

## Full-Moon 581

### Chapter 581 Sebrof's Disturbed Night

Our beloved city street this night is very busy, traffic can be seen hogging many places at once.

People that just finished their daily jobs are trying to get home, but they found themselves in the middle of traffic that doesn't seem to be moving. Looking to the outside of their car windows, they saw many passersby walking on the side of the street.

It's a pretty hectic day and for some reason, many thought the same thing too.

After looking at the passerby chattering with each other minding their own lives, their eyes caught the sight of a massive building that is heavily guarded. Strong faces that are equipped on the guard show that they were not only regular people.

Each one of them emits a fierce demeanor, the demeanor of an Awakened.

Not only Awakened guarded the front entrance, but people from the military can also be seen holding their newly produced weapons that contain fire-power that can blow off limbs of Supernaturals.

Some military vehicles from light to heavy are visible through the cracks of the tall fences.

From the level of security fortified by both the military and Awakened alongside the office workers that are wearing a particular name tag and badge, the building is clearly the most respectable building in the entire Ratmawati City.

UWO Main Office Building.

Every passerby gives the guards a slight bow in respect of their deeds for humanity.

Despite not always agreeing with the choices made by the UWO, their role in keeping humanity safe is apparent and they are to be due respected by the citizens that lived under the umbrella of their protection.

Gazing up at the building, the passersby marvels at the sight of the tall building.

For normal people like them, working inside the UWO would be a dream come true, and working there will directly help humanity in these dire times. But their respect mounted even higher seeing the top-most floor is still lit up.

It was the time when even the hardest working class people already went home.

Most of them needed rest to be productive tomorrow, so seeing the top-most floor still lively shows that the UWO has never been slacking off. Everybody knows that the topmost floor is owned by president Sebrof.

Knowing that President Sebrof is still working, then the lower branch must've also still working.

Just like what the onlookers thought while passing by the UWO main office building, Sebrof is rummaging through the sea of papers in front of him not knowing that he has developed a sense of security for the passersby trapped in traffic.

With the Vampire Stronghold taken back, Sebrof has many matters to deal with.

Arrangements that he needed to make to the branch presidents near the Vampire Stronghold, military division reinforcement requests, delivering suitable formation masters, and even assigning the captains are all done by himself.

It's a big victory and he can't lay waste this opportunity, and thus he did everything by himself.

Everything that happens during a war must be done very fast, the existing procedure is good to avoid errors but they take time to develop. Sebrof doesn't want to take time and approve the submitted plans, so he decided to make the plan to fortify the Vampire Stronghold himself.

Sebrof has been sitting at his desk for a couple of days now.

Even when the third night has arrived, the office is only filled with silence and the flipping of papers.

On top of Sebrof's doing his sleepless work that even made his eyes sunken, the hologram screen in front of him was open and displayed three faces of the ninth-rank Awakened alongside the six highest figures of the Supernatural.

Denzel, Lady Giana, King Saruth, King Baralt, and the others were displayed clearly.

The playing hologram makes a subtle humming sound in the silence of the room, but not long after Sebrof puts down the papers before leaning back on his chair. Despite being a ninth-rank Awakened himself, the mental toll of working this long is not suitable for humans.

Although Awakened possesses world-defying abilities, their natural reaction can't be stopped.

While leaning back on the sofa tiredly, Sebrof rubs his face roughly before shifting to massaging his throbbing eyelids. Even the daily reverie he got was eaten away by the mountain of papers that can't be left even for a second.

Grabbing a cigarette from the side, Sebrof lit it up before started smoking it.

Roughly exhaling the cloud of smoke pleasantly, he rests his head back while looking at the ceiling, "Everything has been arranged, now I only need to either assign Giana or Brigitta to protect the Vampire Stronghold. But it seems Brigitta is unavailable because of that. Giana should have already recovered by now, I'll just send her there"

But just as he got a few minutes of rest, the door to his office suddenly got knocked.

Sebrof knew the person behind the door instantly without even turning his chair towards the door, he was looking outside the window with a cigarette in his hand reminding himself of the view that he fought for over the years.

'I'm not going to let that bloodbath happen ever again...', Sebrof mutters inwardly.

"Come inside."

Upon hearing the voice that gave permission to get inside, the door opened revealing a woman clad in a tight office dress. It was Sebrof's secretary, she went inside the room before closing the door on her back.

Not realizing the nervousness oozing out of the secretary, Sebrof then instantly asked.

"How is Giana's condition? Is she fit to be sent back to the battlefield?"

"I will need to contact her secretary, Zero. But I will do it as soon as possible and report it back to you"

"Okay. Make sure to tell her that the Vampire Stronghold needs her protection, King Lax'rad, and King Solomon has been moving closer to the Vampire Stronghold. But for now, they are worried about the second wave of attack so I need Giana to keep them thinking that way", Sebprof said without even turning to look at the secretary.

Writing the things he said on her tablet, she then nodded her head, "I'll notify her as you said"

After discussing the first matter, Sebprof then remembered something before he asked again, "The resident relocation in sector 2, is there any problem needed fixing? It's the utmost priority, the sooner it was finished the better"

"N-No, Sir. The relocation is going well and will be finished as planned"

Finding that at least one thing is going right, Sebprof nodded his head consoling himself that he did a good thing. Looking up to the gleaming moon in the dark sky, he then thought while inhaling the cigarette deeply.

'It's about two weeks before the next full moon, it should be done by then.'

Sighing to himself, he then thought inwardly, 'Maybe it's time to talk upfront with Rex'

The secretary that finds Sebprof enjoying his smoking time can't help but asks, "If I may... why did you suddenly instruct residents relocation but specifically order to skip the Silverstar Family's mansion?"

Sebprof exhales the toxic smoke that has no effect on him before flicking the ash on the ashtray.

Glancing at the secretary with a sharp glance, he then added without even trying to hide the threat in his tone, "I believe a secretary shouldn't question her superior's order, is it not?", inhaling the cigarette once more, he continued despite the secretary already realizing that she overstepped and looked down, "For someone like you, it's better off not knowing certain things... "

"My apology, sir.", the secretary bowed apologetically.

Waving his hand finding that it was just a small matter, Sebprof then asks, "So, are you here just to ask the reasoning behind my order? Or is there something you wanted to report to me?", putting the cigarette on the ashtray, Sebprof clasps his hands together.

Upon hearing this, the secretary's body stiffens in reaction.

Despite the cold and indifferent look that Sebprof is wearing right now, the secretary should already get used to reporting to him. He finds it weird for her to be this nervous in front of him.

"Speak your mind, don't waste my time.", Sebprof added harshly.

On top of that, Sebprof frowns when he heard the secretary stutters with her words

Sitting at the highest position in all of Ratmawati City and also representing the most respectable organization inside and outside of Ratmawati City, Sebprof has wide options of secretaries and each of them was the best of the best.

Years of experience as a prominent secretary and also having exceptional verbal are a must.

For the secretary to be stuttering like this shows that she was holding back something, and Sebrof instantly thought of very bad news regarding the recent progression of the Supernatural. But turns out it was far from that.

"I- I was...", the secretary tries to say something but failed.

Her entire body trembles evidently which spiked Sebrof's attention, it must be something massive.

"Speak clearly, Olivia. I hate people that waste my time"

"Y-Yes! I-It involves the files I collected for you about Rex Silverstar..."

Upon hearing this Sebrof's expression instantly becomes tedious and dark, it was the last thing he wants as a problem. Even his aura started leaking out of his body, "Go on... tell me the problem. What happened to them?"

Olivia felt the atmosphere overflow with tension and her throat went dry.

Even the simple process of gulping her saliva becomes very strenuous, she was crumbling under the pressure and Sebrof's sharp gaze, "S-Someone infiltrate the office and c-cornered me. I-It was a man, a strong Awakened that demanded me to give m-me the files. I- I don't know how he knows, I never told anyone I swear!"

Ignoring Olivia's remarks, Sebrof squints his eyes, "And...?"

"I was- I was given no other choice, b-but he said he was going t-to take down a human impostor. S-So I think h-he didn't mean a-any harm...", Olivia added meekly while keep inspecting the changes on Sebrof's face.

Burying his face under his clasped hands, Sebrof then asked, "You don't seem to be hurt..."

"On top of that, I don't sense any mana from you. Where did that man go, I'll pursue him myself", he added with a frown, he can't blame Olivia since she was targeted because of the files she held in authority.

Sebrof waited for her to answer while pondering inwardly.

'Human impostor... so someone knows about his secret too. But who? They figured out I have the files probably because of the published article. For someone that doesn't know of his secret, it's a normal article but for the ones that knew should clearly indicate that I also know the secret'

'If I'm fast enough, I can prevent that man from doing anything rash...'

Even thinking about that made Sebrof's head hurt, he doesn't need any big problem right now.

But out of nowhere he suddenly stopped when he heard what Olivia just said.

"The man has perfect control of his mana, and he also didn't use any spell to expose his element. It happened a couple of days ago, so I don't know where he went..."

"W-What...?"

Olivia looks at Sebrof in confusion not understanding which part he doesn't understand, but soon her expression drains from all colors when Sebrof's expression turned from horror-stricken to murderous in a blink of an eye.

It was akin to him seeing someone that killed his entire family, and this surprises Olivia.

Blitz!

Sizzles of red lightning started to swim across his body as his anger mounted even higher, "You... Did you just say a couple of days ago?! A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO?!!!", Sebrof roared in absolute desperation.

If it happened today then he will not blame Olivia, but a couple of days ago is a different thing.

"YOU IDIOT!! WHY DID YOU WAIT FOR DAYS TO TELL THAT TO ME?!!"

BOOM!!

With the rampaging anger inside of him from realizing that he was late for days to prevent the man from doing anything reckless, Sebrof's arcane red lightning mana exploded from his body destroying the office and even blasting a hole in the building.

Even the entire UWO main office building shakes from the explosion of energy.

"Kyaaah!"

"What the hell happened?!"

Many of the onlookers by the street looks up and saw the topmost floor of the building was torn open, and then they saw a figure clad in blitzing red lightning after the dust and destruction faded from their vision.

From that explosion of energy, Olivia got blasted and crashes to the wall behind her.

