

Full-Moon 1001

Chapter 1001 The Bigger Picture

Memories from that time were a blur for Rex as he sought to get rid of it.

It was one of the most painful times that he had experienced aside from the death of his parents. He wanted to get it out of his head lest he went insane, however, he could recall that his preparation took a long time to finish.

He needs to reach an appropriate strength first before he can attempt to save her.

Save Rosie.

Despite the help from the System, the preparation took longer than expected.

When he reached there, it was already too late.

Rosie has already been sacrificed, her blood and soul were used to forge the Blood Devourer.

All of the pain flooded back to him when Nezero brought up the Blood Devourer, forcing him to remember that time again which was why he was in a very bad mood. He didn't remember whether Calidora had already told him about this truth or not.

But it feels like this was the first time she told him about the truth.

Initially, Rex really thought that Calidora didn't care whether Rosie would be sacrificed or not.

However, it seemed he was wrong.

Judging from the expression she was wearing right now, she doesn't seem to be lying too.

"Fate, huh..." Rex nodded, releasing a ridiculing chuckle directed at himself. "I've never once blamed your parents for her death. I know that her blood was on their hands, but I never blamed them. If I were in their shoes, I would've done the same thing"

"On the contrary, if anything, I blame myself more for her death" He added in a hushed tone.

It was the blunt truth, what he declared.

Not once has he blamed her death on anyone but himself who allowed it to happen.

Even until the end of time, she would still be one of his regrets.

"I don't know that my Mother came here for that. Had I known, I would've reminded her to not mention that. I apologize on her behalf" Calidora whispered silently while her hand naturally found its place on his shoulder, consoling him with a touch, knowing that he was feeling pain emotionally.

Upon hearing this, Rex shook his head, gesturing that it was fine.

A brief silence enveloped the two of them.

But the silence was short-lived as Rex's grave expression instantly turned serious.

It was as if he possessed a button to instantly shut off his emotions—a sight that unsettled Calidora, for she knew that emotions, by human standards, were integral to one's humanity, and to be able to shut it off like that was not normal.

Soon, Rex glanced at her with a peculiar look and asked, "How did you get the Luna energy?"

"Hmm...?" Calidora was caught off guard by the question.

Despite her countenance remaining unchanged, deep down, she was completely shocked.

There was no denying that the question reverberated within her, catching her off guard, not expecting Rex to pose that question as she tried to use the Luna energy discreetly. But it seems his senses were far too keen to overlook it.

Now Calidora was put in a spot, not knowing what to answer.

Everything she had done was flawless until this point which might expose what she did.

If Rex knew of her plans, then she would definitely be in trouble.

Under the weight of his questioning gaze, she felt the pressure, yet she adeptly composed herself before responding, "Let's just say that I win a bet against Evelyn. Why? Do you intend to coerce me into giving it back to her when I won the bet squarely?"

Rex paused for a second in contemplation, attempting to read through her.

"No..." He answered. "I only found it weird for you, a Vampire to have the Luna energy for me"

Knowing that the Luna's position could change, it wasn't that surprising to see that it was not only Evelyn who could wield Luna energy. Calidora was also able to wield it. Since Evelyn didn't say anything about this, then it must be between the two of them.

Despite his curiosity, Rex decided to not intervene between them.

However, he would ask the System later whether the Luna could give her energy to others.

Just to make sure that Calidora is not lying.

Not wanting to idle on that topic, Calidora quickly changed it, "Say, I know that you are trying to reach the ninth epiphany in cursed power to fight against the Executor, but what are you exactly trying to do here?"

"He wouldn't lose to a mere ninth epiphany" She questioned, oblivious to Rex's plan.

Upon hearing this, Rex clears his throat and averted his gaze away.

A subtle pout formed within Calidora when she saw his guarded reaction which clearly shows that he didn't trust her enough to tell her about his plan. "Really? Do you really think that I would jeopardize your strategy against the Executor? I'm a Supernatural, a Vampire, a Vampire Princess at that. I may not look like it but I also shipped his demise"

Obviously, all Supernaturals would want the Executor to be dead.

Even those who are peaceful would want to get rid of the Executor, there was no exception.

Although the majority of Supernaturals hated him, some were passive.

Some maintained a neutral stance, but nevertheless, even within this group, the sentiment was still the same, lingered that the Executor's demise was the most desirable outcome for every single Supernatural alive.

They were driven by the fundamentals of living beings, rooted in the principle of survival.

If the Executor is left alive, he will enslave all of the Supernatural races.

Casualties would increase for the Supernaturals, and their lives would be like being in Hell.

Something that none of them wants to happen again.

Due to that, Calidora was also on the side who wanted the Executor to die, and there was no reason for her to jeopardize Rex's plan to kill the Executor. Even the Elders who were recently awakened agreed to help Rex.

Rex turned to look skywards and crossed his arms, "I made a deal with the Witch of Chaos"

"A deal? What deal?" Calidora asked curiously.

Sighing lightly, Rex recalls the deal before he elaborates, "I don't know if you know about it or not, considering that you are very young for a Vampire, but there's a powerful weapon that resides in the Symposium. It's a weapon surpassing your Origin's or any other Supernatural Origins' weapon"

"It's a weapon that belongs to who the Executor regarded as the Supreme One" He added.

Because of the situation, Rex used the last chance to buy anything from the System to learn about the Executors. He learned about this weapon from there and developed a plan that would allow him to win against the Executor, the Fifthborn to be exact.

Had he wielded that weapon, taking down the Executor wouldn't be a problem.

Upon hearing this, Calidora frowned.

"Is that the reason the Executor is heading south, to the Symposium?" Her eyes widened.

Rex nodded in response, it was the Executor's plan to get that weapon.

Having that weapon will guarantee his sovereignty.

The Executor knows that the weapon would erase all chances of him losing or dying.

Since that weapon was the strongest weapon that has ever been recorded in history, forged using a divine material coupled with the flesh and souls of millions of Supernaturals by the Supreme One for more than a century-long, there was nothing that could match its power.

A weapon of incalculable power, giving the wielder power to become the ruler of the world.

Pausing for a moment, he continued, "In order to activate the dormant power of the weapon, one would need a special gem which was now within the Executor's possession. I already consulted this to the Witch of Chaos, and she said that she could corrupt the gem"

"However, she needs a ridiculous amount of cursed energy" Rex added finally.

Now he had revealed the bigger picture.

Learning about the bigger picture, a part of Rex's plan to take down the Executor, Calidora now understands why Rex would need to cultivate his cursed power and why it's very crucial for him to reach the ninth epiphany.

With the Executor getting closer to the Symposium, he has little to no time to fulfill this.

"How would the Witch of Chaos corrupt the gem?" Calidora asked.

Even if Rex reached the ninth epiphany in time, she doesn't understand how the Witch could corrupt the gem when the Executor was the one possessing it. Additionally, since it's a very important item, then he must've guarded it dearly.

Upon hearing this, Rex turns to look Calidora dead in the eye.

He paused for a second before he said, "She would need to go there and touch it directly..."

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Meanwhile, Dargena City.

Fortunately, nothing substantial happened during the time when Flunra went to meet with Rex to notify him about the proposition from the Ice and Snow Lunirich God. It was peaceful within the walls of Dargena City.

With the awakening of Kyran, the atmosphere of the castle was better.

If he finally woke up from his comatose state, then the situation would indeed be better.

Despite the flaws and mistakes that Kyran had made in the past, there was no denying that he was slowly becoming reliable. He was even capable of making first contact with the Dark Elves and saving Evelyn, albeit a misunderstanding.

Evelyn had spent her time meditating the last couple of days.

Aside from being cramped inside her training chamber, she went out of the castle one time.

It was due to Gelmar wanting to show her something she needed to see.

Surprisingly enough, at the town square, Gelmar surprised her with the sight of a gathering of city guards that were scouting and protecting the city clad in reddish bronze armor which made them look more like experts and add a menacing air to them.

Reported by him, the last batch of armor has been made and distributed.

Now, the entire city guards were clad in identical armor.

Even Gelmar's weapon was different, his weapon seemed glistening and tremble with power.

A new weapon befitting the city guard's captain.

Gratitude resonated in Evelyn's words as she delivered a speech to the city guards, fueling them with passion to protect the city. In addition, in a gesture of appreciation, she personally visited the industrious workers to commend their relentless efforts in crafting armor for the multitude of city guards.

With this, Dargena City's military has grown substantially stronger.

Even those who were not in the sixth-rank realm were pushed to the edge of reaching it.

Now, Evelyn is walking through the hallway of the castle and stepping into Kyran's bed chamber where he finds no one other than Kyran on the bed. She expected the same scenery, with Naela taking care of Kyran.

But it seemed she was not here right now, heeding Evelyn's words to train.

Closing the door behind her, she sat at the edge of the bed, facing the wall in contemplation. It was obvious that there was something in her mind, and that something was definitely tied to Rex who was now away.

"I know that you can't hear me, but I really need to get this off my chest" Evelyn muttered.

Keeping a calm tone, she then poured out what was inside her mind.

She started by introducing Calidora as if she was actually talking with Kyran and continued with what she wanted, her intention to get rid of her, Adhara, and Gistella all the way to what she had done, threatening her seat as the Luna.

Most of her confession revolves around the uncertainty of what would happen in the future.

However, it all receded in her questioning herself whether she trusted Rex or not.

"I just don't know what to do. I want to trust that Rex would not abandon me, Adhara, or Gistella. But, on the other hand, there was Calidora who might actually be able to convince Rex to leave us"

"I remember when he was mad at us, and it felt like he was about to abandon us for good"

"What do I do, Kyran? Should I trust him or not?"

Glancing towards Kyran behind her, still sitting on the bed with an absent-minded look, she could only force out a sigh and stood up. She knows that Kyran wouldn't be able to respond, but it felt good to let this out of her chest.

Heading to the door again, she mused, "I'm sorry for intruding. Please, get better quickly"

Just as she opened the door, Evelyn gasped.

Since her mind was a mess, she didn't realize that there was someone standing right in front of the door which caught her by surprise. Raising her gaze to lock eyes, her eyes widened, "F- Flunra...?"

Chapter 1002 Arctic Realm

Evelyn backed away from the door when she saw Flunra standing there.

Since she was venting out her frustrations earlier, she was not focused and failed to sense that Flunra had come back. It was unknown how long he had been standing there, and not knowing that made her slightly nervous.

If he was listening from the start, then he had definitely heard all of her vexation.

Not an ideal scenario for Evelyn.

Keeping his lips closely shut, Flunra stepped into the bed chamber with his eyes locked onto Evelyn. He was expressionless, and the air around him was somewhat cold. Even though it was already an uncomfortable minute, he didn't say anything.

Just his silence alone made Evelyn believe that he heard it all.

Additionally, she doesn't understand where this random tension in the air comes from.

It made her somewhat hesitant to be close to Flunra.

However, eventually, she shook her head and became the first one to break the ice in the air that seemed to be coming from Flunra, "How was it, Flunra...? Did- Did you meet with Rex? What did he say about the matter?"

"Come inside, I have something to say" Flunra ignored her question and stepped inside.

Giving a quick glance to Kyran, he then turned around to face Evelyn.

Evident confusion could be seen on her face as she could feel that Flunra was acting weirdly, but she decided to blame that on him having something in his mind. "I decided to go and do what the Ice and Snow Lunirich God wanted, hoping to gain a favor from her"

"What if she decided to not honor the proposition?" Evelyn asked back.

Flunra shook his head helplessly, "Nevertheless, we still need to try. It will help Lord Rex"

"Fine, I understand where you are coming from, but I'm going to come with you. Currently, the city is doing better, so I can let Ryze, Prof. K, and Giana protect the city while we are gone" She replied, there was a hint of stubbornness in her tone.

Upon hearing this, Flunra wanted to decline but was given a sharp look by Evelyn.

It seemed she knew what he was going to say.

Despite her role as the Luna, Flunra empathized with the difficulty of merely observing the situation escalating from the sidelines without actively participating directly. He recognized Rex's directive for her to oversee the city in his absence, but it was not an easy thing to do.

'If she comes, then there wouldn't be any of the pack members watching over the city...'

Pondering about this, a frown crept into his face.

Giana and Prof. K are also a part of the Silverstar Pack, but they were outer pack members who would have no capabilities to inform the others if the city did get attacked. Of course, this problem could be solved through other methods, but Flunra doesn't like it.

He's not comfortable leaving the city with only them in charge.

At the very least, if Evelyn was here, Rex or the others would sense if she was in danger.

