." Ralyks responded calmly, as always.

The ball was in the court of the Royal Council. For the Dark Adventurer, he had confirmed all he wanted to know.

It had been a bit over two weeks since the Dark Gathering, as well as the Full Sweep Incident of the Merchant City.

A lot had happened since then.

Not only were things dug into and further investigated by the Royal Council, but they were able to discover even more criminals tied to the Underworld.

The eerie thing about their investigation, however, was that anytime they tracked down one of the people they had confirmed to be complicit in the illegal side of the Alliance, those individuals were already dead.

It was almost as if someone, somewhere, was carrying out divine judgment.

They had asked Ralyks about it, but he claimed not to be involved, so they had to figure out who was responsible for the Nation-wide culling that was happening.

Other than that aspect of things, everything else was stable.

"We aren't sure how many shadows are still lurking around, but everyone is working diligently to search for the last remains of the criminal underworld." Vida added with a smile.

"That's good to hear..." Ralyks responded once again.

"We've also recovered most of the resources that the Dark Triumvirate hoarded. Since they now belong to the Alliance, we plan on properly redistributing the wealth and also ensuring the relevant resources go towards the battlefield."

Adonis' words were coupled with his smile.

The older ones beside him nodded in total agreement. Every resource they got from the entire incident would be geared towards the betterment of humanity.

"You've all done well." Ralyks said, nodding in satisfaction.

His audience beamed once they noticed he was pleased with the full analysis of their activities.

"No, we didn't really do much, Sir Ralyks."

"It's all thanks to you, Sir Ralyks."

"We really owe you more than words can say, Sir Ralyks."

Their words were most certainly true, but they also had the intention of asking for even more of his favor. As such, they had to take on this approach.

"You are still yet to receive your reward, Sir Ralyks. Please tell us what you would like. Even though what we have is limited, we will grant you anything we have the power to." Conrad took the bold step to ask the pending question. freeweb novel. com

Everyone waited to hear what their masked hero would say.

However, much to their surprise, he just shrugged as soon as the question was posed.

"There's nothing on my mind at the moment. I'll think about it and get back to you." Ralyks' response betrayed his identity as an Adventurer.

It caused the three who heard him to open their mouths in shock.

"Is that fine?" His modesty and exemplary attitude painted him as a saint—far more righteous than any man could possibly be.

Beads of sweat fell from their faces and they nodded.

"Y-yes, it's fine!"

Now that they had confirmed his true nature, this was the perfect time to ask for the alliance. Conrad, Vida, and Adonis exchanged nods, their signal obvious to the man who sat directly opposite them.

They seemed like excited children who were ready to execute a plan. They didn't care, though—not when such an opportunity had presented itself to them.

Before the three could say any more, though, a question arrived from Ralyks.

"Do you fear me?"

Once the question echoed in the hall, there was silence. Absolute, undisputed silence pervaded everything.

Conrad, Adonis, and Vida looked at Ralyks, unable to see beyond his dark mask and crimson eyes as he awaited their response.

Their gulps didn't seem too strange as well.

"To be honest... yes. I fear you, Sir Ralyks." The first to speak was Adonis.

He had a grave expression on his face, which made his answer seem that more genuine.

"You're different from anyone I've ever encountered. Your power is unreal, and your kindness is unmatched. In all honesty, you seem too perfect."

This came from the guy whom everyone thought was perfect.

Adonis was the golden standard for what an exemplary person should be: strong, kind, powerful, and well-mannered.

Yet, Ralyks beat him in almost every regard.

"Your power is worthy of awe, Sir Ralyks. But... your strength is ultimately unfathomable. And we tend to fear what we can not understand." Conrad added with a sad smile.

"Forgive us. It's just the nature of the weak." Vida gave the same kind of smile as Conrad.

In the end, their answer was unanimous.

They feared Ralyks.

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Chapter 379 Secret Meeting [Pt 2]

"I see. It's understandable..."

Upon hearing Ralyks' response, they bowed their heads in appreciation.

"Thank you for your understanding."

Ralyks shrugged, and while the tension was still quite high, Adonis took the opportunity to simply blurt out the words that were difficult to say.

"We hope you will continue to be our ally, Sir Ralyks. We've been able to advance so much thanks to you. We do not want to lose your help."

There were a bunch of questions regarding Ralyks, but none of them asked them at this moment.

Questions like; "Why isn't he fighting in the war against the Dragons" or "Where has he been all this time?"

They were irrelevant at the moment.