The sheer presence of arcane mana alone makes her cough out blood repeatedly, she was under huge pressure that threatens to squash her entire body. She was nothing but a mere ant in front of a ninth-rank Awakened.

If Sebrof really wanted to, he can squash and kill her with his presence alone right now.

Despite being angry at Olivia that waiting for that long just to notify her about the matter, Sebrof looks around trying to find a way to solve the mystery of the man and possibly his backer. It's not a regular feat to be able to infiltrate the UWO main office with his presence there.

Without a doubt, the man must be at least an eighth-rank Awakened.

'Who is it?! Who is it?! I need to find out the man that took those files!'

Sebrof wrecks his brain without even caring about the pair of eyes that are looking at him fearfully from below, he frowns as he used the utmost capacity of his brain in the extreme situation, 'In order for them to deduce that I know about the secret and have the files, they either need to know the secret or they know that the article is a lie. For the latter, they must be present when the Vampire Stronghold was taken down'

'The one that is present... The one that is present... Who is it...?'

Upon thinking that, his eyes then soon widen in realization, 'Giana! They were rescuing Giana so she must be there!', Sebrof thought before his eyes caught sight of Vargas flying towards him.

Before Vargas can even say anything, Sebrof instantly commanded.

"Go prepare the available Awakened right now! We're going to search for Giana!"

Chapter 582 Plunged Into Despair

"Giana? What is the problem for you to create this mess?", Vargas asked in dubious.

Working together with Sebrof for many years which made him know his work ethic and personality, Vargas has never seen Sebrof lose this much of his composure even through dire times that even he doesn't want to remember.

It was not an everyday occurrence for Sebrof to blow up his beloved office.

But Sebrof didn't answer as he grabs Vargas by the collar with his body still sparking with red lightning chaotically, "Just do as I say! If you don't want humanity to suffer a huge setback, get anyone that is available and meet me at the Sky Temple!"

After saying that, the red lightning sparks even stronger.

Gazing straight in the direction of the Sky Temple, Sebrof didn't waste any time and instantly stormed away from the place. On his face was an urgency unlike any other, and this stunned Vargas for a solid couple of seconds.

The streak of red light left by Sebrof can still be seen staining the night sky.

Upon recovering from the daze from seeing Sebrof this worked up despite the dark bag under his eyes, Vargas shakes his head before descending to the lobby of the building, 'I don't know what the problem is, but it should be very big if he's being like this...'

Realizing the Awakened that are looking at him questioningly, Vargas waves his hand and shouted.

"Go tell the currently available units and also the guilds that are ready to be deployed to arm themselves, we're going to depart to the Sky Temple as President Sebrof ordered!!"

Gazing at the military men, Vargas also pointed at them.

"Quickly help clear the way to the Sky Temple, and contact the military compounds in other nearby sectors to meet President Sebrof on the Sky Temple! I everyone ready and be there as soon as possible, this is a direct order!!"

Knowing the urgency of the situation from Vargas' strong tone, they immediately moved.

Just like their battle mode is switched, the Awakened present and the military men started to run around preparing for their immediate departure to the Sky Temple. Military personnel is already dealing with the traffic outside and starting their vehicles, while the Awakened head back inside to gear up.

Despite not knowing the problem, it should be very serious.

Vargas also felt the same thing as he didn't know exactly what happen that can make Sebrof like this, but if it's going to affect humanity like Sebrof said earlier then he won't ask another question and immediately does as he was told.

While looking in the direction where Sebrof has zoomed off, he can't help but frown in concern.

'My heart is racing, very unusual. I have a really bad feeling about this...'

Meanwhile, on the other side of Ratmawati City.

About a hundred people in white robes have already gathered and lined up neatly at the grassland just in front of a holy temple brimming with grace, their white robes are not those worn by priests as they wore before.

Now their white robes are compact and fit with weapons strapped to their sides.

In front of them was a woman that is pacing back and forth with a concerned expression on her face. Her bright blue hair swayed from the blowing breeze, and her crystal blue eyes which bring a sense of comfort now have a taint of worry in them.

Without a doubt that this woman is the guardian of the Sky Temple, Ladi Giana.

Holding the astral blue majestic bow in her hand that sprinkles blue sparkles to the surrounding, Giana seems to be ready for an unexpected fight. She just received the news regarding what went down in the forest earlier.

'I knew something was wrong, that's why I told Zero to retrieve the corpse...'

'I should've known that it was too easy, I should've been more thorough!'

Giana bit her lips knowing the fact that the Rex they killed was nothing but an illusion, the Lunar Light element caught her off guard. Back during the fight against the pack of Werewolves led by Arnulf, he didn't use any of his Lunar Light elements.

Only when he fights the Vampire Stronghold does he make the illusion.

Because of that, Giana doesn't know anything regarding the Lunar Light element. It's very recent that Rex has achieved the Lunar Light element, and nobody aside from the ones inside the mansion knew about it.

Cold sweat drips and flows down the side of her face, created by the nervousness she's feeling.

'We wasted the white arrow and Zero even exposed of his light element, this is bad... we left many trails knowing that the white arrow wouldn't fail to kill him. And it didn't fail, but it's just an illusion!', Giana stopped and clenched her hands into fists.

Many of the people wearing white robes also feel worried just from looking at Giana's expression.

Since they were nothing but the servant of the Sky Temple that is tasked to literally become the private army and pleaser of Lady Giana, they doesn't know what was about to come. If they knew, their souls would've left their bodies already.

Not long after, a figure materialized at the edge of the floating island.

Upon sensing the figure, Giana glanced to the side and finds the person that she has been waiting for. Zero. He was the one that was tasked to bring back the corpse, and he was also the one that realized the very bad news.

Even now, his expression is that of a ghost. Very pale, almost sickly even.

'HAHAHAHA!! Rex Silverstar is coming!!'

'You're going to die! All of you bastards are going to die!!'

'You're finished!! Your days are counted! Blame yourself for what's about to come!!'

Zero can still hear the echoing voice of Adhara maniacally laughing at him after finding out that the Rex he killed was none other than an illusion, the real one is still alive and definitely going to aim for the people that tried to kill him.

It was the stuff straight out of nightmares, he feels light-headed from this.

No matter how much he tries to snap out of it, Adhara's voice kept repeating again and again in his head, and the expression that she made kept flashing inside his mind. It's the face to wear when seeing a dead man.

Out of nowhere, the sound of grass breaking can be heard approaching him.

Slap!

Knowing the person that is approaching him, Zero tries to remain calm to explain the situation but a solid slap landed straight on his face bruising his cheek in the process. But the slap was not a powerful one, but it hurts his insides.

Touching the cheek that got slapped, Zero glances at Giana that is glaring at him.

"You fool!! I trusted you to find out about Rex's whereabouts!! It's bad to fail to search his whereabouts but you went even further and actually get the wrong location?!!", Giana screamed in desperation.

Upon hearing this, Zero's lips started to quiver, "B-But I swear our intel in the SCO-"

Slap!

Before he can even provide a reason for his blunder, another solid slap lands on his other cheek. Zero can feel the disappointment in that slap, he has been working with Giana for so long but this was the first time he tasted disappointment.

Looking back at Giana, her eyes are now dull. They amplify the disappointment she bore to Zero.

Not stopping at that, the other people gathered there also witness the slap of disappointment he received from Giana, it was humiliating and this pained Zero's heart. But he was not mad at Giana, but more at himself.

Memories of how Giana treated him with kind and help him reach this state flash in his mind.

If it weren't for her then he would be nothing and possibly fall prey to the envious hands that wanted his light affinity, but that didn't happen and now he's a proud eighth-rank Pure Light Elementalist.

Without a doubt in his mind, Zero owed his life to Giana that raised him to this.

Because of that, the slap of disappointment hurts him more than a knife stabbing into his chest. Something that snap the last rope inside his head, and he was completely plunged into a world of despair.

Giana's expression filled with reluctance finally shed a tear, and she turns around helplessly.

Upon seeing this Zero gritted his teeth before he shouted from the back, "I swear to you! I swear I'll make this right!! At the very least, I will take you off the blame and let this mistake kill me!!"

Exhaling lightly, Giana stopped in her track and glanced over her shoulder with cold eyes.

"Don't bother, Zero. It was a selfish request from me, I really wanted Rex to die. We didn't need the help of Supernaturals, but from what I did there's a chance that he's coming after me and that doesn't align with me. Not that I'm scared of death, but I don't want humanity to be weakened even further"

Looking up at the sky for a brief moment, Giana then resumed back into the temple.

"I'll just ask Sebrof to help me apologize to Rex, maybe he'll forgive me. But even if he didn't, at the very least we can plead with him to kill me when there's a replacement.", she added while walking away.

Zero clenched his jaw, it shouldn't end like this. It was his fault, he blamed this on himself.

"We can kill him! We can kill Rex Silverstar! Together! We always managed to pull off anything if we were together!! I'm a Light Elementalist, we can win!!", Zero shouted again desperately, but this time Giana didn't stop as she slowly ascend back into the temple.

Waving her hand as if it was the last time, Giana smiled wryly before muttering to herself.

"Rex is a Werewolf, and that attempt should make him very angry. No chance... I can't win against him then and I definitely can't win against him now when he's angry"

After Giana's back disappeared into the temple, Zero looks at the others.

"You guys have been with her for a long time, don't you want to do something?! Help me find a way to help her! As long as we want to, there must be a way!", Zero tries to convince them, but hearing the name that they were up against dissuades them completely.

None of them wanted any problem with Rex Silverstar, the rising star of Humanity.

Upon looking at the expressions the other white-robed people are making, Zero gritted his teeth and clenched his hands strongly while looking down at the blowing grass. With a flash of determination, he then mutters, "Fine, I'll do it myself!"

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Meanwhile, Adhara and the others are brought back to the nearest city.

Now they are currently waiting for the teleportation formation to be ready to send them back to Ratmawati City. Adhara is standing in front of a hospital with Flunra on her side, nobody seems to be around them.

Evelyn and Gistella that are injured should be inside getting treated.

On the way to the city, the thought of the man that did this has never left Adhara's mind.

The thought of finding out who the man is so that they can find him and put him down quickly filled her mind, she didn't even realize the fact that the familiar person is already very near to her place.