'I'll find a way, there's no point in arguing with Evelyn' Flunra nodded.

Refocusing his gaze on Evelyn again, he continued, "Okay, you can come with me. We'll pick up Adhara on the way to help, the place should reside within the domain of the Undead, it's quite far, but that won't be a problem, I can quicken our pace"

"Know that if we succeed, we might save Lord Rex's life later, when he fought the Executor" He added seriously.

To fight the Executor, he would need all the help he can get.

Flunra emphasized to Evelyn that this might be the crucial way for her to aid Rex in his battle, as completing the proposition might open the door to gaining assistance from the Princess of Ice and Snow in their fight against the Executor.

If his memories serve him right, the Ice and Snow Princess would be a great asset for them.

After talking about that, the two of them left the chamber to prepare.

Evelyn swiftly headed to her own bed chamber to don her battle armor, while Flunra exited the castle with the intention of informing the others about his departure and also fortifying additional layers of protection in case the city was really attacked.

Personally, he doesn't believe that the Executor would attack the city.

It was not his style in Flunra's opinion.

Also, adding to his longstanding grudge against Rex, he'd definitely much rather take over the city than destroy it. Surely, he would find a way greater satisfaction in doing that to the city Rex had built rather than killing which he always does regularly.

But then again, it's never wrong to be safer than sorry.

However, unknown to both of them, when they both left, Kyran's fingertips trembled.

A peculiar light also glistens inside his eyes.

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'How long has it been...? How long has it been since I'm here?'

'All of my energy reserves were gone to gain that brief moment of regaining consciousness'

'Has Rex saved me yet? Or am I still in the Witch's possession?'

'Am I even still alive...?'

Inside a place that personified the very essence of coldness itself.

An arctic of ultimate coldness.

Cold wind blew violently from the west, turning into a vicious blizzard that swirl around thick snow, limiting the vision to nothing more than fifty meters. Sometimes, the blizzard calmed a little, but beyond the veil of the blizzard lies more arctic expanse.

Not a single building, natural or not, could be seen as far as the eyes can see.

Kyran has been stuck in this place for God knows how long.

Initially, he kept track of time through the change from the sky. He counted that he had been stuck in this place, ever since he lost consciousness for close to two thousand nights, and he already gave up counting some time ago.

He lost track of it, and he possibly already closing into the three thousand mark right now.

Additionally, he couldn't move freely too.

At the exact moment that he arrived, two giant white Werewolves were already waiting for him and took him to his quarter, which was an ice prison in the middle of nowhere. He tried to fight them off but he was incapable of injuring them.

Despite his attempts, he was treated like a baby by these two giant Werewolves.

No matter how much he struggled, it was completely futile.

Locked within the ice prison, being hit by the blizzard's coldness directly, this was the first time he actually felt cold since he was turned into a Werewolf. It was so cold that his body started to develop frostbite.

Prolonged exposition to the coldness would definitely kill him.

To think that such coldness existed is beyond Kyran's imagination, it was simply horrifying.

Not to mention, it was not mana that produced this cold.

Once in a while, the giant Werewolves came back and brought him to a place, some sort of arena in the heart of this arctic place. More giant white Werewolves were there, surrounding the arena, which was a vast frozen lake.

Kyran also found that the giant Werewolves were uncountable.

At the very least, there were thousands of them which surrounded the arena.

Naturally, the hope of slaughtering his way out of this place has turned unviable in an instant.

Other than him, there were other Werewolves brought here.

As he waited for what was about to happen, he attempted to engage in conversation with some of them, only to discover that they all talked weirdly. Not that he couldn't understand what they were saying, but rather, they talked to him as if they were fearful of him.

It was as if Kyran was a ghost of their loved ones that had come back alive.

Moreover, these Werewolves looked to be old, and also, Kyran was in his human form so it was even weirder for them to be fearful of him. Soon he learned that the reason they were brought here was to be pitted against each other.

Kyran and the others were forced to fight while the giant Werewolves cheered.

Obviously, at first, he was utterly confused.

Due to the confusion, he lost his first fight as the other Werewolf was locked in to beat him.

He barely managed to survive until the time ran out.

Since his opponent was as fierce as a tiger, he suffered multiple grievous wounds that put him in a state where he needed to be brought out of the arena by the giant Werewolves. He was completely injured from head to toe.

Upon confirming with the other Werewolves, one of them said that it's the rule to survive.

From that Werewolf, he learned that this is how life works here.

Based on the Werewolf, Kyran learned that securing victory in his upcoming battle was imperative. His victory would result in the giant Werewolves relocating him to a less frigid environment, offering a chance at survival.

However, should he falter in the impending fight, he would undoubtedly die from the cold.

If he dies here, then his actual body will also die.

Ever since the first fight, he has been fighting seriously.

Kyran pulled nothing back and attacked each of his opponents with the intent to kill.

His survival instinct kicks in as he doesn't want to die.

Slowly but surely, he was relocated into a more and more hospitable environment and also placed in a bigger ice prison so that he had space to move. Passing day two thousand, he has fought countless times, and now his opponent was no joke.

It has become devastatingly more difficult to come out as a winner in the arena.

Even the wounds he suffered from each fight remain.

His regenerative ability was doing its best to heal him normally, but there were some wounds that were so great that they left scars on his body. Fighting several times already left him with more than a dozen of those scars across his body.

Anyone who saw Kyran right now would think that he has lived for thousands of years.

A veteran from the ancient era because of these scars.

Despite having the time to fight in the arena, most of his daily lives were cramped inside the ice prison with nobody else except his mind to accompany him. Kyran is slowly going insane from stressing over the fact that he made another problem for Rex.

He already swore to not do that again to himself, but he failed.

Every single day was him praying for some miracle that he could atone for his failure.

One fateful day, his prayer was answered when he found a pack of giant Werewolves in the distance, approaching his icy confinement. A quick assessment revealed their number to be around fifteen, with twelve bearing a platform on their backs.

On this platform rested an ice throne, occupied by an enigmatic figure of ice.

It appears to be a woman with unfathomable power, her presence alone was enough to force Kyran's senses to send danger signals into his brain. Upon closer scrutiny, she manifested in a humanoid form, adorned with silvery hair, azure eyes, and a grey complexion resembling that of a Dark Elf.

Despite her exquisite beauty, able to capture Kyran's attention, she was on a bad moon.

Her pursed lips and sharp eyes depicted that clearly.

Kyran observed as one of the giant Werewolves approached the door of his captivity, and swung it open before stepping aside. Puzzled, he gazed at the massive creature before hesitantly walking out of his enclosure.

Tap!

Following that, he was pushed from the back, a gesture to go closer to the platform.

Upon reaching close, he looked up to the woman.

Now that he was close, Kyran could feel that moonlight energy was swirling around the woman, she was like a compass that regulates the moonlight energy. It made him assume that she must be related to the Ice and Snow Full Moon that put him here.

"Do you want to leave this place and return to the world below?" the woman asked, her voice carrying the weight of her insurmountable oppressing power. "If so, I can grant you that..."

Chapter 1003 Silent Observer

Kyran was momentarily stunned when he heard this.

But when he grasped his head around what the woman proposed to him, there was no doubt in his mind that the woman in front of him was a Goddess, a true living deity. She is definitely the entity behind this icy expanse.

Lured by the enchanting proposal, Kyran found himself nodding unconsciously.

He wanted to leave this place.

One of the giant Werewolves on the front handed over to the woman, Iseldra an icy block of parchment with writings that Kyran couldn't read. She took one look at it, and even though it didn't elicit a reaction from her, amusement could be seen in her eyes.

It seems something that delighted her was written on that icy parchment.

Shifting her eyes back to Kyran, she then mused, "Kyran Cervantes of the Silverstar Pack..."

"How do you know who I am?" Kyran asked in surprise.

However, he quickly retracted that question as it was a stupid question.

A Goddess such as Iseldra must've had oversight ability, knowing everyone that entered her domain leaned to a foundational power. Ignoring his question, Iseldra continued, "You have quite a record here, Kyran. 311 wins and 7 losses. I have watched you fight, and you've done well to entertain me, especially with that unique bloodline you have"

In order to satiate her boredom, she hosted this gladiatorial fight.

Every single Werewolf that was trapped in the slumber of Ice and Snow would need to fight.

If any one of them refused, then they would surrender themselves to death.

"Are you giving me the option to leave early since I've entertained you?" Kyran asked.

Kyran couldn't hide his smile as he felt a wave of reward as he asked this question, the fierce struggle that he put on seemed to have paid off. He had been fighting with all he had just so that he could survive.

Due to the hundreds of fights, he learned a lot and even felt like he matured.

Compared to the time when he arrived here, he was confident that he could beat the version of himself easily with his current state. Despite the circumstances, he was able to make use of it and grow stronger.

Now, he only needs to come back to the others.

Even though he was completely cut off from the outside world, he assumed that the others were dealing with a great deal of problems right now. It has always been the case, problems have never ceased to stop coming at them.

By now, Kyran already accepted that it was their fate to be bombarded with problems.

It won't ever change, at least not in the short future.

Aside from contemplating the fact that he failed Rex and himself again, he also came to a realization that he was the one who needed to change. Problems will keep on coming, and the only thing that can change is how he and the others will deal with them.

Kyran was very eager to go out because of this.

"Speak only when I allow you to speak, mortal" Iseldra retorted, her eyes narrowing. Kyran's demeanor in her presence was not within her approval. "I'm able to offer you an early release from my domain, but it is not for you to decide when that moment arrives. I can merely grant an opportunity"

Upon hearing this, Kyran frowned, he didn't understand what she was saying.

'What did she mean about it's not for me to decide?' He wondered.

However, despite his evident confusion, Iseldra wasn't willing to elaborate and only raised her hand, manifesting her divine energy at her fingertips. It was akin to the very essence of ice and snow dancing in her hand.

Not even a ninth-rank realm with a Peak Ultimate Ice element was capable of recreating that.

"I want you to deliver a message for me, to your pack" Iseldra proclaimed, her countenance hardly changing throughout the encounter. "Because of the hubris of my esteemed siblings perched on their lofty steeds, I can only deliver the message through you. Deem yourself blessed for this bestowed opportunity, mortal"

After saying that, Iseldra shot her divine energy and hit Kyran squarely in the chest.

Kyran wasn't even given time to say anything.

Looking down at his body, he found that there was a thin layer of the Ice and Snow energy encompassing his entire body from head to toe. He looked at Iseldra one last time, burning her face to his mind before his body turned into energy and he sank into the ground.

He was sucked into the earth at a very fast pace.

It felt dizzy for a solid minute and when he recovered, he found himself in a different place.

Opening his eyes in gradual succession, Kyran acclimated to his surroundings, only to be warmly welcomed by a figure seated beside the bed, resting her head gently on his lap. It took a fleeting moment for Kyran to fully recognize the identity of the person.

'Is that... Is that Naela...?' Kyran pondered inside his head.

Although he wanted to turn his head around to see where he was, he found that he couldn't move his head or even any part of his body. He tried a couple of times but ultimately stopped as it was completely futile.

He decided to scan the room and found that he should be inside the castle.

But this made him even more confused.

If he really was inside the castle, then Naela shouldn't have any business here.

'Seems like Rex has already rescued me from the Witch, I should've expected it. Aside from that, something must've happened if Naela was here, but it should be a good sign that Rex has taken my advice to ally with the Dark Elves' Kyran pondered, he was happy that his advice was surprisingly accepted by Rex.

On top of that, he could also sense that there were many people outside.

Dargena City must've grown a lot since his slumber.

Just then, Naela stirred awake, her gasp escaping as she discovered Kyran with open eyes.

Reacting promptly, she hurriedly rushed outside of the bed chamber to relay the news to the others. True to Iseldra's words, Kyran's body moved on its own. He conveyed the message she entrusted to him as soon as the rest had gathered.

Rex is nowhere to be seen, the familiar faces that he saw were Flunra, Evelyn, and Adhara.

However, Kyran was once again surprised to see Prof. K among them.

The moment he regain control, he would need to learn the situation of the city all over again.

It was on and off for him ever since his silent awakening.

Trapped in a state where his body remained unresponsive, Kyran assumed the role of a silent observer, fully conscious yet unable to move. There were instances when his mind drifted into a semblance of sleep, but more often than not, he remained awake.

He gained some information from the conversations of those around him.

It was not much but it's better than nothing.