Ralyks must have had his reasons for not showing up until now, and for not joining the front lines to defeat the ones who threatened all of their lives.

It wasn't in their place to judge him—especially after his contribution to the cause.

All they could do was request for more help.

"Rest assured. I am indeed on the side of humanity. I won't do anything to the detriment of the people."

The audience beamed as soon as he said this. It was more than just a promise. It was an assurance given by the most powerful man in the world.

That was more than enough for the Royal Council to be satisfied.

"Thank you... for being an ally of humanity." Conrad rose to his feet and shook Ralyks' hand. Afterwards, the other two took their turn to do the same.

"We are most grateful, Sir Ralyks."

Once Ralyks left, Vida was the first to plop to the couch, her lips bursting with a loud sigh of relief.

"Haaa... that went super well!" She beamed.

Not only nad Ralyks not requested for any reward, but he also confirmed to be on their side. This was most certainly the best-case scenario.

"Indeed. However, you shouldn't rejoice too much." Conrad's voice caused the two in the room to look at him with slight confusion.

"Sir Ralyks said he is on humanity's side, and he wouldn't do anything to harm the people. He never specifically said anything about us, the Royal Council."

Of course, it would be assumed that the Royal Council existed for the sake of humanity, and every action they took would be for the people's benefits, but both sides were not the same.

"In any instance where Sir Ralyks believes our actions are against the interest of humanity... he'll most likely eliminate us." As he added this, Vida's expression turned a bit more sullen.

For a few seconds, no one said anything. Then—

"Isn't that perfect, though?" Adonis spoke as he gently sat down on the couch.

"Right now, the Royal Council wields a lot of power and resources. There's the possibility of corruption arising as a result of that. Sir Ralyks acts as a perfect check to the power we possess."

Conrad and Vida nodded as soon as Adonis addressed the issue.

"The Hero is right. This should only serve as motivation for us to do more."

"Indeed!" Vida beamed at the words of her colleague.

"Let's give it our all!"

'It's a relief everything went well with the Royal Council...'

As Rey closed his eyes and inhaled deeply, he remembered the events clearly and smiled.

'Now then, on to the next issue.' He opened his eyes, feeling the embrace of the mask that covered his face.

Three people sat in front of him in an exquisitely furnished room. Although it wasn't as glamorous as the Royal Estate's Grand Reception Area, it was still incredibly decent.

At the very least, that was what Rey thought.

The three who were in front of him were former Black Market members who had turned a new leaf and were in their final phase to join the mainstream market.

Rebal, Asher, and Kara.

"So, have you decided on what you'll do now that the Verte Group has officially been dissolved?" He asked the latter, using his staple Ralyks tone.

The girl with glasses nodded instantly, her green hair swaying as she bobbed her head. fr eeweb novel

"I'll be joining Sir Rebal and Sir Asher in their new establishment. All the remaining resources of the Verte Group will be merged with the Blanc Goup's resources, which will grant me a certain percentage of the total shares, as stipulated in the contract that we agreed on. Plus..."

Kara went on, rambling on and on about the technicalities of the contract, and her new responsibilities in the company. Rey found it so exhausting to listen to, especially since he couldn't understand all of it.

'Why all this? I only asked what you decided to do...' He slightly rejected his choice, but there was no way he could take them back now.

He only had to wait patiently, while nodding as if he understood everything perfectly well.

"... And that's about it." By the time Kara was done, Rey felt like he had become a bit smarter in many regards.

He was happy that he managed to pay attention to what was being said. While he was still lost on some aspects of the business structure, he understood the basics.

At first, he thought he was the only dummy in the group, but after staring at Asher for a bit and noticing how his own expression changed from collected to confused, Rey knew that he wasn't alone in the puzzlement.

It wasn't that he was dumb.'

'This girl is just really smart. I'm sure she'll be a good addition to the team.' He beamed internally.

"We have all the resources necessary to run a legitimate business, and we're through with all the paperwork and intricacies necessary before joining the mainstream market."

Now that they had taken all the necessary precautions, they could finally begin proper business.

"Have you decided on the name of your company?" Rey asked.

He knew they couldn't go by any of their previous names since that would be a slight on the reputation of the new company. Plus, it would tie them to the underworld in some way.

They needed to have a fresh start.

"Indeed we do." Rebal replied with a smile.

And then, as if they had all practiced beforehand, all three of them said the name at the same time.

"The Reaper Group."

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Chapter 380 The Reaper Group

"R-Reaper Group...?"

Rey accidentally stuttered the moment he heard the name. Reaper was the new nickname he had gotten after the slaughter at the Dak Gathering, after all.