"He's here...", Flunra suddenly said from the side.

Just after he said that a figure landed inside the hospital's front yard shrouded in darkness.

Adhara blinked her eyes a couple of times before she realized that the figure is the person he wanted to see the most, the figure that arrived was none other than Rex that arrived even faster than the travel time Flunra had to meet with the others earlier.

Emerging from the darkness, Rex approached the two of them.

"Why are you guys still here...? Why haven't you headed back to the city yet and find out the culprit?", Rex asked while approaching them, it's clear that his mood is still sour from what he had learned.

Upon hearing this, Adhara's eyes light up before they turn cold again.

"What are you going to do when you find the culprit?"

Ignoring Rex's questions, Adhara sent a question of her own with a serious tone. Even Rex realized the weird vibe coming from her, "I want to say that I'm going to kill them, but there's a high possibility that the culprit is Sebrof. Killing him wouldn't be a good idea, I'll talk to him"

Shifting his eyes to Flunra, Rex asked through his eyes what they doing here.

Finding that there is no sign of Evelyn and Gistella, he immediately realized that something happened to them. Rex didn't stay idle and instantly headed for the hospital door intending to check on the two of them.

'As long as they didn't die, the system should be able to help them...', Rex thought.

But just as he was about to enter the hospital, Adhara suddenly grabbed his arm stopping him on his track. Rex glanced at her in confusion before she lifted her eyes that flickered murderously, "No, don't just talk to him. It's not enough, I want you to kill him..."

Chapter 583 Without Consulting Me

Rex looks down at his grabbed arm before he gazed at Adhara's scorching eyes, these angry eyes are not something he sees Adhara wears very often. Something changed inside those eyes, but he couldn't put his finger on it.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Exactly how it sounded, I want you to kill him"

Even from the brief exchange, the anger behind her voice can be heard loud and clear.

Since he has been with Adhara for the longest time amongst the others here, he basically knows her personality in and out especially since he turned her into a Werewolf. The words that come out of her mouth are something he never expected Adhara would say.

But no matter the changes that happened within her, Rex can't be rash in dealing with this.

'I can't kill Sebrof no matter how much I wanted, his position will be vacant and during that transition, the chain of command would be weakened heavily. We can't afford that, not in these times', Rex thought with a sigh.

Despite being the target of assassination, Rex needs to be the bigger heart.

For one, the one killed was nothing more than an illusion. Secondly, he now knows that he has a target on his back even with everything he has done. Third, killing Sebrof would just be plain stupid as it will risk humanity's collapse.

Rex has never been merciful to the one trying to kill him, and he didn't plan on doing so.

Even though there are repercussions in killing Sebrof, he was not going to let this be just for the sake of humanity, 'If I want to kill him for trying to kill me, then I'll need to prepare for that. Maybe the next president will accept me being a Werewolf'

"Not the time, Adhara. Everything has its time", Rex finally replied.

Upon hearing this her expression darkens, Rex wanted to head inside the hospital to check on the others but he finds that Adhara's hand is still grabbing him by the arm not intending to let go.

With a confused expression, Rex looks back at her.

"Adhara...?"

But instead of saying something from the strong grip on Rex's arm, Adhara suddenly loosen her grip before letting go of Rex's arm, "Go on to the others, I'll check if the teleportation formation is ready"

After saying that, Adhara turns around and left the hospital grounds.

"Did something happen to her that the illusion didn't see?", Rex asked with a frown.

It didn't take a genius to know that something is wrong with Adhara, she was more perplexed by what happened with the Shapeshifter and the ambush. Moreover, what she said earlier somehow made Rex a little bit worried about her state.

Flunra rubs his chin remembering the battle earlier, but he didn't find anything worth mentioning.

"When I get there she was very injured and almost ended by the Awakened she battled, I do have to say that she's resilient and fearless in the face of death. Before I helped her, I heard her shouting in madness something about dying but I didn't pay much attention"

Upon hearing this, Rex looks in the direction Adhara has left with a troubled look.

Rex worries that she might change and become unstable for a while, maybe due to the fact that she was near death or someone really tried to actually kill him. But the latter doesn't make sense since he was the one targeted, not her.

Even through thick and thin, Adhara is a person that gave him morale support.

Out of the times that they are together, Rex remembered two times Adhara gave him morale support. The first one is when Kyran steals the wrong crate, while the other one was after the death of Rosie.

Seeing Adhara like this is unsettling, it gives him a bad feeling.

But knowing that there's nothing he can really do right now except for giving her some space alone, Rex went inside the hospital alongside Flunra to check on Gistella and Evelyn that is supposedly injured.

While walking inside the hospital, Rex heads to the counter where a nurse is sitting at.

After asking about the room where Adhara and Gistella are treated, both of them immediately went to the lift before Rex pressed the fourth floor. Both of them are being treated by a Healer Awakened that happened to be here.

Just as the lift door was about to close, Rex looks at Flunra in confusion.

Flunra is in front of the lift while looking at the place Rex was in weirdly, he inspected the cramped room warily as if he was getting inside a torture box, "What are you doing? Get in", Rex commented.

Upon hearing this, Flunra hesitated for a moment before finally walking inside awkwardly.

But when the door was about to close once again, a woman can be heard shouting to hold the lift door from the side which made Rex instantly hold the door. It was common courtesy and turns out the source of the voice was a nurse.

Putting on a bright smile, she thanked Rex for holding the door for her.

While also giving Flunra a polite smile, the nurse walks inside before standing in the middle between Rex and Flunra. Since the lift is very small, both of them need to press their bodies back a little to not touch the woman.

It can't be helped as Rex and Flunra are way bigger compared to most people.

Even by standing in front of the two, the nurse looks very tiny in comparison. Rex even briefly thought that the lift wouldn't be able to lift the both of them up, but it seems he underestimated the lift's lifting power.

No music is playing in the background, and the woman is going to the same floor as them.

Rex wanted to fix the silence by satiating the questions inside his head, "So, how did they get injured in the first place? Both of them are not easily injured until needing hospital care, something must've happened to them"

"It was the Unearthly White Lunar Tablet, we as Werew- Ouch!"

Finding that Flunra almost said something that he shouldn't have with the nurse beside them, Rex elbowed him in the guts pushing his body to the side and creating a loud thud from hitting the lift wall.

The nurse yelped in surprise upon hearing the loud thud.

With the same bright smile that has now turned nervous, the nurse glanced back and saw Rex returning the same smile and Flunra rubbing his elbowed stomach. But realizing that Rex is smiling at the woman, Flunra also did the same.

Instead of a polite smile, Flunra smiled unevenly which make his smile doesn't look right.

Soon enough, the lift reached the fourth floor and the lift door opened. The nurse instantly zoomed away terrified of Flunra that smile at her as if he wanted to eat her whole, no doubt being inside the lift with both of them will go down as one of her most awkward and weird occurrences ever.

Upon walking out of the cramped lift, Rex gives Flunra a warning glare.

"Don't talk like that, did you forget? Humans are not particularly fond of Supernaturals"

Flunra scratches the back of his head as it was his first time in human places like this so he doesn't really know to act, and even because of that he decided to just stay outside while Adhara helped the others inside.

But nobody can blame him though, it's his first time ever surrounded by humans.

Even standing amongst humans back in the mansion is already weird enough, and now he's standing amidst more humans that don't look like they are trained to fight. Even with the addition of that, he still feels alert.

Untrained humans exist amongst the ancient humans, but they are still very powerful.

Although he knows that the humans now are not the ancient humans that dominated the Supernaturals easily, the fact that he was standing amidst humans is pretty terrifying for someone like him that has seen the dark side of the world.

"Well? What are you trying to say earlier?", Rex snap Flunra back from his daze.

Both of them are walking down the hallway following the signs on the wall, Flunra then continues, "It's the Unearthly White Lunar Tablet, a weaponized tablet containing a fragment of the actual White Omicron. Many of us fall from that, and I know the damage done by a White Omicron can be permanent"

'Tablet? Is it the Stone Tablet in the museum back then?', Rex thought with a frown.

Even though it happened quite a long time ago he can't really erase that accident from his mind, his eyes bleed profusely from catching a glance at that Stone Tablet that the system shows to have a fragment of the White Omicron.

"You mean like Adhara's bloodline?", Rex asked again.

Contrary to his expectation, Flunra shakes his head, "Adhara's bloodline is only a proxy of the White Omicron, her aura can't compare with the actual aura of a White Omicron. Even its fragment can weaken a Prince"

Upon hearing this, Rex nodded his head as he knew that the White Omicron is that sacred.

Rex knows from the moment of reading the Omicrons' description that they were ultimate beings that either favor or disfavor the Werewolves, and the White Omicron is the one that disfavors the Werewolves and kills them on sight.

"It can be permanent...? Really?"

"Yes, but you don't have to worry. I engrave them with an ancient rune that can negate the continuous effect brought by the fragment of the White Omicron, it will not work on the actual one but if it's only a fragment then it's going to work"

Although Flunra said that casually, Rex finds something hidden behind his sentence.

Even though he doesn't know clearly about the ancient runes that Flunra always talked about, he did find a gloomy tone hidden very well inside his tone. It was very subtle and Rex instantly realized the reason behind his gloomy tone.

'Unlike me, that can buy runes from the system. Others needed to create them'

Looking at Flunra walking on his side, Rex can't help but be lucky to have Flunra on his side, 'If the White Omicron is as fierce as the system's description then how many lives must've been lost to create this ancient rune that he used for Gistella and Evelyn? Probably a lot...'

A moment later,

Rex finds both Gistella and Evelyn lying on the bed unconscious, the toll of the stone tablet affects them heavily and reduced them to this state. But it seems the ancient runes on their foreheads are taking effect.

Slowly but surely, both of their injuries are healing which makes Rex breathe easily.

From the looks of it, there shouldn't be any permanent damage on them thanks to the ancient rune that Flunra engraved on them. But through talking with the system, he finds that his presence can hasten their recovery.

Because of that, Rex sits inside their room for at least until the teleportation formation is prepared.

Unknown to him and Flunra that are inside the room with Gistella and Evelyn, Adhara heads out of the city before turning into her Werewolf form. In the next second, she dashes away heading to the nearby forest.