Even though he was learning at a steady pace what the current situation was, the news bombshell happened today when Evelyn came inside his room and poured out her vexation which was all new to Kyran's ears.

"What do I do, Kyran? Should I trust him or not?"

Upon hearing her vexation, Kyran learned that Calidora had come back to haunt them again.

But he was confused as to why Evelyn was doubting Rex.

Despite Calidora's desire to eliminate her, Adhara, and Gistella from the equation, Kyran was surprisingly, regarded what she was trying to do as hardly a threat from his perspective. It wasn't that big of a deal in his opinion.

'What are you saying, Evelyn? If anything, your concern should be whether Rex would turn her into a Werewolf and make her join our pack. Fearing Calidora's attempt to remove you might succeed seems like underestimating Rex's love for you too much' He thought.

It was simply impossible in his view for Rex to abandon the three of them.

Especially due to all of the trauma he endured.

Kyran thought it was enough information to process today, but turns out it was not over.

Just when Evelyn was about to leave, Flunra came in and talked about a crucial matter with her. It seems he was going to fulfill Iseldra's proposition and awaken the Ice and Snow Princess, which she would definitely appreciate.

However, Kyran's heart thumped faster when he heard what Flunra said last.

"Know that if we succeed, we might save Lord Rex's life later, when he fought the Executor"

'Heuhkk...?!'

Upon hearing that, almost instantly, Kyran's blood rushed even faster, fueling him with more power which made his eyes glow. If Evelyn and Flunra stayed for a bit longer, then they both would see a seething azure vapor emanating from his body.

'R- Rex is going to fight the Executor...?' Kyran pondered.

Responding to his strong reaction, his bloodline was fighting back the deep slumber induced by the Ice and Snow Moon. His flesh and bones wobbled and made some noises as he was forcing his Werewolf form to come out.

Kyran's extreme desire to help Rex and redeem himself was burning inside his heart.

It was a perfect opportunity, and he's going to fight it out.

Just like that, under the confinement of the castle's walls, Kyran was stuck in a perpetual state of trying to do a tug of war against the Ice and Snow Moon's influence. At this early stage, it was impossible to tell what the ending of this battle would be.

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Meanwhile, Adhara and Ugrok reached their destination.

Even though the problem with the Dark Elves was haunting her mind, she was forced to choose sides lest a civil war break out within the Dark Elf Kingdom. Adhara wanted to put that problem at the back of her mind, but she couldn't.

If a civil war really breaks out, then it would implicate the fight with the Executor greatly.

Adhara doesn't know much about Rex's plan, but it's evident that, when the time came, all their forces would unite for an assault on the Executor. This would mean that the Dwarves, Tigermen, Elves, and Dark Elves would be rallied to help.

Due to that, she would fail Rex if she let the civil war happen.

'I never thought that his absence would impact the alliance this greatly' Adhara sighed.

She failed to expect that this problem would arise with Rex's absence.

Frankly speaking, if she was being as truthful as possible, the other Kingdoms that were within the alliance accepted to join because of the presence of Rex. Other than that, the benefit was minimal.

Adhara or even the others couldn't exude a resemblance of Rex's presence.

It was because of that, she found this unsettling.

Just from the reaction of the Dark Elves and also possibly the Tigermen, there was a need for her to be the pillar that would keep everything intact even if Rex was not around. Due to that, she would take the first step to achieving that through this venture.

After she finished what she came here for, she would deal with the Dark Elves.

But now, she was focusing on trying to find cues of the Elementals.

Using the flaming arrowhead, the sigil of the Elementals, the fire Elemental to be exact as a compass, the two arrived at the edge of a sparkling lake that seemed to contain a hidden aura that might belong to the fire Elementals.

Near them were floating rocks on the body of the lake, a path towards the center.

However, at that moment, warm air brushes their bodies.

"Do you feel that?" Adhara asked, scanning her surroundings with prying eyes.

Standing beside her, doing the same exact thing at her, Ugrok also nodded as he too felt the warm air that seemed to stir the very essence of his fire element, "Yes, the warmth... Ugrok feels it too"

It was then that both saw countless fireflies, glowing with red light appearing around them.

Adhara looked at the arrowhead and found it blazing strongly.

Being nudged from the side, Ugrok prompted her to look at the center of the lake where a fiery figure could be seen. It was graceful with its steps and had a presence that was so scorching that it could turn the lake water red.

Judging from the phenomenon alone, Adhara was certain that this thing was an Elemental.

A fire Elemental.

"So this is the fire Elemental that lived in the ancient era... Its fire, it definitely surpassed the Peak Ultimate Element. I can feel that it was capable of changing the surroundings element into its own fiery element" She muttered under her breath.

Chapter 1004 Realm of Fire

Both Adhara and Ugrok are Fire Elementalist.

A sudden change in mana level in the surroundings was detected by them instantly, and the fact that the change revolves around the mana content in the surroundings turning into fire mana makes it even more obvious to them.

It was a phenomenon that Adhara experienced for the first time.

Normally, an area contains a blend of mana in the air, and the environment will determine the prevalent mana type. For example, near a volcanic terrain, the concentration of fire mana would undeniably surpass the other elemental mana.

However, the presence of the Elemental was able to disrupt the mana concentration.

Almost as if it was the environment itself.

Just the presence of the ancient Elemental alone was able to turn other elemental mana into fire mana which shouldn't be possible. It was supposed to only be viable to the will of nature, but it seems the ancient Elemental itself acts as the extension of nature.

Making sure that her senses were not deceiving her, she summoned fire on her hand.

Swoosh!

Albeit she intended to summon a flicker, the fire that came out was blazing.

'So the Elemental truly embodies nature, enhancing the strength of Fire Elementals in its proximity' Adhara pondered, her gaze quickly returning to the Fire Elemental, eyes ablaze with intense focus, staring straight at them.

Levitating above the red lake was the Fire Elemental.

It emerges as an awe-inspiring, infernal figure with fierce, billowing arms and a searing head. Its incandescent flames swirl and twist in a mesmerizing, relentless maelstrom of unbridled flame power, helping onlookers to easily identify it as a Fire Elemental.

Finding that the Fire Elemental said no words, Adhara decided to introduce herself.

"Greetings, I am Adhara Alpenore from the Silverstar Pack. I've come by your invitations" She announced loudly. Even though the Fire Elemental looked hostile, Adhara believed that when it knew who she was, then it would welcome her.

However, she was dead wrong as the Fire Elemental blazes even stronger.

Boom!

Swoosh!

Adhara and Ugrok had their eyes widen when a fire shockwave was heading towards them, it hit them like a truck, pushing them back strongly. Even though Adhara had already created a fire barrier to protect them, it was completely futile.

The fire shockwave passes through her barrier like a ghost through a wall.

It didn't make contact, ignoring Adhara's barrier.

Because of this, Adhara and Ugrok could only cross their arms to block the flame.

'I could feel the heat...' Amidst the predicament, Adhara frowned. 'Even though I am a Fire Elementalist, my body was actually being scorched. It doesn't feel like being scorched by a Fire Elementalist above my realm either, it just feels different'

Sensing this kind of sensation was surreal for her.

Due to reaching the eighth-rank realm, higher-ranked Fire Elementals were scarce.

She never felt her violet fire was overwhelmed like this.

Knowing that this would end up badly if she didn't do anything, seeing that Ugrok was also struggling to block the heat of the fire that threatened to burn them to ash, Adhara quickly took out the arrowhead and raised it above her head.

Out of anything, this was the only thing she could do that came to mind.

Just as expected, when the arrowhead appeared, the shockwave of fire vanished instantly.

After the fire shockwave subsided, Adhara observed the lingering burn marks on her arms and body which were visibly healing. Lowering her hands, she noticed the once hostile air around the Fire Elemental had dissipated.

It seems the Fire Elemental had just realized that she was telling the truth.

Following that, the Fire Elemental hovered to the side of the lake and bent down to touch its surface, summoning a very intricate rune formation that surpassed the sophisticated rune construct of the teleportation formation within Dargena City.

Soon enough, the rune formation turned into a portal to a whole other world.

The Fire Elemental then turned to look at Adhara and Ugrok, signaling for them to get in.

Adhara and Ugrok exchanged a meaningful glance before striding purposefully toward the portal. As they navigated the floating rocks, they were near the portal and could clearly see what was waiting for them on the other side.

It was an underground fire canyon that seemed to be within the crust of the earth.

Despite their hesitance, the two jumped into the portal.

Landing firmly on the ground, the two quickly took a look around and were surprised at what they were seeing right now. Contrary to their expectations, the fiery underground canyon was more than a mere space within the crust of the earth.

Signs of civilization could be seen around the place.

Molten rivers of lava flowed in the surroundings, carving through obsidian rock. Amongst the tumultuous magma, surprisingly, there were iridescent pillars at the far front, housing some sort of platform of breathtaking sculpture, their colors shifting in the eerie glow.

Beauty and danger coexisted in a fiery spectacle.

This was the home of the Elementals, the home of the Fire Elementals.

The Fire Elemental they met before also swirls down before the portal closes once again.

Silently guided by the Fire Elemental, Adhara and Ugrok traversed the entire place. Words were left unspoken, and even if the Fire Elemental attempted to talk with them, their full attention was irrevocably drawn to the escalating astonishment the further they delved into this extraordinary place.

Other Fire Elementals could be seen, bathing in lava in peace.

All of them turned their heads to look at Adhara and Ugrok when they passed.

However, what shocked Adhara and Ugrok were in fact their forms.

Unlike the initial encounter with the rough humanoid Fire Elemental, the subsequent entities they encountered assumed the forms of various animals. Among them were creatures that resembled fiery lions, serpents, and a myriad of other animals.

One has even taken the form of a fish.

Additionally, there were even some that took the shape of a small cute ember of fire.

'Since I am a Fire Elementalist, I could tell that their powers differ. Out of all them that I saw along the way, the strongest one was this Fire Elemental who was guiding me. I think there was some sort of hierarchy that could be discerned through their forms' Adhara pondered.

Her observation made her assume that the strongest was the rough humanoid form.

Following that was the animal form before the small ember form.

It didn't take long before Adhara and Ugrok ascended the rocky staircase and reached the elevated platform that both had already seen from the distance. At its center lay a dynamic mechanical structure, a relic from the ancient past.

A hint at a technology long forgotten.

The Fire Elemental gestured for them to stay there before it moved to the side.

Anticipating what was going to happen, the mechanical structure at the center came to life with an unexpected animation. Its intricate layers began a synchronized dance, some moved clockwise while others countered the motion, producing a symphony of mechanical sounds.

Only then that a flicker of fire start appearing.

Under both of their eyes, the fire gained mass quickly and exploded into a vortex of flame.

Swoosh!

Keeping their eyes locked onto the spectacle, Adhara and Ugrok managed to somewhat see through the vortex that there was an entity, rising from the mechanical structure as if he was waking up from his slumber.

An entity that had a stark difference in form compared to the other Fire Elementals.

This entity looked more humanoid than the others.

Its aura also estimates that this Fire Elemental is the strongest out of all.

"A King...?" Adhara muttered out her guess as the vortex slowly grew and rose even higher.

When his eyes were fully opened, the vortex erupted, it splashed into the surroundings and revealed the entity's complete form. A humanoid figure emerged—a Fire Elemental adorned in deep red skin, equipped with a regal fiery cape and leg armor.

His bare torso showcased an intricate mark, resembling an ancient symbol.

Just the sheer heat from this entity was enough to spark Adhara's fire to life, almost as if her own fire had a mind of its own, wanting to come out to greet the entity of absolute fire before her who was now looking down at her and Ugrok.

"Are you Rex Silverstar...?" the entity asked with a dignified, astral tone.

Upon hearing this, Adhara shook her head, "I am Adhara, the Female Alpha of Rex's pack"

"I was hoping that Rex himself would come" the entity declared again.

However, Adhara disregarded his comment as nothing and raised the arrowhead, the sigil of Elemental once again, "Why have you sent your sigil to us, the Silverstar Pack? I have come here to inquire about your reason"

Obviously, she already had an assumption in mind.

Flunra told her that the Elementals might want to thank Rex for what he did.

"Reach your fire towards me..." the entity replied.

Albeit not expecting this, Adhara did as she was told and reached her violet fire towards him.

It was then that the entity touched the violet fire with his own fire.

Just the exact moment after that, Adhara's eyes widened as her flames were consumed by the entity's fire. As it enveloped her, her eyes ignited with a fiery intensity, and the power of the entity infiltrated her mind forcefully.

That happened so fast that Ugrok was too late to react to what the entity did.