The name had spread beyond the reaches of the Merchant City, or so he had heard. Hearing the name being used by the former KariBlanc Group made him have a slight dread about what was to come.

Despite this premonition, he went ahead to ask for the reason behind their decision.

"Well, Sir Ralyks... we thought really hard about it, but it turns out that there's really nothing we can give you for your troubles..." Rebal adjusted himself on the sofa, taking a more earnest position on the seat.

"Not only do we owe you our lives, but also literally everything that is currently in our possession. It is all because of you, Sir Ralyks."

Rey couldn't deny that he had shown bias towards Rebal and his family—Kara too—due to his prior connections to the KariBlanc Group.

He would be a fool to claim that they had clean hands, or that they had committed less atrocities than the average Black Market Group. Yet, he slaughtered the rest and spared them.

If that wasn't bias, then what was?

"It's a no brainer in business to give a fair payment for the work done. And so, it was pretty obvious what the only thing we could offer you could be." Rebal smiled, bringing out a parchment rolled up like a scroll.

It had a yellowish gold tint, and based on how Rebal carefully handled it, the object seemed to be of immense importance.

"I have consulted my son and Miss Kara here on the issue, and we have reached a consensus. Sir Ralyks... we would like to offer you our lives, and the very ownership of the Reaper Group."

Rey's eyes widened underneath his mask as he heard the absurd news.

'E-eh?!'

He couldn't believe his ears. Sure, he had done a lot for Rebal and his people, just as he had helped the United Human Alliance and the Royal Council.

However, he always thought he could save up the rewards for those good deeds and reap them when the time came. For the KariBlanc Group, he would have been satisfied if they gave him monetary benefits and free Enchanted Items.

Sure, he deserved more, but he didn't expect anything more than that.

But now, they had surpassed his expectations to an unbelievable degree. He nearly yelped, but this wasn't his first surprise rodeo, so he controlled himself.

"I see. Are you really sure about this, though?" Rey asked as Rebal handed him the scroll, and he began to go through it.

'As expected... it's their company deed.'

All their current properties—well, about ninety-nine percent of them—were registered under the company's name, and the document regarding that was in his hands.

'I have been placed as the owner, and I'm supposed to imprint my Mana Signature and official signature, huh?' Rey felt his heart pound.

He was just 16 years old! He had never owned a car, or a house... but now he was being put in charge of hundreds, if not thousands of properties all over the continent.

It was too surreal.

"Yes, we are sure. Sir Ralyks, we offer you our full devotion. We would like you to be our leader and guide us to a better future." Rebal bowed his head, and the other two followed suit.

When Rey saw this, and heard the words of allegiance, his racing heart began to slow down.

'This is all very overwhelming, but I can understand why they would do this...' Once he got over his initial surprise, the gears in his head began to turn.

'For one, they are guaranteed a safer and much more stable future if I become the head of the Reaper Group. Since it is my company and I have the highest stake in it, I will always protect it no matter what.'

Unlike the Royal Council, who chose the route of alliance, the KariBlanc Group went one step further and chose authority.

'At least, I can cease my alliance with the Royal Council, but I can't easily do the same to the Reaper Group since it's my company.'

The more Rey thought about it, the more he grew to appreciate Rebal's wit on the issue.

'Or was it Kara that thought about it? It would make sense if it was her...' He had seen her technical sense, and it was astounding.

'Even though I'm the official owner of the Reaper Group, pretty much all of the management and business will be done by them. They will still get most of the profit, since I have shown that I don't really have much use for money.'

Of course, Rey knew they feared 'Ralyks' too much for there to be corruption, but he also understood that there was really no true loss on their part if they turned over the ownership of the company to him.

'Other than the fact that I'll want a steady supply of Enchanted Items, of which I'll probably supply the Monster Cores or other materials for, it's really a no-brainer.'

Rebal and his comrades now had a shield for the company, and Rey was tethered to it since he was the owner in every sense of the word.

Both sides benefitted, and there really wasn't a loss.

'It's also pretty cool that I now have my own faction. The Reaper Guild will definitely make lots of money, and with the resources they have as my own, I'm pretty much like a billionaire.' He began to muse.

He felt strangely excited.

It was more money than he would ever be able to spend, considering most of his needs were already covered, but the prospects of having so much disposable income and capable subordinates thrilled him to no end.

'This is really the best!' Rey grinned widely, while maintaining his outward Ralyks demeanor.

"Very well. I accept your fealty."