Not long after that, many whimpers and weak roars resounded from the forest.

~

Meanwhile, back to Ratmawati City.

With the brief exchange she had with Zero earlier, Giana sits inside the grand throne of the Sky Temple knowing that there are several powerful figures heading in her direction right now.

Giana is sitting in gloom, regretting what she did.

But amongst everything that went wrong, she didn't regret trying to kill Rex.

It was a firm point that humans don't need the help of Supernaturals. Anything regarding the Supernaturals must be rejected, it was something that shouldn't even be discussed but it seems she's the only one that thinks like that.

Not long after, she lifted her head up hearing a commotion outside.

Many of her subordinates can finally feel the enormous amount of mana that is heading towards them, it's a literal army that marched here. Each one of them is Awakened hailing from the UWO and FAA followed by military men and their heavy vehicles.

But out of nowhere, a streak of red light descend from the sky before bursting through the roof.

Giana's eyes glow with blue arcane mana seeing the arrival of the figure clad with streaming red lightning that is coursing throughout his body, the thick aura rivaling that of Giana's aura shows that this figure is also a ninth-rank Awakened.

More than that, this figure's aura even pressed on Giana's aura.

Without needing more than a glance, Giana instantly recognizes this figure as none other than President Sebrof. It was only him that has red lightning that was nicknamed Harbinger of Destruction.

Raising his fierce expression, Sebrof made sharp eye contact with Giana.

"You took matters into your own hands without consulting me, you risked Humanity without consulting me. I think your ego has raised quite a bit, Giana..."

#### Chapter 584 Our Duty

A thunderous boom resounded in the sky before a streak of red lightning swiftly past them.

Many of the Awakened in white battle robes were not able to react to the speed of the red lightning that broke the barrier covering the Sky Temple like a bubble. When they notice it, the red lightning already crashes the rooftop of the Sky Temple, breaking its way inside.

Not one of them is able to react, it was even faster than the blinking of the eyes.

Following the streak of red lightning that forcefully breakthrough, the hundreds of approaching auras overflowed their veins with the sense of crisis. One of them decided to went over to the edge and looks down.

Immediately after, his throat choked and his eyes bulged when he saw the approaching army.

Streets are filled with the marching Awakened coupled with hundreds of military men bringing heavy vehicles along with them, the street has been emptied out from the citizens and they already create a perimeter around the Sky Temple.

Looking at the flying figures that emit horrendous energy, the man paled.

These figures are easily recognizable by anyone that lived long enough in Ratmawati City, they are people with high standings. Principals of elite and prestigious universities, head families of the 25 Golden Crest Families, and even the general of the military.

Responding to the immediate order from Sebrof, they rushed to the Sky Temple.

None of the belittle the direct order issued by the most influential person in the entire Ratmawati City and beyond, Sebrof has never lost his temper this much so that alone speaks the weight of the problem.

Seeing the approaching figures, the man rushed back to the others.

Without needing the man to explain the situation, the others already know what's coming.

Instead of going to their battle formations in response to the sudden attack on the Sky Temple, these Awakened hesitated and doesn't know what to do. Giana hasn't given any order to them, and their captain is nowhere to be seen.

They were left without orders, but most of them already lost the will to retaliate.

Mostly due to the fact that this has something to do with Rex Silverstar, the name alone brings heavy pressure on them. The feat of destroying the Vampire Stronghold is not a small matter, and that made his name soar to the top of humanity.

Soon enough, these powerful figures hailing from the eighth-rank realm surfaced on the island.

Each one of them swept their eyes on the Awakened in white battle robes before their feet touches the ground, their glaring auras are akin to tidal waves that drown and restricted their movements.

The gap between them is far, and their body reaction shows it.

"Awakened of the White Wardens, put down your weapons, raised your hands, and deactivate your elements. Do not resist, we will take you down for temporary confinement until the matter we had with Lady Giana is settled", Vargas, the one leading stated commandingly.

Vargas' presence is domineering, commanded by the raging fire swirling and twirling like a snake.

Under the command these Awakened called the White Wardens does as Vargas said, dropping their weapons, raising their hands, and deactivating their elements to show their intention to be cooperative.

The turns of events are too much for them to handle, they didn't know anything.

With no sense of awareness, their will to fight back is basically non-existent. They don't know what Lady Giana did that was so bad that it demanded the attention of such a powerful force to raid the Sky Temple like this.

Especially since she just got back from being chased down by the pack of Werewolves.

After signaling to the other powerful figures present to apprehend the White Wardens and bring them down to the ground, Vargas looks at the Sky Temple with a troubled look on his face, 'Just what did you do, Giana...?'

Meanwhile, inside the Sky Temple.

"I think your ego has raised quite a bit, Giana"

Sebrof stands strongly about fifty meters away from the throne Giana is sitting on, both of them are sizing up each other with their glowing eyes filled with their respective arcane mana. It was a standoff between two ninth-rank realms Awakened.

Pursing her lips tightly, Giana tilts her head and comb her light blue hair back.

Not even managing to finish combing her hair all the way to the back, her hand stopped at the temple and her expression turns disinclined as she processed the things that birthed this situation.

"I did what I have to do, Sebrof"

"Anything major that can bring immediate effect to humanity must go through me, you have no jurisdiction to take the matter into your own hands. Stealing the files I gathered, do you think I wouldn't know?", Sebrof tries to say it calmly, but he can't.

Anger is hidden obviously inside his tone, he can't believe Giana did this.

Out of the Awakened that he knows and thought was sensible, Giana was one of them. She always carried out a mission with a calm head, and everything he gave to her are finished accordingly without any problem.

In a sense, Giana is the most reliable one compared to the other ninth-rank Awakened.

But now everything that he thought of her crumbled but the only thing he can hope for now is that Giana hasn't made a devastating mistake, Sebrof can't help but grit his teeth to try and forcefully swallow back the anger within.

Sebrof feels betrayed, he has gone for days deliberating this matter.

Everything from the good and the bad that will be caused by his decision, he already knows and gauges that it's better to keep a low profile and let things go with the course. Rex Silverstar doesn't need to be drastically measured.

Giana chuckled, resting her head on her fist.

"Listen to yourself, Sebrof. It's not me that is the problem, but you are. Covering his trails by publishing the article, and even relocating the sector 2 residents. It's not me that risked us by letting a Supernatural roam free, a Supernatural that has killed many of us but you are"

"Do you really not think I will know you're favoring his stay here? Endangering all of us?"

Upon hearing this, Sebrof's expression darkens.

Sparks of red lightning around his body started to become even more violent, it was his final decision to do all of that for the sake of humanity. The war is going nowhere if they didn't have the same amount of ninth-rank realm beings against the Supernatural.

At this point in time, Supernaturals have seven ninth-rank being while humanity has only four.

The only thing that kept them even until now was only because of the fact that none of the Supernatural races wanted to risk losing their ninth-rank Awakened, it will tilt the power balance and kick them off of the prominent races.

Only the demons have the resources to do that with the addition of the blue ninth-rank demon.

Which is why they were the most active Supernatural race.

Gaining another ninth-rank being in their ranks would definitely bolster humanity, and Sebrof doesn't care if that ninth-rank being is a Werewolf. As long as that person wanted to help humanity, that is enough of a reason to recruit them.

Mostly he turned out like this because of the last time he talked with Rex.

Seeing the bigger picture for the greater good of humanity, that is what he learned from their last conversation just after the alliance between the UWO and SCO, "I did that since Rex has proven his loyalty countless times, he has the right to stay here if he keeps on helping humanity to strife for the better"

"Condoning his race is nothing compared to what he has done for us", Sebrof replied firmly.

But this sparks anger in Giana's eyes, she leans forward with murderous eyes.

"Rex is a Werewolf!"

"Yes, he's a Werewolf that helped humanity more than most of us"

"Then what about the others?! The citizen, the army, the Awakened, what about their opinions?! Why don't you tell them that they are being helped by a Werewolf and that Werewolf is living amongst them. Let's see if they're going to accept it!"

Although he has different beliefs now from Giana, he can't rebut that fact.

Sebrof knew that if the news of Rex being a Werewolf leaked out, the citizen will not stand still as most of them are looking up from below. It's the perk of looking up from below to prioritize themselves and the experience they went through.

Many of their families were killed by Werewolves, it won't sit well with them knowing the truth.

But on the other side, Sebrof is not like them. Unlike the citizens and other people that are looking up from below, he was one of the few that is looking down from above. Everything he does influences the fate of many, and he needs to see the bigger picture.

Even in the face of the mounting anger blazing in Giana's blue eyes, Sebrof didn't wave.

Pausing for a couple of seconds, the silence of the spacious room was only filled with the rough pants coming from Giana, she poured out her own view without restraints. Sebrof knew where this is coming from.

Giana is without a doubt someone like him, every of her choices involves many.

Unlike him though, Giana has personal experience regarding Werewolves that brutally killed her sister. Her mind is not clear but she should've thought for many, not for herself. It's hard but that is her responsibility.

"Nobody should know, it's our duty to raise our survivability with any means necessary"

Sebrof finally said while retracting back his rampaging red lightning.

Just like a bomb that rattled her mind, Giana's expression waggles and contorted as she clenched the handle of her throne strongly. It was very hard to put away her feelings and accept the fact that what Sebrof said is the undeniable truth.

Awakened in general has the duty to help humanity survive the battle of their extinction.

Ninth-rank Awakened specifically has the duty to single-handedly change the course of the war, and does everything to make sure humanity came out on top and keeps on surviving. It's the responsibility that they needed to bear as one of the strong ones.

Slowly Sebrof made his way to the throne without any malicious intent like earlier.

Giana looks down to the gracious glowing marble stairs toward her throne, she was devastated as she was forced to be faced with reality. What she did was right for her but wrong for many others, this should be a golden opportunity.

Maybe someone like Rex would only appear once, there's no guarantee for another one.

It was up to them, Awakened that sits at the highest hierarchy to seize the opportunity and kept that secret to themselves. Hard decisions should be made by them, not the people that they are trying to protect.

After reaching the throne, Sebrof stands on the side and lays his hand on her shoulder.

"I can still hear her screaming for help and I was too late..."