"Adhara!"

Ugrok growled in utter surprise before he quickly snapped out of his daze and turned towards the entity, his body burned with red force as an air of hostility shot towards the entity, the fact that the entity attacked Adhara right in front of him was unforgivable.

However, the entity quickly assured him, "Don't misunderstand, I didn't attack her..."

"I'm simply telling her a story, our story" He added.

Meanwhile, Adhara could feel a massive amount of information being shot into her brain.

She could see numerous flashes of memories that turned out to belong to the entity himself, showcasing what had transpired in the past. Before long, Adhara learned that what Flunra expected was true, he was right once again.

Inside these flashes of the past, Adhara could see a massive war between two factions.

A war between the Demons and the Fire Elementals.

Based on the information that she was injected with, in the past, the Demons were losing the fight against the Angels and were in dire need of more power. So, they turned their attention to the Fire Elementals, possessing the True Fire essence within them.

The Demons relentlessly attack the Fire Elementals, showing no mercy at all.

Hell was unleashed at the Fire Elementals' doorstep.

Its crawlers poured out like a black tide, pulsating with the cruelest malice imaginable, all sought to kill and maim as many Fire Elementals as possible, a gruesome sacrifice for the malevolent Demon Origin himself.

A fleeting moment is all it takes for the Fire Elementals to be taken down completely.

Casualties amounted to 90% of their entire population race.

Hundreds of millions fall.

By harnessing the essence of the slain Fire Elementals, the Demon Origin absorbed their power, transforming his Hellfire into the potent True Hellfire. In a symbiotic connection with the subordinate Demons, their power was also transmuted into True Hellfire.

It provided them a decisive advantage in the conflict against the Angels.

None of the other Elementals came to help as a move from them would cause political issues with other races. Thus, the Fire Elementals were mostly annihilated. Surviving Fire Elementals fled as far as possible, to preserve their lives.

However, the Demons were all out of mercy and chased after them.

Surprisingly enough, one of the most vicious pursuers sent by the Demon Origin was none other than the faction of Demons that Rex has obliterated, the notorious and fearsome Rastrikan Demons.

A faction that was able to kill half of the survival Fire Elementals.

Demon Lord Kirgil savored the essences of the Fire Elementals and emerged stronger.

'Once again, Flunra was right. His knowledge and experiences are truly a blessing...' Adhara pondered silently, his usefulness proved Rex's foresight and intuition to be correct once again. It was the right move to turn him.

Chapter 1005 Gifts from the Fire Elementals

Flunra must have had knowledge of past events personally to be precisely correct.

It somewhat made Adhara wonder what kind of person he was back then as he even knew the dispute between the Demons and the Fire Elementals. He was one of the guardians of the Dark Prince, but he must also act as an informant to know this much.

Maybe he was tasked to keep tabs on important races and report back to the prince.

Nevertheless, he was right about the Fire Elementals' motives.

By annihilating the Rastrikan Demon—a malevolent force responsible for numerous atrocities against not only the Fire Elementals but also various other races—Rex effectively eradicated the primary problem that plagued the Fire Elementals.

A problem that may as well caused them to hide inside the crust of the earth like this.

Due to that, the Fire Elementals wanted to show their gratitude.

'Although they wanted to thank Rex for doing them a favor, they must've heard about the Silverstar Pack to be confident that we are also not a bad force. Maybe, I can also recruit them into the alliance' Adhara thought, her eyes flashed with motivation.

Rex would definitely appreciate it if they gained more help.

In addition, the Fire Elementals are not a low-rank Supernatural race either.

Gaining them to the alliance's side will definitely be positive.

Soon enough, the entity's fire retracted and Adhara returned to normal, exhaling roughly through her mouth. On the side, Ugrok worriedly approached her, but she quickly raised her hand, gesturing that she was fine.

Looking up at the entity again, Adhara then asked, "What are you offering for Rex?"

"As the Female Alpha, I'm definitely suitable to accept your gift for him" She continued firmly.

Upon hearing this, the entity paused for a second before he nodded, affirming that it was not a problem if he bestowed his gift through Adhara. Instantly after that, he channeled his power, creating a dense concentration of fire mana.

It was akin to a black hole, sucking fire mana from the surroundings endlessly.

Gradually, a beautiful yet devastating crystal appeared.

Just from the appearance and aura that the crystal was emanating, Adhara could tell that it was something out of the ordinary, a legendary item. "This is the Primordial Fire Crystal, not the normal one either, a crystal that was left behind by the death of one of our greatest Elders who sacrificed himself to protect our people from the Rastrikan Demons"

"Since Rex did the same, I'm sure the Elder will be happy if he has this" the entity added.

Slowly, the Primordial Fire Crystal hovered towards Adhara.

Even though the entity decided to give this precious item away, there was sadness written on his expression, showing that the crystal held a sentimental value. Judging by that alone, Adhara believed every single word he uttered.

Adhara reached out her hand before the crystal levitated above her palm beautifully.

Her eyes were glued onto its ethereal charm.

Not only her eyes were the one attracted to the crystal, but her fire was also attracted.

"It possesses the capability to inscribe any object deemed a weapon, imbuing it with the unparalleled power of True Primordial Fire, a type of fire unyielding to manipulation by any other than its possessor. Its allure is capable of turning Fire Elementals mad. However, I caution against absorbing it, as it may lead to an implosion of the physical form" the entity said, elaborating on the crystal.

He did that out of concern since Adhara and Ugrok were tempted by its magnificence.

Upon hearing this, both of them quickly shook their heads.

Taking one more glance at the Primordial Fire Crystal once again, Adhara had something in mind when she noticed that the entity seemed to gift a very specific item, "Do you have a reason why you are giving him this?"

"Well, yes. I heard the Executor wants to kill Rex Silverstar" the entity replied truthfully.

Just as she thought, there was a reason why the entity gave this crystal.

Crossing his muscular fiery arms, the entity then continued, "The Executors are all given the affinity to Chaos element, a destructive element that could corrupt and control other natural elements such as fire, water, earth, and wind. This also includes higher-ranked elements that branched from those base elements. Only True Elements could resist the corruption from the Chaos element"

Adhara listened attentively and was surprised by the information.

She didn't know that the Executor's element, the Chaos element was capable of doing that.

'Did Rex know about this? I should tell him just to be sure' She decided.

Pointing at the Primordial Fire Crystal, the entity then said, "But the fire inside of that crystal couldn't be manipulated, its essence is pure, so it would be very helpful for your Alpha if he ever fought against the Executor"

Upon hearing this, Adhara nodded.

Additionally, she also deemed this the perfect conversation to recruit the Fire Elementals.

"I thanked you for this great gift, and I'll make sure to give it to Lord Rex" She nodded.

But then, she continues while keeping a close look at the entity's emotional aura, "Lord Rex is planning to take down the Executor. There would be a massive war in the future, and the fate of the Supernaturals lies in that fight. We have an alliance, led by Lord Rex himself, and I was wondering if you're interested in joining"

Since the Fire Elemental's survivability also lies in that fight, this is a reasonable proposal.

With the Fire Elementals on their side, their power would be boosted.

However, contrary to her belief, the entity shook his head with a light sigh, "I apologize, but I have to refuse that offer. Our numbers are very few, and we couldn't afford a war. It would be very bad for us if we lose more"

"Even though you know that the Executor will come after you if he wins?" She asked again.

The entity nodded in response, "We'll take our chances"

Upon being rejected, Adhara sealed her lips, her mind was thinking of another way.

Despite the entity rejecting the idea of going to war with them, she still feels like there's a way to convince the entity. Soon, she deciphered that way, "If the problem for you is losing your people, then what if you help us from the shadows?"

"From the shadows...?" the entity looked at her with an evident frown.

Just like that, the two started negotiating back and forth about the price of cooperation.

Albeit the reluctance to accept contributing to the war, the way Adhara delivered the words of persuasion made the entity feel like without his help, the Supernaturals would definitely lose the war, he eventually agreed to help from the shadows.

It would prevent him from losing his people while also simultaneously contributing to the war.

He had a love-and-hate relationship with the other Supernatural races.

Mainly the fact that the Demons, a higher-rank Supernatural attacked them to the point of almost genocide. However, they also still have bad blood with ancient humans, like any other Supernatural races that were oppressed.

The Executor is one of them, one who likes to hunt Elementals to harvest their essences.

"I only agree to help enhance your armors and such. My people will not directly fight on the frontline, and that will be our deal, is that clear, Female Alpha?" the entity repeated, trying to make sure that there would be no deviation from their agreement.

Adhara nodded her head in understanding, a big smile on her face.

With the negotiation done, she wanted to ask to be trained in the way of fire, to become stronger, but she reckoned that she would be too shameless to ask for that. At least, asking about that right now wouldn't be appropriate.

In a couple of days, she might come back and talk about this with the entity.

Maybe then would be more appropriate.

Just as she was intending to leave, her attention was suddenly pulled to her left ankle.

Upon a downward gaze, Adhara was astounded to discover a petite ember of fire, the size of a volleyball, tenderly nudging her left leg with its body. It was a cute little Fire Elemental, and it appeared to be seeking something from her in a manner that exuded an endearing appeal.

"Hmm...? Do you want my fire?" Adhara asked, trying to guess what the little guy wanted.

Surprisingly, the little Fire Elemental nodded its head repeatedly.

Finding that there was no problem with this, Adhara summoned her violet fire which was way bigger than it normally was, and kneeled down to give it to the small Fire Elemental. It sniffed her fire a couple of times before its eyes sparkled.

Not wasting a single more second, it greedily opened its mouth and devoured the violet fire.

Even Adhara was surprised to see its small body absorbing that much fire.

Swish!

In a couple of seconds, the fire that she summoned was devoured completely.

Savoring the taste of her violet fire, the small Fire Elemental swelled like a balloon, causing a moment of concern for Adhara. However, upon reaching its zenith and unable to expand any further, the petite entity puffed back to normal size, now its body adorned in a resplendent shade of violet.

An identical color to Adhara's violet flame.

Feeling full from devouring the violet fire, the small Fire Elemental slumped smaller lazily.

"I sensed your fire the moment you walked in, Female Alpha. You are a Fire Elementalist with a tint of True Fire. I haven't seen a fire element like yours in a long time, the Fire of Jealousy that is" the entity spoke after he watched the ordeal from the side.

Upon hearing this, Adhara turned towards him, surprised to find him aware of her element.

But then again, the entity is a Fire Elemental, so it wasn't that surprising.

"Also, your Fire of Jealousy doesn't seem to be normal. I suppose, considering that you are a Werewolf, the jealousy you felt must've been amplified somehow. Normally, anyone that ventured into our place would find it hard to breathe, even if you are a Fire Elementalist" the entity continued.

His eyes then darted to the side, "Just like your friend over there"

Oblivious to what he meant, Adhara turned to look at Ugrok and found him sweating and hyperventilating, which was why he was silent all this time. It seemed the extremely dense fire mana inside this canyon was too much for him to handle.

However, Adhara doesn't feel that bothered.

She could feel that the fire mana was so thick, but it didn't cause any side effects to her.

Adhara didn't realize it until the entity pointed it out.

"Is he going to be okay?" Adhara asked, fearing that this might cause something to Ugrok.

Putting on a light smile, the entity shook his head, "No, it's not going to cause anything that might endanger his life. Of course, had the Cyclops been weaker, then he might die. But at his strength, there's no need to worry about him. A Cyclops is extremely resilient after all"

Descending to the ground, the entity approached Adhara.

"Now, I know what your answer will be, but I'm going to ask anyway. Do you want me to turn your element complete? If you want, I can make your fire element into a complete True Fire element" He asked, bringing light to Adhara's eyes.

Since he decided to help from the shadows, this could be considered helping too.

On the other hand, Adhara was ecstatic about this.

Adhara wanted to postpone asking the entity to make her stronger, but it seemed the entity sniffed her intention and decided to offer it first. She was given a chance that she wouldn't decline even if she was unconscious when she was offered.

"Yes, if that's possible, I want it" She replied excitedly.

Just then, a frown crossed her face, "But, I must ask, will that be fine with you?"

Upon hearing this, the entity laughed heartily, not anticipating Adhara's concern for his well-being when presented with the chance to gain power. Unintentionally, this endeared Adhara to the entity even further, making the entity look at her in a better light.

"No problem. Our bodies naturally produce essences of True Fire, so giving it to you would not cause a problem, you don't have to worry" the entity replied assuringly. "However, in order to be bestowed this, you must pass our trial tradition, are you up for it?"

"Yes, I will do anything as long as you can make me stronger" Adhara replied resolutely.

This answer made the entity's smile stretch wider.

"Well okay then, if that's the case, let us begin the trial..."

Chapter 1006 Drakar the Red Giant

In the early, somber hours of the morning when the birds were only starting to chirp, Daniel meditated in his bedroom, suspended in tranquil levitation. Meanwhile, his wife, who refused to stay in Dargena City and wanted to accompany him instead, rested on the bed.

She looked very peaceful in her sleep, covered by a furred blanket.

Currently, the two of them are staying in the Tigerman's capital city, Klaigan City.

Being an emissary of the Silverstar Pack, the representative of their diplomatic relationship is hard work. Daniel was required to attend numerous meetings to discuss the current situation with the newly awakened older Tigermen who demanded an explanation.

Finding that they were under a new rule definitely displeased them.

It must've been a tough pill to swallow—the bitter realization struck them hard as they were being treated like expendable pawns, capable of changing masters at a whim, a blow to their code of honor and pride.

Moreover, the unease escalated particularly because the new ruler was someone foreign.

At least with the high-rank Supernatural races, they are familiar with them.

Even more so when they learned that they had lost a King.

King Samobas, the one who took care of the kingdom meticulously in their absence.

Given the sensitivity of the subject, which held the well-being of the entire kingdom and its people, a palpable tension permeated the air in every meeting. Fortunately, Daniel, with his wealth of experience in dealing with such delicate matters could handle it well.

He managed to buy some time for himself until he could think of a solution for this matter.

However, he knew that this matter hadn't been dealt with for good.

Many of them still have their own skepticism.

Daniel knew that the only thing that would take care of this problem for good was to have Rex or any individual from the Silverstar Pack come here. Since the newly awakened elders were old-school, they wanted to meet with the new ruler.

All of them wanted to meet and size up the new ruler directly.

Rex's presence is preferable, but those directly linked to him would also make do.

In addition, these elders of the Tigermen would definitely test the one that came to properly meet with them. Despite the stories they heard, they believed that looking at it first-hand was the only way to build trust between them.

Just like the tradition of the old, they said.

Because of that demand, it's safer for Rex to be the one to come here and deal with them.

Out of every member of the Silverstar Pack, he's the safest bet.

Circulating his own mana, containing a few strands of arcane mana, in peace, his mind was still pondering about the situation of the Tigerman Kingdom which started to look bad when the elders awakened from their slumber.

Then again, it was already anticipated that something like this would happen.

'Anyone that came would definitely be tested, and more than half of the Elders were in the ninth-rank realm. If anything, I believe Rex is the only one that can suppress this tension' He thought amidst his meditation.

Just as he thought of that, the door to his bedroom suddenly got viciously knocked.

A disturbance that made him stop his meditation.

Even his wife who was sleeping soundly was jolted awake by the knocking on the door.

Daniel clicked his tongue as from the way his door was knocked, he already knew who was the one on the other side of the door right now. He quickly heads to the door, there's a clear annoyance on his face before he opens the door.

"Dray! You woke up your mother, haven't I taught you manners?!" He exclaimed angrily.

Standing in front of the bedroom was his son, Dray.

On the other hand, Dray seemed to be drenched in sweat as if he had run here quickly. His countenance is also slightly pale, depicting a crisis that he wanted to deliver. Ignoring his father's anger, he quickly pointed outside.

"Father, you should see what's going on outside!" He said after collecting his breaths.

Confused, Daniel quickly took his suit which was hung on the side.

"Dear, wait here, I'm going to check what Dray is talking about" He gave his wife a slight peck on the cheek before he headed outside. Looking at his son, he gestured for Dray to lead him to what he was talking about to have such a horrid expression.

Soon enough, the pair of father and son reached the street.

As an emissary of the Silverstar Pack, their abode was located in the street for royals.

Nothing hung over this part of the city, but Dray promptly guided him towards the bustling main street for the people. As they approached, Daniel witnessed an unexpected scene—no skirmish, but instead, disciplined soldiers clad in armor could be seen marching in a precise formation down the street.

Judging from where they were heading, it seemed they were heading to the city gate.

It clearly indicates that they were heading out for a fight.

"What's going on here?" Daniel uttered whisperingly.

Despite Adhara's directive to anticipate war, no subsequent communication conveyed the necessity of deploying their army. So there must be another unfolding situation Daniel was not aware of or purposefully didn't get notified.

Looking to the side, he saw a trusted Tigerman who had become friends with him.

He was Rukan, hailing from one of the lower nobility families.

"Rukan, tell me what is happening right now. Why is the army being deployed?" Daniel asks.

Even before being asked, Rukan has already worn a troubled look on his face. He turned to the marching army before he replied, "I don't know who issued it, but there was an order to prepare the army for a confrontation on the border"

"A fight at a border? With whom?" Daniel frowned when he heard this.

Daniel learned so much about the Tigerman Kingdom.

Since he was tasked to deal with them, he learned everything including the geolocation of the kingdom and the territory that was under their rule. He also knows that the races, or at least the only races that would need such a lineup bordering the Tigerman Kingdom are the Dark Elves and the Dwarves.

Both of them were a part of the alliance.

Due to that, Daniel failed to suspect that there would be a fight against one of those two.

However, his thought was shut down by what Rukan said after.

"It's the Dwarves, they are going to fight the Dwarves for territory" Rukan replied hauntingly.

Daniel had his eyes flared wide open when he heard this.

Just when he thought that he had managed to buy some time to search for a solution, the Tigerman already tries to do something blasphemous, 'Are they being serious? Attacking the Dwarves would break their oath to the alliance and will also anger the Silverstar Pack'

Receiving the news, Daniel was flabbergasted.

Surely, this kind of action was reckless from the Tigerman and would return a backlash.

"If it's a scale this big, then I know who the one that ordered it" Daniel muttered firmly before he quickly walked away, leaving Rukan and Dray behind. He headed back to the royal street to meet with the person he suspected to be the cause of this.

Before long, he reached in front of a mansion adorned with sculptures and guards.

Daniel walked inside without being stopped by the guards.

Upon entering the mansion he was quickly greeted by the guest room where the walls were adorned with carved wooden tigers and plush fur-covered furniture. Moving through the corridor with steady and firm steps, Daniel passes lifelike tiger sculptures.

Then, he met with a staircase down, leading to the living room.

Almost instantly, Daniel's nose was filled with the scent of cedarwood and his eyes were drawn to the tapestries depicting hunting scenes line the walls. Soon, his ears heard a cackling sound of fire, and his eyes shifted to a magical fireplace at the center.

Its flames dance with blue and gold, a testament to the Tigerman's connection with nature.

Sitting on the sofa beside the fireplace was the figure he was looking for.

Even though the figure was sitting in silence, his vocal cord was trembling with menacing growls that trembled the heart. "I was expecting you to come, but I didn't expect you to come this soon, Daniel"

Pausing for a second, the figure then stood up, exposing its massive stature.

He then turned to look at Daniel with a peculiar look.

Commanding the room's focal point, a Tigerman with crimson fure stood towering. Deeper in hue than any Tigerman Daniel had encountered in the entire kingdom, it bore witness to the countless kills achieved by this formidable warrior of the past.

Rumors said that this Tigerman is the strongest out of the Elders.

Adopting the strategy that he used whenever he was meeting with an important individual, it was a habit of Daniel to research about the other person. He asked Rukan and learned that this Tigerman had single-handedly blocked the march of two packs of Werewolves.

It also includes two Alphas which definitely speaks for this Tigerman's ferocity.

He is Drakar, also called the Red Giant or the Unbreakable Red.

"What have you come to my abode, Daniel?" Drakar asked, his heavy steps echoing.

Despite the fact that Daniel was intimidated by Drakar's presence, he kept a calm composure and took a step forward bravely, "I know that it was you who ordered the attack. I already told you to wait, and not heeding my warning will incur heavy penalties for your family"

Upon hearing this, Drakar chuckled.

"I don't know what you are talking about, Daniel" He dodged the accusation, shrugging his shoulders as if he had no command in this attack. "But even if I am the one that ordered the march of our army, I don't think I break any rules here"

"Doesn't break any rules? Attacking an alliance member is puni—"

"I've read the oath agreement, and I distinctly remember that it's a collective cooperation against external threats. We, the Tigerman Kingdom had already done our part. We helped the Dwarves when they were attacked by the Demons. However, I fail to find anything that addresses an attack from a fellow alliance member..."

Listening to this, Daniel was at a loss for words.

He already knew what Drakar was about to say, and it made him even more furious.

"So even if we attack the Dwarves, the Silverstar Pack couldn't do anything about it" Drakar continued with a sly smile on his lips. "But of course, if the Silverstar Pack revised the terms of the oath agreement, then we will stop. However, until then, you have absolutely no power to tell us to stop, Daniel..."

...

Meanwhile, the second they finished their preparation, Flunra and Evelyn departed.

Both of them have settled the matters within the city.

Prof. K and Giana would be the ones in charge of the defensive mechanisms and the city guards while they were gone. However, the three city guard captains, Gelmar, Dindora, and Linthia would be secretly the ones in charge if the city reached a crisis situation.

On the other hand, Ryze would be responsible for the safety of the castle and Kyran.

With the current state of Dargena City, it was self-reliant.

If an attack doesn't have overwhelming strength such as the Executor himself coming to destroy the city, or possessing more than ten ninth-rank realm Awakened, then the city's defensive equipment and barrier would prevail.

So Evelyn and Flunra felt less worried about leaving the city for the time being.

Even if there were strong opponents, there was still the Witch which would definitely be able to stall for time. With a nod, the two zoomed into the distance by foot as using the formation to teleport would waste its energy.

Going by foot, on the other hand, wouldn't waste their resources.

However, when the two reached the edge of the Humming Damned Forest, both sensed an approaching figure from the opposite side. And when they met, Flunra and Evelyn realized that it was an Awakened.

A Mind Elementalist which should be sent here by Lady Lauren.

"Sir Flunra! Lady Evelyn!" the Awakened exclaimed in pleasant surprise. But in the next second, her expression turned serious. "Forgive for my unannounced visit, but I've come here to deliver a report from Lady Lauren, and I fear that it's urgent..."

Chapter 1007 Outburst of the Wise

Just as they began their journey to search for Adhara, they were intercepted by a problem.

It takes the form of an Awakened under Lady Lauren's command.

Knowing the urgency of the situation that they needed to deal with, as the time the Executor reached the Symposium was uncertain, Flunra didn't want anything to do with this, "Step out of the way. Now is not the time, tell that to Lady Lauren"

Upon hearing this, the Awakened was tongue-tied.

She could hear the worried tone when Lady Lauren sent her, but Flunra's response was cold.

Even though she wanted to say something, she couldn't.

Realizing what the Awakened's expression meant, Evelyn tapped Flunra's shoulder, signaling for him to be patient for a little longer, "It will be fine if we listen to her. It wouldn't take longer than a couple of minutes, perhaps it's something really urgent"

Despite her calming tone, Flunra's impatience only heightened in response.

"I didn't want to say this bluntly, but there's really a general lack of command chains in our ranks. How can a measly Awakened like her, even though she was sent by Lady Lauren be capable of directing a message instantly to us?" Flunra retorted, his demeanor fierce.

From his perspective, this doesn't seem right.

He gave a sharp glance at the Awakened before he continued, "If there's a matter that we should know, there should be steps to go through before reaching us. Entertaining them like this would only undermine the Silverstar Pack's standing"

Listening to this, Evelyn was at a loss for words.

She didn't understand why Flunra was this vexed at the Awakened who is only a messenger.

Not even waiting for an answer, he walked away from the spot.

"I will be waiting for you ahead. If you take too long, I'll leave without you" Flunra mused.

In the midst of this unfolding scene, the Awakened quivered in her boots, the formidable aura emanating from Flunra was enough to make her sweat profusely. It seemed like her body was about to be crushed under the oppressing force.

Additionally, it was also so sudden.

Flunra's outburst took her completely off guard, as she hadn't anticipated that meeting the two of them here and stopping them for a moment would provoke such a vehement reaction from Flunra.

"Forgive me, Lady Evelyn. I was being rash" the Awakened apologized, her voice trembling.

Upon hearing this, Evelyn snapped out of her daze.

Clearly, she was also shaken by Flunra's sudden outburst which he never does.