"I know, I understand. Don't worry too much, I'm not going to blame you"

Upon hearing this Giana raises her teary bright blue eyes to look at Sebrof, there was a sign of guilt in her eyes that should be natural. But unlike what Sebrof expected, that guilt in her eyes is meant for something else.

"I'm sorry..."

"There's no need to apologize, we can still fix this"

But Giana's expression breaks as she shakes her head, it's going to be hard to fix this.

"I hope we can still fix this, but you're definitely going to blame me"

"Hmm...?"

"I-I told Zero to dig for information about Rex from you because I planned on killing him"

"G-Giana, tell me you haven't killed him yet..."

Feeling the tightness around his chest, Sebrof prayed inside his mind that she didn't actually kill Rex already. It would be a tremendous loss, and that will cost them at some point in the future.

But despite thinking for the worst, it gets even further.

Giana shakes her head before she finally said truthfully, "It's even worse, I tried to kill him with the artifact but turns out the 'Rex' that I fired at was nothing more than an illusion. Rex is still alive but I'm afraid he'll know that it was me that tried to kill him soon enough..."

#### Chapter 585 Warning Signals In The Sky

Sebrof takes a couple of steps back with both of his hands on his waist.

Helplessness soon overwhelms him knowing that he was too late and the water has already been spilled, the thought of preventing Giana from doing anything that can jeopardize the calm relationship was nothing but a pipe dream.

Looking at Giana who is averting her eyes away, Sebro can only chuckle lightly.

It was not a chuckle of disbelief that is directed at Giana, but it was a chuckle of ridicule directed at him. Mostly the fault falls on his secretary that is too scared to report such an important matter, but there's nothing he could do to change the past.

Just like their distinctive cousins, Werewolves inherited the desire for revenge just like wolves.

Anyone that tries to kill one of their packs or even bore malicious intent would be labeled for the rest of their lives as a dangerous individual, and if given a chance, wolves and Werewolves would kill them without hesitation.

Since Giana has already done the deeds, Rex must've already set his eyes on killing her.

While searching for a solution inside his head, Sebrof turns to look at the room while Giana is sitting silently almost like a kid that's been caught doing something bad. Her fidgeting fingers show the nervousness inside of her.

In a desperate manner, Sebrof rubs his face roughly.

Golden and white marble decorates the room's floor, the tall pillars, and the very high ceiling with cube-shaped windows that directly reflected the entire sky, everything seems to be mocking Sebrof.

As the absolute leader of one of humanity's last strongholds, Sebrof has a different mentality.

Every time someone messes things up he would blame himself for not being able to prevent that, 'If only I had a different thought and discuss the secret I obtained with Giana, Denzel, and Brigitta, maybe this all wouldn't had happen'

But lamenting about it for too long would not be good, he needs to take care of this.

Looking at the sky that is already nearing dawn for a moment, Sebrof glances back and asks, "Did you do anything to the other? His family? Adhara, Edward, Evelyn, His par-"

"No, I didn't. I was only aiming to kill him first", Giana instantly replied firmly.

Upon hearing this Sebrof nodded his head in confirmation since at the very least she hasn't crossed that line yet. There has been a couple of incidents where someone tries to do something to Rex's family, and it didn't end well.

It's pretty clear to Sebrof that Rex cared about his family more than himself.

Giana tries to kill Rex and only Rex so all hopes are not yet already lost, there's still a chance to fix the situation that she created, "Okay, I'm going to try and talk to him about this matter. You're going to apologize for your attempt directly to him", Sebrof instructed demandingly.

"Y-Yes... I'll do as you say", Giana replied in defeat.

With the talk she had before she realized that her judgment was clouded and biased, she must not think for herself and focus on the broader picture. Knowing that she now realized that Rex is necessary for humanity.

Sebrof sighs before he continued, "Don't think about it too much..."

"If apologizing to him feels unsettling, then directed the apology to Adhara. From what I can tell, she has the most influence on Rex and she's also more merciful so we're going to use her to convince Rex"

Upon hearing this Giana nodded evidently feeling a little bit better from what Sebrof said.

Just as he said that Vargas enters the Sky Temple, he has been waiting outside for a while but neither of them has come out yet. Sebrof glances at Vargas before back to Giana, "In the meantime, stay in my office where it's safe until the matter with him is settled. Come, we're going right now"

Knowing that there's a target on Giana's back, Sebrof decided to secure her first.

After saying that Sebrof headed toward the exit followed by Giana, "Vargas, go to the Silverstar's mansion and wait there for Rex to come back. Apologize to him in Giana's stead before asking him to meet with me in the UWO office in sector 3E"

"Can you tell me the problem that needs apologizing?", Vargas asks with a frown.

Even now, he doesn't know the problem that made Sebrof demand this much attention. Moreover, it's going to be hard to apologize for Giana's stead without a proper context of the situation. In addition to that, he also needs to ask Rex to go with him.

A complicated task like that is impossible to achieve without knowing the full story.

Walking past Vargas, Sebrof then answered, "I don't have time for the details"

"All you need to know is that Giana made a grave mistake and she wanted to apologize to Rex regarding that mistake, but I needed you to try your best to apologize to him first. He will certainly not forgive Giana so you'll then ask him to follow you back to me"

But Sebrof stopped just by the door when Vargas called out to him.

Since he still doesn't know the context much, Vargas can't help but say, "If it's such a grave mistake, shouldn't you be the one to come to the Silverstar's mansion? It's going to make you look more sincere if you're hoping to make Rex condone Lady Giana's mistake, why do I need to be the one apologizing first?"

"We are aiming for his forgiveness, not pity. Our apology should hold value", Sebrof replied.

Vargas frowned for a little bit more before he realized what Sebrof meant.

If Sebrof did like what he suggested earlier it's going to increase the probability of Rex forgiving the mistake, but that'll also make Sebrof look pitiful. So instead of doing that, Vargas would be the one to take the fall and apologize first.

Going through the hierarchy, the apology from Giana then will have a strong value.

Realizing the reasoning behind Sebrof's action, Vargas didn't say anything more as he watches Sebrof and Giana walk out of the room. But he still can't help but wonder what's all of this about, 'Just what did she do to him?'

A moment later,

Giana and Sebrof are already on the ground alongside confined White Wardens.

Just as Sebrof went inside a black sedan car, Vargas' fiery body blazes through the sky heading to the Silverstar's mansion as he was instructed earlier. Giana sighs upon looking at this before she intends to also get inside the car.

But before she gets inside the car, Giana stops and gazes at the confined White Wardens.

"What's wrong, Giana?", Sebrof asks from the inside.

Even upon hearing Sebrof asking from the side, Giana didn't answer as she kept scanning the crowd of White Wardens that are being watched and restrained by Awakened from the UWO and FAA, her eyebrows started to crease together.

"I don't see Zero anywhere..."

~

Meanwhile, Silverstar Family's mansion.

Edward got back inside to the front yard after checking if the neighbors have come back yet, but he finds that the guards guarding the mansions nearby have also disappeared. Now the mansions around them are basically empty without anyone inside.

"I don't like this, it feels like we're being cornered", he mutters inwardly.

Since the weird conversation that he had with Mrs. Greene regarding Rex's identity as a Werewolf, Edward has been on full alert commanding the Awakened guards to keep their eyes open for anything that might be suspicious.

Knowing their role in the mansion, the Awakened guards have been very alert.

The Disaster Squad has all reached the fifth-rank realm and Tandu is already set for assimilating with a spirit, but since Rex isn't here yet his advancement has been stagnant. But nevertheless, their confidence is through the roof.

With their help, everything is organized.

On top of that, the other Awakened guards have a newfound respect for them.

Every single one of them knows that the members of the Disaster Squad are newly Awakened. In that little span of time, they already reached the fifth-rank realm. It's unheard of advancement but that is mainly due to the elemental stones that Edward bought earlier.

Rex asked him to search for a supplier, and he finds one and buys some elemental stones.

With his own pocket money, he bought some elemental stones for the Disaster Squad, and that resulted in them reaching the fifth-rank realm this easily. Of course, the major effect was from the high-affinity orb they were given from Rex.

Feeling the weird occurrence around them, Tandu has taken a countermeasure.

At about five hundred meters in radius from the mansion, a couple of Awakened guards are stationed to anticipate anything that might approach them using any kind of spells they can as fireworks to warn them.

Patrolling Awakened guards kept alternating to keep their eyes fresh.

Inside the mansion now also stationed with Awakened guards for keeping the important others safe, three on the second floor and eight on the first floor. This alone shows that the mansion is already on a very high alert.

Walking past the Awakened guards, Edward intended to head to the backyard.

"Zelene! Why are you up at this hour? I told you nobody can leave the mansion at night time!", Edward reprimanded seeing Zelene sitting by the staircase in front of the mansion's front entrance.

Upon hearing this, Zelene snorted like a brat, "I can't sleep and I'm bored, let me be outside!"

Edward sighs at Zelene's behavior helplessly, but he knows that he can't really blame her for being stuck inside the mansion all day. But then again, her safety is pretty much the utmost priority compared to her mental state.

Looking at Tandu standing by the entrance, Edward gives him a nod signaling to watch Zelene.

Tandu also replied with a nod before Edward headed toward the backyard where a couple of Awakened guards can also be seen, but he ignored them and went straight to the small house to check on Ryze.

Walking into the house, he was greeted by the same thing.

Ryze is still lying on the bed while absorbing the red souls that are prepared for him, and the red souls are still close to full from the replenishment Rex brought before with the help of Flunra.

From what he had heard, Ryze should be close to overpowering Zaddress's soul.

Edward walks to the side of the bed before pouring a glass of water on the desk under the silence of the room, the water filled the glass until it's close to full before stopping. With that, he then helped Ryze to drink some of it.

Lifting his head a little and holding it, Edward slipped the glass in between Ryze's dry lips.

While helping Ryze to drink his eyes wanders to the rest of Ryze's body which is now noticeably thinner and frail, the comatose state he was in is really taxing his body. It's sad to see a kid like him in a state like this.

After inspecting Ryze's body, Edward's mind wanders away to other things.

It was more to the troubled feeling that is pressing on his chest for the last couple of days, he hasn't been sleeping properly because of this uneasiness inside of him. Even a mild swelling developed under his eyes.