Realizing that the Awakened was on the verge of crying, feeling that death was palpable if Flunra stayed longer, Evelyn forced out a bright smile and replied assuringly, "No, I should be the one apologizing. Forgive Flunra's words, he's under immense stress so I hope you can find it in your heart to understand and don't take his words to heart"

Albeit still feeling uneasy, the Awakened eventually nodded her head.

It was going to be hard to forget that outburst, but the Awakened would definitely try.

"So, what report do you bring?" Evelyn finally asked.

With that, the Awakened delivered the message of stress that Lady Lauren had regarding the escalating tension within the Dark Elf Kingdom. She was fearful that certain noble families from the old order might engage in conflict with one another and King Jorik.

According to her, a civil war was on the verge of breaking out.

Only the presence of a member of the Silverstar Pack could possibly appease the situation.

Learning about the situation didn't shock Evelyn that much, the balance of power of the Dark Elf Kingdom would definitely be disrupted when the old Dark Elves awakened. It's inevitable in her perspective, but it was unfortunate that it would be dealt with right now.

'Just like she said, this is not a small matter' Evelyn massaged her forehead with a sigh.

She was hoping for a time off, but it seemed there was none for her.

Even though she wanted to help Flunra in order to deal with the matter regarding the Ice and Snow princess, someone has to stay behind and calm the tension in the Dark Elf Kingdom. If none of them did, then an allied force might become useless.

Rex wouldn't like that outcome, so this is a big matter that needs to be handled.

After receiving the news, she sent the Awakened back.

Coursing through the forest, she was trapped in her mind as she was obviously deliberating to go to the Dark Elf Kingdom herself. As much as she wanted to come with Flunra, she knew where the priority lay.

Seeing Flunra, crossing his arms in wait, she quicken her pace.

Hesitating for a second, she eventually said, "I can't go with you, the Dark Elf needs me"

"Just as I expected, it was very urgent. We might lose the Dark Elf if I don't go and deal with them. With the approaching fight, losing the Dark Elf would lower the chances of us winning against the Executor. So, I'm going to go to the Dark Elf Kingdom" She elaborated clearly, there was a hint of sarcasm in her tone.

Upon hearing this, Flunra surprisingly scoffed in scorn.

Pivoting his body away, he muttered under his breaths, "You wasted my time"

"Do you have something to say to me, Flunra? It's not usual for you to be acting like this" At the edge of him leaving, Evelyn stopped him as she could sense that there was obviously something that seemed to bother Flunra and make him act like this.

At that very second, Flunra turned around and stood right before her.

He was looking down at her from a higher sight point, "I said you wasted my time, Evelyn. A Luna doesn't only need to be kind to her people, but she should be strong emotionally, and more importantly, have absolute trust in the Alpha. Just know that if you fail to fix the situation in the Dark Elf Kingdom..."

"I will tell Rex himself my concern for you as his Luna" He added firmly.

Not giving Evelyn any chance to form a reply, Flunra immediately vanished from his spot.

Flunra dashed away, leaving Evelyn rooted on her spot in shock.

Once again, Evelyn was caught off guard as Flunra had never acted that daring towards her.

In every instance that she had with Flunra, he had never shown this side of him. Even she thought that the relationship between her and Flunra was stronger than before, considering that he had given her advice and such to be a proper Luna.

But then out of nowhere, his demeanor towards her changed completely.

Almost as if something happened to him.

"Just what is his problem? How can he even suggest that?" Evelyn mused with a frown.

...

Meanwhile, back to Calidora's castle.

After the reveal of Rex's main plan against the Executor, a struggle to wield the weapon of the Supreme One, Calidora went ahead and told him to consolidate his new greater cursed body so that his cursed source would turn into a heart of curse.

Only then he would be able to choose a path of mind or zone.

Since the sun was already up again, Calidora took cover in the safety of the shadows.

It was one of the things that her grandmother told her numerous times.

Back when she was of the age where she could bear a child, the only child that she could bear as that is what goes with the Vampire race, her grandmother emphasized that she would need to be under the shadows at all times, even though she was wearing an artifact that would shield her from the sunlight.

Her grandmother said that although she would be safe, the child inside her will not.

One wrong move and she might lose her child.

Unlike humans who could bear children as much as they want, a Vampire could only bear one, and if she lost the child during pregnancy, then there was no way that she could bear another one for the rest of her life.

A nightmare for Vampires, which is why Calidora stays within the shadows at all times.

But now, her mind was somewhere else.

Listening to Rex's plan earlier, albeit she didn't react much, she was truthfully surprised by what he said, 'To think that the Witch of Chaos would align herself with him, when she was as selfish as one gets, and even putting herself in danger, I'm surprised...'

'Then again, she must be desperate to kill the Executor' She shook her head lightly.

Calidora had known the Witch of Chaos from the past.

Not that she knew the Witch personally, but her families sometimes brought her up due to the disturbance that she was able to cause with her cursed power. She distinctively recalls that the Witch is described to be ultimately selfish.

Only the collective might of the Executors was capable of taking her down.

Ever since, she was bound in a master and slave contract.

It was understandable that the Witch wanted to kill the Executor, but aligning with Rex is still a break to her character. 'She must've been really desperate, and Rex is the one with the highest chance to defeat the Executor in this new era, so she chooses him'

'But after the Executor was killed, I can tell that she would do something' Calidora nodded.

The Witch of Chaos' biggest threat is the Executor.

Despite the Fifthborn being the weakest, she must've feared that if pushed to the corner, the Fifthborn would awaken his siblings which would be very bad for her. So Calidora assumed it was possible that she wanted to get rid of the Fifthborn first before advancing her plan.

Just as she was trapped in contemplation, Rex stood up and approached her.

Snapping out of her daze, she looked up at him, "Are you finished with your consolidation?"

"No," Rex shook his head, a glint of curiosity in his eyes. "I'm still undecided about which path I should choose, and I thought that if you show me yours first then I might be able to choose the suitable one for me"

Upon hearing this, Calidora smiled and flicked her hair back, "Very well..."

Immediately after requesting that, a foreboding air strikes out of Calidora's body massively.

Rex was surprised by this as the level of cursed energy was insurmountable.

Even though I've seen her use her cursed energy when fighting the Witch of Chaos' pets alongside me back then, the concentration... it's way higher than back then. Don't tell me that she has been holding back all along.

Caught off guard by the density of cursed energy, Rex frowned but kept his stand.

He didn't budge even for a little bit.

She lifted her gaze, exposing an intense inferno of cursed energy blazing in her eyes, giving a perspective of being able to devour anything, she slowly extended her hand. With a gentle touch, she placed her index finger at the center of Rex's chest.

It was a lie if Rex said that he was not nervous right now.

He had only entered a cursed zone one time, so this would be the second time.

Despite his experience, he still felt nervous inside.

Just then, when the eeriness reached its peak, a whisper came out of Calidora's mouth.

"Cursed zone, Mirage of Terror..."

Even though Calidora was saying that from his front, her voice somewhat felt like it came from directly beside his ears. It was so deceptive that Rex even turned to the side in reflex, surprised by the oddity of her cursed chant.

Upon chanting that, a black-and-white zone encompassed both of their bodies.

In the next second, their reality shattered.

Although he doesn't feel anything, Rex can evidently see that he and Calidora are being moved somewhere else, to her cursed zone to be exact. He then looks around to inspect Calidora's cursed zone for the first time.

Soon, he found himself standing in the middle of nowhere.

From appearance alone, it seemed to be a vast expanse dyed crimson, spanning endlessly.

"How do you like it? My cursed zone?"

Chapter 1008 Mirage of Terror

Calidora chose the zone path to progress in her cursed power.

Her cursed zone is called the Mirage of Terror, an unfolding of a misty and rugged expanse adorned with jutting rocks and small hills stretching as far as the eyes can discern. Within this eerie landscape, everything Rex lays his eyes upon is cloaked in a reddish hue.

It has a stark similarity with Kaiser's realm, minus the faint crimson mist.

Moreover, he could feel the air pressing against his skin.

Almost akin to being deep underwater, the pressure is strongly pressed against his body.

Rex could also feel the eeriness infiltrating his heart inside this cursed zone, all due to the terrifying amount of cursed energy condensed in this zone. Such an amount was definitely only possible thanks to her having the power of a ninth epiphany.

Observing the zone, he discerned the difference with Rurvi's cursed zone.

Initially, he thought that the cursed zone would only be an alternate dimension of the place where it was deployed. Since Rurvi is living within the underground canyon, its cursed zone is also within the underground canyon.

Also, its cursed zone has an entrance portal.

Even though it could only be seen by other Witches, it was still an entry point.

Something that stood out the most other than that was the fact that its cursed zone, from the looks of it, was capable of connecting with reality. Rex still remembered the way Rurvi was able to come in and out rather easily.

It was entirely different compared to Caliodra's cursed zone.

Compared to the cursed zone she was showcasing to him right now, the entire place within her cursed zone was not the castle, it was a rugged path of earth instead. Numerous caves could be seen on the body of the small hills and mounds.

Moreover, there appeared to be no discernible entry point or connection to the reality space.

Obviously, the one that was brought here would find it very hard to escape.

"How do you like it? My cursed zone that is" Calidra out of nowhere appeared and asked.

Upon hearing this, Rex remained silent as he kept observing the surroundings. He was still trying to notice anything different but found no more, "For a Vampire's cursed zone, I guess your cursed zone location is not that surprising. I expected it. Now, can you explain to me what your cursed zone provides you with?"

Aside from the dense cursed energy, giving her a power boost, he doesn't know what else.

Surely, the reward for summoning a cursed zone would be worth it.

"Come and attack me," Calidora replied, spreading her arms to the side slightly.

Her expression was taunting at Rex, and her raven black hair was fluttering against the wind alongside her regal robe sleeves. An evident air of confidence swirled around her, which was surprising considering that she knew how strong Rex was.

But then again, her demeanor also depicted that her cursed zone was very powerful.

Okay, I'll try attacking her with around 20% of my strength.

Rex made a quick dash, unleashing a forceful strike with a swing of his arm, coated with the power of his black lightning that crackled thunderously at Calidora. However, she remained unmoved, adopting a statue-like stance without bothering to defend or evade his attack.

A sight that made him frown as Calidora didn't even brace herself for the punch.

No matter how confident she was with her cursed zone, there was an undeniable fact that her physical prowess was nothing more than a peak eighth-rank realm, or possibly on the realm of a pseudo-ninth-rank.

On the other hand, Rex was at the highest peak of the ninth-rank realm.

Physique alone, he was confident that he had the strongest physique in the current era.

Surely, with the existing gap between them, and even with the fact that he was only going to use 20% of his strength, Calidora should brace herself. Eventually, his punch connected, but it didn't connect with Calidora's chest.

It halted about a meter away from her body, blocked by some sort of distortion in the air.

Rex looked at this with squinted eyes.

From the looks of the distortion, she should only be using her cursed energy. But her eyes... why does her Eyes of Terror also seem to be utilized? Is she using both of them at the same time to block? Or is it the cursed zone doing its work?

A few possibilities appeared in Rex's mind as he observed this exchange.

Even though he knew about the Eyes of Terror, it has been quite some time since he saw her Eyes of Terror being utilized in a fight. Based on his knowledge, the use of Eyes of Terror was to create this weird propelling force and also create illusions.

Other abilities that she had hailed from the Eternal Curse, included her dark revival power.

Due to that, seeing this slightly surprised Rex.

Since she rarely uses the power of her eyes, he thought that she stopped developing it.

Boom!

Out of nowhere, Rex got pushed back as the distortion blasted him away, forcing him to somersault back and planted his claws to the ground to stop the momentum. A frown appeared on his face as he raised his gaze.

"Is that all you can do? I thought you were more capable than that" Calidora smirked.

Upon hearing this, Rex also smirked back.

Rex stood upright once again and cracked his neck with his eyes fixed on Calidora.

Alright, 80% it is!

Crack!

Gathering more strength, manipulating his red force, arcane mana, and spirit energy, the ground cracked under the collective might. He then made a powerful dash that literally created a large crater in the ground where he stood.

Swoosh!

In a flickering of ferocity, Rex's eyes flared as he swung his claws powerfully.

But like earlier, his attack was blocked once again.

Even though he was actually trying to push through, he was incapable of going further.

"Within my cursed zone, I transcended the limitations of my Eyes of Terror, granting me unrestricted access to its power to the fullest extent. I don't need to develop my Eyes of Terror anymore since as long as I'm within my cursed zone, I can harness its full ability"

"Added with my ninth epiphany cursed energy, its power quadrupled" She elaborated.

Upon hearing this, Rex nodded in affirmation.

Knowing the versatile nature of cursed energy, being able to be used for anything, it was not a surprise that Calidora was able to utilize it to break through the limitation of her Vampiric Eyes of Terror.

No wonder that she was able to block his attack as easily as that.

Rex backed away again and launched a dozen attacks from all sides, testing whether there was any blindspot that he could utilize. But surprisingly, the Eyes of Terror doesn't require a line of sight and is able to protect her completely.

Considering that it was a power of the eyes, Rex wasn't expecting this.

However, the smirk on Calidora's lips widened.

"As I said, this domain allows me to use my Eyes of Terror's power to the fullest extent. So right now, you are not fighting the real me" She finally dropped the news, which managed to catch Rex off guard as his senses didn't notice that the one he was attacking was not real.

Starting from scent, aura, and vision, there were no flaws at all.

It was then that Calidora's real self appeared, she was flying directly above them.

Looking down at Rex from above, her lips curled into a teasing smile as she knew from the start that Rex would not be able to sense her, "A small mix of cursed energy into my blood energy and you can't sense me, what do you think? Is a cursed zone handy enough?"

Upon hearing the teasing tone, the vein on his forehead bulged a little bit.

"Now that you said that, I'm tempted to take the mind path to not fall for you" He retorted.

Calidora laughed heartily when she heard this.

But then again, if Rex took the mind path, he would be capable of resisting all of this.

After having fun showing Rex her cursed zone, the entire place underwent another distortion before the two found themselves back in reality. To external observers, their entry into the cursed zone left only a lingering sphere of enchantment in its wake.

It was a sign that there was a cursed zone being deployed there.

Had Calidora become better at using her cursed zone, this sphere could have been hidden.

"Don't rush in making a decision, you won't be able to change it again if you had chosen one. I know that you are capable of even mastering numerous elements, but trust me, the power of curses is very different" Calidora said, reprimanding him.

Rex nodded in understanding, he already planned to think it through first.

Out of the two choices, he wanted to choose the zone path compared to the mind path as that would help him fight the Executor. But he's still undecided as he doesn't know full well about the mind path.

Had he been home, he could have asked the Witch about this.

Who knows? Maybe she was even capable of showing both paths at the same time.

But now, he couldn't do that so he needs to contemplate deeply.

"I'll keep on consolidating my greater cursed body while I contemplate, don't wait up for me," Rex said, pivoting his body around with the intention of resuming his meditation. He would need to come to a decision as soon as possible.

Just then, Calidora suddenly grabbed his wrist, stopping him in his tracks.

"What's wrong?" He asked with raised brows.

Giving Rex a resolute gaze, she replied, "It's enough meditation, you need some rest"

"Hmm...? What are you saying, Calidora? I already told you the reason why I need to achieve the ninth epiphany as soon as possible. I have no time to rest, you know that" Rex rebutted, knowing full well that in his life, resting is a taboo.

Every time he wanted some rest, the world always gave him a big problem for him to handle.

So it's best for him to not rest, or else another problem would come knocking.

However, Calidora's expression was stubborn, and she shook her head in response, "Go and rest, your cursed source was injured recently, so you need to stop. If you don't stop, then go and train on your own, I will not be helping"

"What...?" Rex was at a loss for words when he heard this.

Out of anything, he didn't expect Calidora to give him a fierce ultimatum like that.

It stunned him for a solid minute.

Although he managed to achieve the greater cursed body already, he still needs her help to reach the ninth epiphany. Moreover, he was also staying here, so there was going to be a real problem if Calidora suddenly stopped helping him.

Hesitatingly, he asked again, "Are you really doing this?"

"Yes. So are you going to stop or not? Your choice" Calidora looked at him dead in the eyes.

Seeing that she was being serious, Rex had no choice but to comply.

A moment later.

"Rex, I know that you are meditating secretly in there. Don't think that I wouldn't notice"

Currently, Rex was inside his own bed chamber.

Even though he said that he wouldn't meditate, he was going to do it discreetly while he was inside his private chamber, and Calidora was not paying attention. But he was dead wrong as she was capable of catching him every time he tried to meditate.

"This is ridiculous, is she really going to stop me from training today?" Rex muttered wryly.

No matter what methods he tried, she would always know.

Rex even started to suspect that there was a hidden camera inside his chamber that she used to tell if he was trying to meditate, but there surely was none, this is the Vampire's territory after all, there was no technology here.

And if it was a detection magic, he should be able to sense it.

The only explanation if there was really detection magic inside the chamber, then it must be made of cursed energy as that's the only energy that Rex wasn't that adept at sensing, even with his sensitive senses.

For the first half an hour, he couldn't do anything but lay on the bed, resting as he was told.

However, it didn't take long before his eyelids became heavy.

During the time when he was stressing over his future battle against the Executor, he hadn't gotten a wink of sleep. But now, being forced to do nothing but rest, Rex slowly drowsed into the dreamland.

Chapter 1009 Unknown Risks

Had Evelyn known what Calidora was doing, she would've cursed Calidora to death.

In every move that she made, there was always ulterior motives.

Evelyn's personal bias against Calidora fueled her to always be skeptical, as it surely wasn't always the case. However, for this very moment, she wasn't entirely wrong if she suspects Calidora was doing this for her personal gain.

'Good, if he rests here, he would be engaged emotionally' Calidora pondered.

A moment earlier, she had sensed that Rex had fallen asleep.

Despite the part where she told him to rest because of his wounded cursed source earlier was true, she also did that in order to make Rex feel more at ease. He hadn't been sleeping, she could tell from the look in his eyes.

Some Supernaturals don't require sleeping to function properly.

Nothing would happen to their body and minds if they decided to not sleep forever.

But even then, sleeping isn't entirely useless for them.

Its conception differs from Supernatural races to Supernatural races.

A distinction rooted in tradition and history, however, the most popular belief was that the fact that sleeping can heal one's soul. Going without it for a prolonged time would cause a myriad of problems such as soul or spiritual problems.

Even though it wouldn't harm their bodies, it might weaken their power temporarily.

Due to that, it was good for Rex to sleep.

Considering that he has a unique anatomy, having two forms, he might need it more.

Upon sensing that Rex had fallen asleep, judging from his steady breaths and reduction of his heart rate, Calidora walked out of the castle. Her eyes were trained forward as she had something to do right now.

Reaching the gate of the castle's walls, she stood there motionlessly.

Soon enough, almost a dozen figures appeared.

All of them came in the form of a drop of blood before it morphed into their forms.

Judging from the regal armor they were wearing, a united crimson with the glowing emblem adorning their breastplate, it was without a doubt that this group of Vampires came from the Royal Vampire Guard division.

Calidora swept her gaze at them and quickly recognized them all.

It was the loyalist.

Despite the fact that Elder Nolacula assumed the throne of the entire Vampire Kingdom, some royal Vampire guards were still loyal to Solomon. With him making sure the Vampire Kingdom stands for 15 years is enough to win their respect.

Thus, as his daughter, they are also loyal to Calidora.

"I assume that all of you have heard from my Mother and came here" Calidora started.

Each one of them nodded in response.

Nezera left not too long ago with Viscardi, a little bit over an hour.

But in that small timeframe, the royal Vampire guard loyalists managed to hear about her current state and came here with the intention of protecting her. It was obvious that they came here to make sure nothing happened to Calidora.

At least until her puerperal.

One of the royal Vampire guard loyalists, Dimitri stepped forward, "Please don't reject us"

"It's crucial that we are here to protect you from external threats, despite your confidence in defending yourself. With time, you will grow weaker and weaker, so if we are not of use right now, we will be in the future" He continued, his voice firm and unshakable.

Upon hearing this, Calidora scoffed, "Do you think I'm not safe with him around?"

Clearly, she was hinting at Rex who was sleeping inside.

Despite the pride and arrogance that the royal Vampire guards generally have, they should know that they are not comparable to Rex. But even then, Dimitiri's expression didn't budge and was seemingly even more serious.

"I talked to Monica a moment ago," Dimitri said, leading the conversation somewhere.

Claidora frowned when she heard this.

As the former royal lineage of the Vampires, she was well acquainted with Monica. She was one of the earliest Enchanters to awaken. Despite her relatively young age, barely at the one-thousand mark, she possessed an extensive understanding of the chasm of energy.

Nobody has a deeper understanding than her, at least not until the First Breath happened.

"Monica? What about her that concerns me?" Calidora raised an eyebrow.

Dimitri continued, elaborating from the start to make Calidora understand, "During your visit to the Delarosa Family's territory, a witness observed my Lady's confrontation with the Alpha of the Silverstar Pack. Naturally, he also witnessed you being decapitated..."

Listening to this, a frown was slapped on Calidora's face.

Aside from herself, there was nobody who knew about the Eternal Curse within her.

Queen Shanaela was another, but she knew very little.

Now that Dimitri has heard of her being decapitated, he must know about the curse too.

"If you are here to forbid me from using my cursed power, then you are wasting your time. I'm not going to stop, even if Mother or Father were the ones who came here" Calidora retorted, there was no way that she would stop using the Eternal Curse.

Out of her powers, her curse power is the strongest.

Upon hearing this, Dimitri shook his head, finding that Calidora misunderstood his intention.

"No, I'm not here to forbid you from using your cursed power. Use it or don't, it's entirely up to you, my Lady" Just then, his eyes turned sharp. "I don't know exactly what the curse that fuels your power is, so I'm going to ask you this. Does being revived take a big toll on you?"

Calidora was still at a loss about what Dimitri was trying to say.

However, she decided to follow along for now, "Yes, it takes a huge toll on my cursed energy"

"If that's the case, you should stop using that revival power" He added.

Calidora wanted to rebut as she already told him that she wouldn't stop using her cursed power from the start, but before she could say anything, Dimitri quickly continued, "Not for me, but for yourself. Because if you don't, then the child inside of you will be influenced"

Just as she heard this, her frown deepened and she tilted her head a little.

Her eyes were looking at Dimitri questioningly.

"I'm saying that if you use your cursed power too much, your child will die..." He elaborates.

Deg!

Upon hearing this, Calidora's breath was stuck in her throat.

Not once that she anticipate Dimitri to say that, and naturally, her innate instinct to protect the child inside of her kicked in as her heart began to beat faster, "What do— What do you mean by that, Dimitri?"

Despite the child was attempt to possess Rex, it was still her child.

It's the only child she will ever have.

Obviously, the thought that her child would die is something that crept fear in her.

"Monica explained it to me," Dimitri started, he was being serious. "A cursed source is not like the human's Awakened core that's linked directly. She said that there was a chance that the cursed energy my Lady used would mistake the child inside of you as the cursed source,"

"If you use more cursed energy, the chances of this happening will increase" He added.

Calidora's expression turned pale when she heard this.

Instinctively, her hand moved to rub her abdomen as not too long ago, during the Hare Moon, she fought against Rex and got revived multiple times. Now she realized that if she had been unlucky, then her child would die there.

Noticing the fear on Calidora's countenance, Dimitri also became nervous.

"Did you use that power recently...?" He asked whisperingly.

Upon hearing this, Calidora nodded subtly, she felt dizzy from the realization she just had.

Realizing that she had used her cursed revival power, Dimitri takes out something from a pouch attached to his waist. Calidora looked at the item and found that it was a necklace with a blueberry-colored pendant attached to it.

"What's that?" She asked, her voice shaking.

Dimitri came close and helped her wear it as he explained, "It's an item that Monica gave me. It will be able to roughly gauge the possibility of the cursed energy mistaking your child as the cursed source"

After wearing it, Calidora looked down and found the pendant gleamed lightly.

But the sight made Dimitri's face pale.

"What? What does it mean, Dimitri?!" Calidora slightly raised her voice out of sheer concern.

On the other hand, Dimitri snapped out of his momentary trance when she heard Calidora exclaiming at him. He then involuntarily gulped, "I- I don't know how to say this, but a small glow like this means that the probability is now very high"

"I don't know, maybe 1 more and your child will be..." He added and stopped mid-sentence.

...

"Rex, I'm scared..."

Inside a completely dark expanse, there was a voice calling to him.

Even though the voice was echoing and seemed to be resonating from a distance, there was no way that Rex couldn't recognize that voice. Bloodlust surged in his veins as his eyes flared open, darting left and right, desperately trying to pinpoint the source of the voice

"Adhara! Where are you?!" He shouted at the top of his lungs.

Despite his shout, there was only silence.