But just as he was absent-minded, a weak and hoarse voice creeps onto his ears.

"E-Edward...?"

Upon hearing this Edward looks down before he stares at Ryze for a good five seconds, his eyes then enlarged realizing that Ryze has woken up from his coma, "You're awake?! That's great!", he excitedly exclaimed.

Looking around the unfamiliar room, Ryze gazes back at Edward in confusion.

"Don't worry about that, you're in the small house in the backyard. More importantly, how are you feeling?", Edward asks while putting the glass of water away, it seems the red souls from the powerful Supernaturals helped him recover fast.

Ryze feels his entire body that is still weak before he replied, "I feel good, just need a bit more time"

Pausing for a moment under Edward's gleaming eyes, Ryze suddenly gazes at him intently before he added with a grateful tone, "I know you're the one taking care of me the most, I can't believe you'd do that for me. Thank you..."

"What are you saying? You're practically family now, helping you is natural", Edward replied.

But this made Ryze's eyes teary seeing the bright smile on Edward's face, it's been so long that he has felt the feeling of having a family, "I-I swear that I'll do my best to make up for what you all did for me..."

"Now, now, don't think about that just yet. Go rest some more so you can get better quickly"

Just as Edward said that his body suddenly froze.

Boom!

Edward didn't waste any time and instantly rushes out of the small house when he heard a distant booming sound that came from outside. Reaching outside, he follows the Awakened guards' eyes' direction.

All of them are looking up, so he also looks up at the sky before his eyes widen.

The source of the sound comes from the sky, it was a fireball and a water ball sparking in the sky.

Upon seeing the exploding spells in the sky, Edward instantly realized that it was the signal from the Awakened guards stationed outside of the mansion by Tandu, 'T-Two of them? Are we going to get attacked?!'

#### Chapter 586 Last Stand Of A Friend (1)

Wasting not even a single second, Edward dashes straight to the front yard.

'Both of them came from the north side of the mansion, and both of them sent the signal at the same time. Just what did they see together to send a signal at the same time?', Edward thought with a clear frown on his face.

It was supposed to be at least the same or a very good night with Ryze waking up.

Just like any other day that somehow feels comfortable and right, a hidden danger is already lurking and waiting for the perfect time to show up. And it really did, Edward was excited from seeing Ryze waking up.

But that was nothing more than a happy facade for what was about to come.

Upon reaching the front yard he made eye contact with Tandu that is also already alert, his eyes then shifted to Zelene that is looking at the exploding spells in the sky unaware of what they really meant.

"Zelene! Get inside right now!", Edward commanded seriously.

Similar like before, Zelene wanted to rebut but her eyes saw the seriousness on Edward's face.

Realizing that the exploding spells that she thought were just fireworks were not like what she thought, Zelene nodded her head in understanding especially when she saw the Awakened guards are becoming chaotic.

With their training and awareness, a fast reaction is expected.

Although Tandu is not as strong as any of the Awakened guards here that are at least in the sixth-rank realm, he is still the captain and he instills the discipline that he was taught back when he was still serving as the Disaster Squad in the military.

Each of them is now very much organized like any military group.

On top of that, Edward has also told them to keep on a very high alert until Rex came back ever since his conversation with Mrs. Greene. Thankfully he did that as the trouble finally came, it was the bad air filling the air for the last couple of days.

Awakened guards started to get into their formation while some went out of the mansion.

Swoosh...

Slowly but surely, each of the Awakened guards are cloaking their bodies with their respective elemental aura anticipating for the worst to come. Being attacked was the worst possible incident, and they are preparing exactly for that.

Every one of them knows that there are set of rules that they need to abide by.

As the guardian of the mansion belonging to one of the most influential people in the entire Ratmawati City, they need to keep this rule at heart. It's the rule of always anticipating the worst in any kind of situation.

Being prepared for the worst will fortify their defense and spare them from mistakes.

Glancing to the side trying to make sure that Zelene has already gone back inside, Edward's eyes widen when he saw she hasn't got inside the mansion yet but that's not because she doesn't want to but there's someone blocking the mansion entrance.

Opening the door slightly, Mrs. Greene walks out while looking at the brightly lit sky.

Upon looking at the remnants of the exploding spells cast by the Awakened guard stationed outside, Mrs. Greene's expression slowly turns pale. Darkness gathered in her eyes and filled them, showing the extreme fear that she was feeling right now.

Edward can feel all of his anxieties stumbling back, he gritted his teeth and looks away.

'I can already hear the wolves howling at me...'

Remembering what Mrs. Greene said back then that gave Edward a sleepless night as her words kept repeating inside his head, Edward looks at far away distance knowing that this was definitely it.

Some bad some are heading straight towards them, and Mrs. Greene is the target.

"Protect the mansion! I don't want anything or anyone to even step inside the mansion's territory! Give everything you have, and none of the people inside the mansion can get hurt. We're going to protect them with our lives!!", Edward shouted fiercely putting his senses to the max.

The Awakened guards roared back in confirmation, they were determined.

Soon enough each of them notices the sudden disappearance of the station Awakened outside, their auras instantly disappeared as if they were swept away by the wind turning into nothingness and this made everyone ultimately alert.

'I-I can't feel their auras anymore, don't tell me they're already dead?!', Edward exclaimed inwardly.

Just as he thought of that glowing dot of light in the far distance coupled with the extremely heavy auras suddenly pressing them down, it was like needles stabbing their skins and forcing them to bow down.

Upon feeling the aura, the Awakened guard instantly went outside of the mansion's front yard.

Only a handful stayed behind, Edward, the Disaster Squad, and about eight Awakened guards stand their ground in front of the mansion's entrance while the others moved outside without any hesitation.

As the glowing dot of light got close, they realized that it was a person, an Awakened.

Radiating with powerful burning mana that is blinding, the approaching Awakened is without a doubt a very powerful figure and also a Light Elementalist. It made the Awakened guards clench their weapons tighter.

Squinting their eyes, they find that the approaching Awakened is covered in blood.

From the blood all over the Awakened's clothes and face alone, the Awakened guards know that this Awakened bore malicious intent and has definitely killed the roaming Awakened that patrols around sector 2.

Out of everything, this Awakened is definitely a rogue Awakened.

Commanding the Awakened guard outside, a particular Awakened then shouted, "Get in formation! We're going to block that Awakened's advancement, and failure is not an option! We'll die defending if we have to!"

"Yes!!", the other Awakened guard shouted in a union.

Ever since the published article regarding Rex's triumph over the Vampire Stronghold, each one of them started to look at Rex in a new light. Now, Rex has become a leader that is worth dying to know that he's a powerhouse capable of changing the tide of war.

What is his life cost compared to theirs? they simply can't even be compared.

Like an army of solidified chemistry as if they were already working together for countless years, the Awakened guards created a barricade line before each of them gathers as much mana as they possibly can.

Even though each of their power is not comparable to the approaching Awakened, it kept on rising.

Swoosh!

Slowly but surely their mana gathered together creating a devastating amount of pressure that is even comparable to the approaching Awakened and increases his speed even further, it didn't seem like the approaching Awakened was going to stop.

"Combination Spell, Shield of Dual Elements!"

Immediately after they chanted that, a spark of energy exploded from their bodies.

Red energy coming from the fire element alongside the green energy coming from the wind element formed a shield bigger than the entire mansion, it stands strongly in between the jet of light and the mansion.

Knowing that it won't be enough, the Awakened guards force themselves to generate more mana.

Putting everything they can into the shield made by fire and wind that connects with each other, some of the Awakened guards are starting to bleed from their mouths and nose just from forcing themselves to the utmost limit.

Edward watches this in worry, he can feel the shield's power rising but it's not enough.

Swoosh!!

BOOM!!

One devastating shockwave exploded from the point of impact between the jet of light and the Shield of Dual Elements, the shockwaves destroy the entire place like a powerful reign of terror.

Most of the impact was absorbed by Edward and the others to protect the mansion.

But as the jet of light keep on pushing through the Shield of Dual Elements, cracks started to appear on the shield forcing the Awakened guards to push themselves again. It was clearly the display of power from a very high-ranking Awakened.

If they were to guess, this Awakened should be an eighth-rank realm Awakened.

Upon realizing that the Awakened is an eighth-rank realm Awakened, Edward's expression instantly turns troubled knowing that there is no one inside the mansion that can fare against an eighth-rank realm Awakened.

On top of that, the Awakened also has a very rare element which is the light element.

While still blocking the forceful shockwave that created an unending gust of wind, Edward looks back at Mrs. Greene and Zelene before he shouted, "Go back to the backyard! If the fight between us starts, use that time to flee the mansion as far as possible!"

"But what about you?! I'm not leaving you!", Zelene shouted back in worry.

Edward gritted his teeth as the gust of wind becomes even stronger, pushing him back a couple of steps, "Go now!! Mrs. Greene, bring the others to the backyard and run away as soon as the opportunity presents itself! and don't look back!"

Knowing the dire situation, Mrs. Greene snap out of her daze before nodding her head.

Zelene started crying profusely not intending to move from her spot if Edward don't run away with them, the Awakened that attacked them is definitely a stronger one compared to Edward and she knows it.

Giving an assuring smile to Zelene, Edward then said, "I'll catch up to you, don't worry!"

Upon hearing this Zelene started crying even more knowing that Edward is definitely lying, she can tell when her brother is lying just from the looks on his face. It's clear that he was going to fight whoever this attacker was to buy them as much time as possible.

Pulling the crying Zelene, Mrs. Greene went inside the mansion and closed the entrance door.

Shrill screams and wails of agony coming from Zelene were still penetrating through the entrance door before her voice slowly fades away, and until then Edward finally focuses back on the fight.

Crack!

BOOM!

Just after Mrs. Greene and Zelene went inside, the shield shattered into countless fragments.

Following the shattering Shield of Dual Elements, another shockwave exploded but this time is even stronger as the Disaster Squad and the Awakened guards beside Edward got flung and hit the mansion wall behind them.

Only Edward stands on his ground, resisting the last shockwave that attacked them.

After the aftermath of the powerful shockwave from the shattering Shield of Dual Elements, Edward looks at his front into the slowly fading smoke that blocks his vision. Soon enough, the first glimpse of his front finally can be seen.