Rex, albeit not knowing where the direction of her voice came from inside this thick blanket of darkness, began to run. He could only hope that it was the right way, "Adhara! Please, answer me! Where are you?!"

But in the midst of running, he suddenly stopped as another voice came from behind.

"Kyaaahh! Help! Someone, help!!!"

At that moment, Rex snapped his head back, "Evelyn?!"

He now heard Evelyn's voice.

But to make matters even worse, he never heard her voice being hoarse and weak like that.

Pant... Pant...

Naturally, the direction of his run shifted.

Rex began to sprint in the opposite direction, galloping with all his might.

However, the voices didn't stop there.

Soon, more voices came to haunt him, and all of these voices he recognized.

"No matter what, I will keep fighting on, even if it means my death"

"It's okay, Rex... It's not your fault"

"Even though I've done you wrong, I hope this will make up for my mistake"

"I'm honored to have served you, Royal Black Prince. No matter the ending, I'm honored"

Kyran, Gistella, Ryze, Flunra, everyone that he cared for could be heard inside the dark.

Despite the chaotic cacophony of disparate voices, a common thread emerged—they all shared the unmistakable vulnerability of feeble tones, as though collectively trapped in a dire and precarious situation.

It felt like only Rex was the one who couldn't see what was happening.

Eventually, Rex fell to his knees.

"RAARRGGGHH!!"

While covering both of his ears, he shouted at the top of his lungs as the voices started to become rampant, repeating the same sentences was maddening to hear. He couldn't do anything to stop what they were experiencing.

That was the sensation that made him go insane.

Just as the chaos was nearing its zenith, the voices suddenly dispersed simultaneously.

Realizing that the voices were all gone, Rex slowly put his hands down, only his rough breaths could be heard. It stayed like that for a moment before he suddenly felt a direct presence right in front of him.

Out of nowhere, a couple of spotlights flashed, lighting six spaces around him.

Rex slowly raised his gaze, expecting nothing.

But when he looked around, his eyes flared in utter horror, seeing that Adhara, Evelyn, Kyran, Gistella, Ryze, and Calidora were standing in their own spotlight. Each of them had their heads tilted down and stood completely motionless.

He slowly stood up, intending to approach one of them to check.

However, his body instinctively halted.

It was because Rex saw that their bodies started to be covered in blood.

"No, it's just a nightmare... this is not real"

Looking at this horrifying ordeal, Rex repeated those words a couple of times as the others got drenched completely in blood. It was akin as if they were stabbed by multiple invisible blades across their bodies.

Just then, Rex saw a slenderly tall figure coming out of the shadow and stood behind them.

A figure that he recognized instantly, the Executor.

Giving a delectable smile straight at Rex, the Executor soon poised his deadly claws on the others' necks. In response, Rex started shaking his head, but the Executor didn't heed him and cut their necks in a painful motion.

Splash!

Chapter 1010 Harmless Air

It's been said that a dream is the reflection of one's soul.

A natural platform that could give insight into the person's current state of the soul.

Unresolved anxiety, symbolic representation, and past trauma, all could be blended together to create a nightmare that was capable of destroying even the strongest of mind. Only a few can stop the onslaught of dreams as it comes from one's self.

Rex knew that this was all a dream.

He was aware that none of this was real, but seeing it didn't diminish the effect it brings.

Being aware of the dream world made everything feel even more real than it should be, and he was in emotional agony. He witnessed the Executor slitting the others' necks one by one, with a slow and sadistic movement.

Just the gushing blood that came out of their necks turned his feet cold.

At that moment, he was in total shock.

Like listening to a speaker right beside the ear, his sensitive hearing provides him with every detail of the gruesome sound created. Starting from the skin being sliced open, the tearing of flesh, and eventually the sound of blood hitting the ground.

It was ringing inside his ears, rattling his eardrums like the loudest war drums.

Thud!

Thud!

One by one, the others fell to the ground lifeless, leaving only the Executor and his smile.

"Power... the power you speak of, is nothing. Relationships, trusts, mortality... none of it can beat individual prowess in this world" the Executor said hauntingly, his voice echoing inside this hollow darkness. "Deep inside, you understand. Ultimately, one is for one's own, and the weak would be rooted out naturally. A natural selection..."

"No matter how much you tried, you can't watch over them forever" He continued raspingly.

Upon hearing this, Rex lets out a menacing howl as he makes a quick dash forward.

He tried to reach the Executor viciously.

But no matter how much he tries, how fast he dashes, he never reaches the Executor.

It was akin to him running at the same spot.

Soon, as the realization of his futile attempt started to seep in, his speed gradually turned slower and slower until he halted on his spot. He has both of his fists clenched, there is evident conflict in his expression.

"In the end... the only one capable of surviving is you alone," The Executor said finally.

Rex's body trembled uncontrollably when he heard this.

Is that how it's really going to be...? Will I, in the end, be destined to fail?

Due to the depressing environment in this hollow darkness, he began second-guessing his resolve, if the end will not change no matter what. As if his current state was not the worst, another voice penetrated his ears.

But this time, it came directly from his front.

Naturally, Rex lifted his gaze before he found two figures with featureless faces.

Silhouetted against the void, a man and a woman stood hand in hand, and even though both didn't have any face, the haunting familiarity struck Rex like a chilling revelation—they were none other than his biological parents, casting a pallor upon his countenance.

Just the sight of them made his heart skip a beat.

Flashes of what had happened to them, that he had already let go flood right back to him.

His legs felt weak, and he fell to his knees with watery eyes.

Overwhelmed by the spectral visage of his biological parents, Rex instinctively averted his gaze, a subconscious reaction as looking at both of them drained the very essence of power within him.

Yet, a gentle hand defied his retreat, delicately lifting his chin.

Rex is forced to confront the haunting apparitions and utters, "Mother... Father..."

With a somber grace, his mother Nabila inclined towards him. Although devoid of a physical mouth, an ethereal voice came out hauntingly, "In the end, no matter your strength, or how strong you managed to become, those dear to you will share our fate. All will end up like us"

"The Executor will win, and you will fail to protect, just like you always did..." She added.

Deg!

Upon hearing this, Rex could hear his own heartbeat thumping.

"No... No, no, no, NO! I will not fail! If I become stronger, a little bit more stronger! With my power, the Executor will lose! I will win! I will not fail again, this time... yes, this time will be completely different!"

Despite his jumbled words, it was obvious that he was doubting himself.

His face was that of a madman.

Rex said that while looking at both of his biological parents, he was trying to convince them that this time would be different. But his attempt was met with silence, the only silence that he will get when he loses against the Executor.

"Let me out, let me out, let me out!!" He shouted at the top of his lungs.

...

"LET ME OUT!!"

Just then, Calidora was startled when she saw Rex suddenly jolted awake with a shout.

After engaging in conversation with the royal Vampire guard, she later sought solace in Rex's chamber, seated by his bedside, lost in her thoughts. Her reverie was abruptly shattered in an instant when he unexpectedly bellowed, prompting her swift attention.

It was then she realized that Rex's entire body was drenched in sweat.

He seemed to be woken up from a nightmare.

"No, this time will be different. This time will be different, I know it, I will not fail again"

As she scrutinized his appearance, Rex mechanically echoed the same phrase over and over again. His gaze fixed vacantly on the bed sheet. In response, Calidora extended her hand to steady his shoulder, only to meet his abrupt recoil.

She rubbed her hand that was swatted away with an evident frown.

Obviously, Rex was still trapped in his nightmare.

Knowing that he was in a shaky condition, Calidora approached him carefully to bypass his instinctive defensive mechanism. Surprisingly, she managed to lay her hand on him before she lightly pulled him back down to the bed, laying in her embrace.

Calidora needs to do this very slowly as a sudden move would trigger him.

"It's okay..." She whispered directly into his ears lightly. "It's only a dream, none of it is real"

Under the soothing voice and air that she was emitting, the repetitive words that came out of Rex's mouth gradually became lighter. His body was still tense, Calidora could feel it clearly, but he was slowly returning to normal.

Looking at his state, a deep frown appeared on her face.

'His biggest battle is not the Executor, but it's inside his head' She pondered, the state that Rex was in right now was very surprising for her. 'So that's the real reason that he refrained from sleeping, his mind is playing tricks on him'

It hasn't been that long since he was asleep.

An hour at best.

But during that hour, when he was not in deep sleep yet, he was assaulted by a nightmare.

Obviously, such a state would take a toll even on someone like Rex.

Despite not being able to steady his mind directly, Calidora decided to help in other ways.

Channeling her vampiric powers, she slowly and gently influenced Rex's bloodstream and helped him calm down. She did it for more than ten minutes before she realized that Rex slowly came back to his senses.

Rex slowly rose up before he looked around with an evident frown.

Memories started coming back to him and his mind clicked that he had fallen asleep.

However, when he looked to the side, he was surprised to find Calidora was on the bed with him. She was thankfully still dressed, so nothing happened between them, "Since when are you here, Calidora? I thought this is my chamber"

"Is that your way of saying you don't like me on your bed?" Calidora asked back teasingly.

Upon hearing this, Rex could only let out a long sigh.

Since he had woken up, he felt extremely awful and wasn't fully awake yet. He went silent for about two minutes before his mind clicked again. Wait a minute, how come she managed to lay next to me without waking me up? I've never been a heavy sleeper before.

Just as his mind clicked, another question popped inside his head.

Having a military background as well as possessing multiple enemies that wanted him dead, there hasn't been a period of his life where he became a deep sleeper. Rex has always been a light sleeper.

Even the smallest of sounds could probably wake him up from his sleep.

Taking one look again at Calidora who didn't know what he was doing, Rex frowned deeply.

Hmm...? That's weird, she doesn't emit any threat.

Now that he had taken a good look at Calidora, there was something odd about her. Not that her appearance was different, but the air around her was different. Anyone who possesses the power to harm others always emits this air of threat.

It includes as low as even a third-rank Awakened.

Rex's instincts as a predatory Werewolf have always sensed this air of threat, helping him discern those who don't have any ounce of power and those who do. With this ability, he could effectively tell which one was a civilian or not.

Due to that, someone as strong as Calidora should emit this air of threat.

But at this moment, that air of threat was absent from her.

No... Now that I think about it, I think her air of threat disappeared a couple of days ago.

From his predatory perspective, Calidora is completely harmless, and his senses also treat her the same and ignore her. It was probably why he didn't wake up when Calidora got on the bed with him.

However, the weird part was it wasn't supposed to be that way.

Calidora's air of threat shouldn't have vanished like that, she shouldn't be harmless.

It was his natural senses that told him otherwise.

"Did-" Rex clears his hoarse throat before he continues. "Did you do something using your cursed energy to sneak inside my bed? I'm not angry at you or anything, but I just want to know. I just want to know how you did it"

Upon hearing this, Calidora tilted her head a little in confusion.

Looking at her expression, he elaborates, "Nobody has ever sneaked up to me like that, you are the first person to do that. My senses seemed to ignore you too, so I'm asking if you do something using your cursed energy to come here"

Knowing that her cursed power was way stronger, Rex assumed that she was using that.

It was the only logical answer.

When she heard this, there was a brief pause before her eyes widened a little bit.

Rex noticed her lips curling a bit and this made him suspicious.

"Calidora... Are you hiding something from me?" He asked suspiciously, there was obviously something behind that twitch on her expression. "If it's something important, then you must tell me right now. Don't hide it from me"

Finding that Rex noticed her expression, she quickly got out of bed.

"Where are you going? I'm asking you a question" Rex called out to her in vexation.

Stopping in her tracks, Calidora turned her torso to look at him before she gave him a playful smirk, depicting that she wasn't going to give him an answer, "Since you're not going to be training for today, let's go somewhere. I'll wait for you outside in two minutes"

"Two minutes? This is not the army" Rex retorted back.

But Calidora didn't mind him and quickly walked out of the chamber, closing the door loudly.

A moment later.

It was already completely dark, nighttime had come, and the two had been walking towards the south side of the castle. Both of them are walking at a normal human pace, taking their time along the way.

Soon, the two of them reached a small hill.

"We're going to go up there. I want to show you something, so follow me" Calidora said.

Upon hearing this, Rex reclined and channeled his energy.

However, just as he was about to do that, Calidora already turned around to give him a disapproving look, "No... No power. We are going to climb the small hill normally, you are prohibited from using any energy"

"Huh...?" Rex raised both hands in utter confusion. "O-Okay?"

In the end, he decided to do as he was told and follow Calidora closely from behind.