It was the destruction of the strong fences of the mansion and the injured Awakened guards.

Most of them are lying on the ground, especially the ones that helped in blocking the attacker. The ones that are left standing were the ones beside Edward who finally regain their composure from being planted into the mansion's wall behind.

Edward's eyes were then attracted to the glowing figure flying in the dawn sky.

With the slowly rising sun at the back of the glowing figure, the aura the figure emitted is also getting stronger showing he was a true Light Elementalist that becomes stronger at the first sign of daybreak.

Upon looking at the figure, Edward finds that it was an Awakened that he didn't know.

"Who are you?! Why are you attacking our Silverstar Family? Heavy consequences await you, but it's not too late to turn back right now and I'll plead to Rex Silverstar for his forgiveness!", Edward shouted at the figure.

But the figure's expression twitch when he heard the name Rex Silverstar.

It was clear now to Edward that this Awakened surely knows Rex Silverstar but still insisted on attacking. Edward can only think of two reasons that made the figure like this, either the figure is not scared of Rex or the figure has no other choice.

From the looks of the figure's expression, it seems it was the latter.

The name Rex Silverstar still clearly terrifies the figure but that didn't dissuade him from attacking the mansion, "You must be Edward, bring the others and come with me voluntarily. Nobody is going to help you, and I'll definitely bring all of you back with me either peacefully or forcefully"

Upon hearing this, Edward's eyes sparkled, 'Somekind of vendetta? but why?'

"I'll come with you voluntarily, there's no need to fight. But let the others go!", Edward replied trying to substitute the others for himself, it's going to prevent an unnecessary fight with the others still in the backyard.

Shaking his head, the Awakened then continued, "You chose the latter then..."

"Don't blame me, I gave you a choice. But now I'm going to use force to bring you all back with me"

After hearing that, Edward's expression darkens as his body slowly sizzles with dark fire.

The dark fire acted like a steaming blanket of darkness which even made the grass underneath his feet burnt and turned into black ash, he was slowly activating his dark fire element that feels like an anomaly of an element.

Even the Awakened frowns, he can feel something weird with Edward's dark fire.

It has the scorching feeling of a fire would but also the coldness of the darkness, almost as if the dark fire is the mix of both elements. Something that even the Awakened has never seen before.

But under the gaze of the onlookers, a spirit slowly materializes.

Although a sixth-rank realm Awakeend can materialize their spirit on their back can help in a fight and enhance their power, the spirit that materializes is not on Edward's back but instead right beside him.

Slowly the spirit's energy expanded and makes the air around them tremble.

'What kind of spirit is that?! But more importantly, he's able to use a Spirit Shadow and there's a completed spirit core inside his chest which means he has reached the seventh-rank realm', the Awakened thought in surprise.

Not only does his spirit is pressured, but Edward's power is also surpassed his expectation.

Edward's eyes which are burning with dark flames alongside the spirit made by dark fire gaze at the Awakened with clear battle intent, they are determined to stop this Awakened from advancing anywhere closer to the mansion.

"Forcefully bringing us with you? You can try, but don't expect me to let that happen easily"

"No... don't expect US to let that happen easily", Edward added after glancing at his spirit that is even on par with Rex's spirit, Devoratar Tridan. His spirit is also an ancient one, and its name is Sentine the True Fire Sentinel.

#### Chapter 587 Last Stand Of A Friend (1)

The rampaging force brought by the powerful aura seeping out of Edward and his spirit's bodies makes the air thicker and dense, everyone without an exception felt that it was hard to breathe the air normally.

More strength is required to pull the air into their nostrils, and thus their chests become heavy.

Sentine the Fire Sentinel takes a form of a muscular humanoid figure that is way twice bigger as Edward with black skin that is lighter on its inner torso area, wisps of dark fire travel from the ground beneath its feet to the dark fiery eyes before doing the same process all over again.

Its hand held a V-shaped black shield entirely made and burned with dark fire.

Any spirit in the surroundings got suppressed by the sheer presence of Sentine alone.

Even the Awakened guards can feel utilizing their spirit has become harder upon the emergence of Sentine, it almost feels like that their spirits are reluctant to come out and meet head-on with Sentine.

Only spirits in the High Spirit realm can use their power properly in front of Sentine.

Zero, the Awakened flying in the sky with radiating light overflowing his body frowns upon seeing Edward's spirit. If he's in the same realm as Edward, his spirit might also be suppressed by him.

'He definitely just reach the seventh-rank realm, but this amount of mana and pressure...'

From the looks of the glowing dark fiery orb that is glowing in the middle of Edward's chest, Zero knows that he was just had a breakthrough since it's still delicate and doesn't have any sign of harmony with Sentine yet.

But the pressure Edward is giving off is at least comparable to mid or even peak seventh-rank.

Not even the most talented Awakened in the whole of Ratmawati City and beyond have this kind of talent, the gap between small realms in the seventh-rank realm is too much for a person to leap. It shouldn't be possible.

Yet Edward shows the unbelievable power that surpassed even the logic of the mind.

Boom!

Small shockwaves burned the ground around his feet in a three meters radius and started pulsating rapidly, they were responding to Edward's intent to make the last stand using everything he got. At first, the small shockwaves sounded like heartbeats.

Aside from the surprised Zero, the Awakened guards in the surroundings were also surprised.

Out of the remaining ones, three women clad in grey robe looks at Edward with their grey eyes enlarged to the absolute limit. From the looks of it, they seem to wear a different outfit compared to the other Awakened guards.

"D-Didn't lady Lauren said that he's still in the sixth-rank realm...?", one of the three asks.

Another shakes her head in disbelief, "Reaching seventh-rank realm with enough hard work is plausible, but how did he have such a tremendous aura that is comparable to us, mid-seventh-rank realm Awakened...? It shouldn't be possible"

~

Sometime before,

"Edward, there are three Awakened that admit that they were sent here by Lady Lauren. What do you want me to do regarding them?", Tandu walks inside the mansion and finds Edward sitting on the sofa while reading something on his phone.

Upon hearing this, Edward gives a confused gaze and mutters, "Lady Lauren?"

Since Edward is not expecting any meeting with any member of the Hester Family, he decided to stand up from the sofa before heading outside intending to check out these Awakened from the Hester Family.

The three Awakened are standing in the middle of the front yard under the Awakened guards' eyes.

Edward approached the three of them before stopping a couple of steps away, "Hester's Family doesn't have any business to attend to at this time with the Silverstar Family, what do I owe the pleasure of receiving this surprise visit?"

Although he said that with a calm tone, Edward is very alert about them.

With the entire mansion on full alert regarding the matters he had with Mrs. Greene, anyone that might pose a threat would be needed to be taken very seriously. Out of everything, Edward wouldn't forgive himself if anything were to happen to anyone here.

One of the three Awakened, a woman with sharp features and a short-black hair steps forward.

"My apology for visiting the Silverstar Family's mansion at this inappropriate time, but we are sent here by Lady Giana as a kind gesture in helping to protect the mansion, especially with the absence of Rex", the woman said with a monotone voice.

Not even a twitch in her face can be seen, she looks like a walking robot.

Upon hearing this Edward crosses his arms in front of him while sizing the three Awakened with his eyes, he squinted his eyes before he asks, "How do you know Rex is absent? I don't remember Rex declaring anything"

"Rex and Lady Lauren has a deal, and Lady Lauren is sure that he's fulfilling his part"

Although a bit skeptical, Edward decided to let them in but they can't be anywhere near the mansion's floor. Tandu and the other Disaster Squad are also watching them carefully under Edward's careful command.

~

Back to the present,

The woman with short black hair gasps a cold air upon seeing Edward's state right now.

During their initial encounter, she can't really gauge Edward's strength fully but the report stated that he's in the sixth-rank realm. In reality, Edward has already stepped into the seventh-rank realm but that's not what's most surprising.

What surprised her so much was the power coming out of him that feels like an endless tide.

At first, she thought that she was the strongest here, and doesn't feel intimidated by any Awakened guard with her being a Mind Elementalist. But it seems she was wrong, Edward is no doubt the leader here.

Boom!!

"I'm going to say this once, back away while you still can", Edward said threateningly.

Upon hearing this, Zero gritted his teeth in anger seeing that a seventh-rank realm Awakened is looking down on him that already reaches the Spirit Unification state. Blasting an even stronger ray of light, he whispered with a trembling tone hiding his anger, "Are you threatening me...?"

Krrkk!!

"Mere seventh-rank realm Awakened dares to threaten me?! Know your place!!"

While gritting his finding Edward's offensive words to be blasphemous toward an eighth-rank realm Awakened like him, Zero dashes with all of his might turning into a jet of light that heading very quickly towards Edward.

Edward went into his battle stance quickly, "Pneuma Spell! Spirit Art Modification!"

SWOOSH!

Just from the light chant coming from his mouth, his body undergoes multiple changes, and one of them is located in his veins that expanded and become black, enhancing the affinity with the dark fire element.

Two fire titan figures appeared on Edward and Sentine's backs simultaneously.

Even though he was mostly tending to the mansion in Rex's absence, Edward has never stopped training and Sentine is always motivating him to keep on becoming stronger. Sentine even tells him the way to fasten his progress.

In that small timeframe, he managed to reach the seventh-rank realm and align a Pneuma Spell.

Spirit Art Modification is a second circle Pneuma Spell that Sentine and Edward developed with the Fire Titan Art as its base, this Pneuma Spell will change and alter the Fire Titan Art into a spiritual art that also involves spirit energy instead of just mana.

Upon using this Pneuma Spell, the Fire Titan Art will become way stronger and more efficient.

Edward hasn't even tried using it once since the Pneuma Spell just finished being developed, he intends to spar with Rex later using only Awakened power. But now is not the time to restrain the Pneuma Spell he developed.

"Dark Titan Sentinel Art! Weight of the Titan!"

Crack!

Edward and Sentine stomped the ground strongly making the pulsing shockwaves even stronger.

The ground even trembles a bit from their stomps which becomes stronger due to their heavier weight caused by the art. After that, they then chanted in a union with a fierce glint in their eyes looking at the descending Zero.

"Dark Titan Sentinel Art! Unbreakable Body!"

"RAARGHH!"

BOOM!

Sentine stepped forward and puts the dark fire shield in front, protecting everything on its back.

On the other hand, Edward tighten his stance before putting both of his hands on Sentine's back to help sustain the incoming attack from a raging eighth-rank realm Awakened that would usually obliterate any lower-ranked Awakened.

Clashes between the two energies spark like lighting to the surroundings.

Every impact created by this rampant collision destroys everything that it touches, and even the Awakened guards used their element to protect themselves and the mansion from the collateral energy.

Despite with pouring every mana and spirit energy, Edward and Sentine are having a difficult time.

Both of them are slowly being pushed into the ground under the tremendous energy from Zero, the power of an eighth-rank realm Awakened is no joke even without the Gladiator Form activated.

Edward glances over his shoulder in the midst of the extreme moment.

Upon finding the looks from Edward, the Awakened guards on the back instantly turn around intending to help Mrs. Greene and the others to run away while he kept Zero busy. But it seems Zero realizes this as he points his fingers at them.

"Nobody is going to escape! Not while I'm around!", Zero roared with a maniacal look.

Swoosh!

Two beams of light flew from his pointing index fingers before traveling through the distance in a blink of an eye, and before the Awakened guards can react their hearts got destroyed by the beam that went through their bodies easily.

None of them survived that attack, Zero has a complete realm advantage here.

Snapping out of their dazes, the three women from the Hester Family activated their aura knowing that the situation requires their help. Edward is doing his best to defend himself from Zero's attack, and they need to help him.

With the circulating grey mana around them, they started to make their move.

Each one of them summoned their own Spirit Shadow showing their seventh-rank realm powers, their spirits are shaped like humanoid little girls with black magician hats and grey strings protruding out of their fingertips.

Finish activating their spirits, the three women instantly cast the same spell.

"Ultimate Mental Spell, Strings of Boosting Puppeteer!"

Swoosh!

Sixty grey strings shot straight from their fingertips toward Edward and Sentine before linking to every part of their bodies. Each of them is wrapped by thirty strings that link them to the three women and their Spirit Shadows.

It surprises Edward that is slowly overwhelmed.

But in the next second, Edward's eyes widened feeling the boost in power. It's he got additional storage of power that is now fueling his body, he now can push Zero back with the help of the strings that seem to be amplifying both his and Sentine's physical prowess to the utmost limit.

Mental Elementals have different varieties, and these women are surely puppeteers.

With the additional strength from the three women that poured everything they got into amplifying Edward's physical strength, Zero frowns feeling that his momentum is being pushed back evidently.

'How are four mere seventh-rank realms Awakened be this capable?!', Zero exclaimed inwardly.

Raising his gaze up towards Zero that is wearing a shocked expression on his face, Edward and Sentine gathered every ounce of power into one last push before creating a devastating explosion.

"RAARGHH!!!"

BOOM!!!

From that explosion, Zero got flung back into the sky once more still surprised.

Looking down at the Awakened that somehow can be on par with him, he saw Edward wiping the blood on the corner of his mouth and Sentine showing an excited smile on its face that seems to be glad for meeting such a powerful opponent.

But this daze was exploited perfectly by Edward and Sentine.

Boom!

Sentine created small explosions beneath its feet to jump into the sky, higher than Zero which follows Sentine's movement that is now above him. When Sentine was about to attack, Zero beats it with a faster reaction.

"Great Pure Light Spell! Beam of Eminence!"

Bam!

Without even being able to get near, Sentine flung away from being hit by a light beam.

Having no control over where he will land, Sentine hits the edge of the mansion before crashing outside of the mansion ground on the back. Zero wanted to follow up with another attack but he senses something from below, he looks down before finding Edward already a couple of feet away from him with a dark fire burning his right fist.

Cloaking with dark fire, the energy on his fist take shape of an arrowhead as he drives it forward.

"Dark Titan Sentinel Art! Colossal Tear!!"

Bam!!

Edward's fist landed directly on Zero's chin propelling him upwards from the heavy punch, his jaw got rattled from that punch, and the skin that got hit directly by Edward's sharp knuckles broke and started to bleed profusely.

Upon realizing this while following the momentum knocking him up, Zero's eyes turn bloodshot.

'T-This damn annoying Awakened... forget capturing him, I'm going to kill him!!'

Chapter 588 Last Stand Of A Friend (2)

Kyran followed Vargas alongside the army of military men and Awakened straight to the Sky Temple.

Upon reaching there he instantly recognizes the place since he was here once with the others not too long before, he creeps in the shadow oblivious to the eyes of the military men and Awakened that are below the Sky Temple.

'Just what do the files they have regarding Rex has to do with Lady Giana...?', Kyran thought.

Not too long ago he saw Sebrof being angry with his secretary about some files that were stolen, he was sure that the files contain Rex's information. But no matter how much he tries to link the connection, he can't find the link between Lady Giana with the files.

Moreover, the fact that Sebrof got that angry because of the stolen files is still confusing to him.

After waiting on the side for a moment, a group of white-robed people came down from the Sky Temple escorted by the strong Awakened before the other Awakened, and military men restrained them.

Kyran looks at these people before he frowns, 'Hmm... I think I saw one of them fleeing'

While he was following this very strong parade heading to the Sky Temple, he sensed a sharp aura that seems to be sneaking away. Kyran followed that aura for a bit and saw a man clad in the same outfit as these white-robed people.

Since he now saw the white-robed people, he conclude that that person is sneaking away.

Kyran then looks up to the Sky Temple where Sebrof and Lady Giana are right now, he wanted to listen to their conversation but he clicks his tongue finding that he can't eavesdrop on them since he can't really go there.

The formation below that leads to the Sky Temple is guarded, and there was no other way.

Having no other choice, Kyran decided to wait on the sideline of the street for Sebrof and the others to come down. But soon enough, Sebrof and Lady Giana came down alongside each other.

Even though he was not an expert in face-reading, it seems Lady Giana did something wrong.

Lady Giana is not wearing her usual proud and confident demeanor but wears a gloomy one instead, Kyran heard Sebrof instruct Vargas to go to the mansion but he decided to stay here and keep on listening since Rex is not in the mansion.

Vargas wouldn't be able to do what he was told with Rex still hasn't come back yet.

When Lady Giana was about to enter the car, she suddenly stopped and searched for someone called Zero, 'I've heard that name before, I think it was the man that she converse with before. If I'm not mistaken, his right eye is defective because of an injury'

But just as he thought of that, his attention was pulled back to Lady Giana.

"Zero?! Where's Zero?!"

"W-We don't know, my lady. Zero left as soon as you went back to the temple", one of the White Wardens said meekly, he saw that Zero instantly jumps down after Lady Giana went into the Sky Temple.

Upon hearing this, Lady Giana unconsciously held her breath.

In the next second, she then instantly ran back to Sebrof that already gotten out of the car again, "We need to go to the Silverstar Family's mansion, right now!! We need to hurry before Zero makes things worst!"

"Slow down, tell me clearly. What's wrong?", Sebrof hold Giana's shoulders with a questioning look.

Lady Giana's expression has already turned pale, she was panicking as her eyes moved constantly with many bad thoughts inside her head, "Giana! What's Zero going to do?! Tell me clearly!", Sebrof asks again while shaking her body.

"I-I think he's going to aim for Rex's family..."

"For God's sake!"

Boom!

Without even wasting another second, Sebrof stormed into the sky in a hurry.

Not long after that Lady Giana also followed, flapping her wings toward the direction of the Silverstar Family's mansion leaving the other Awakened and military men stunned as it was very sudden.

On the side, Kyran heard all of this.

Snapping out of his daze, Kyran's expression turns pale, "Oh no!!"

Just like Lady Giana and Sebrot that stormed into the sky, Kyran also heads in the same direction exerting every ounce of his strength at running, 'D-Did that person that sneaked away went to the mansion?! Edward, hold on!!'

Swoosh!

~

Meanwhile, Silverstar Family's mansion.

Signs of the dawn sun have already exposed clearly starting to shoot rays of warmth to the entire world, but under the warmth of the sun a fight is currently still going on in sector 2 of Ramtawati City.

Edward landed a punch straight to the jaw using every ounce of his strength.

Anyone in his realm that got hit by that should find their jaws shattered, but the powerful and clean uppercut only manages to break Zero's skin and propels him upwards and back. Not even the bones in his face are broken from that.

Bam!

Following with a quick succession, he landed a nasty roundhouse kick right at Zero's face.

Zero glares at Edward before a kick came out of nowhere and hits him on the right side of his face, he was sent crashing to the ground outside of the mansion. But that level of damage doesn't put him down as he recovered almost instantly, standing up with his fierce eyes trained forward.

About ten meters away, Edward landed before the three women also landed behind him.

With their glowing grey eyes, the three women alongside their Spirit Shadows are still connected with Edward which brings his power into the pseudo-eighth-rank realm Awakened. The boost they brought helped Edward tremendously.

It's like having the strength of four people, 4 times the strength, mana, and spirit energy.

'Hmm... he didn't react to that kick. Is the right side his blindspot?', Edward thought with a frown.

Despite knowing that his movement was fast and fluid from the years of training in hand-to-hand combat, Edward is thinking realistically. He shouldn't be faster than an eighth-rank Awakened like Zero. Because of that, he suspected that the right side is Zero's blindspot.

Squinting his eyes, he finds that Zero's right eye is also glowing but not as brightly.

The flow of mana has some difficulties accessing the right eye and this alone shows that Zero's right eye is defective, probably due to an injury he suffered which made his eyesight very bad despite having superior strength.

Not long after that, Sentine landed on the side with his body recovering from the previous attack.

Upon getting hit by a light beam to the stomach, it tore a hole but that hole is slowly being regenerated by the dark fire. Through their mental links, Edward then said, 'We'll aim for the right side, it's his weak spot'

[I know, I've realized it already]

With a nod of his head, Edward then looks at Zero's murderous eyes.

"Give up and leave right now, my deal from before still stands. I will plead with Rex to not pursue this matter, you don't have to do this. I can see that you're not able to use your Gladiator Form due to exhaustion, keeping this up would just be worst and worst for you. Stand down and leave!"

For an eighth-rank Awakened to not revert to their Gladiator Form, it indicates that they can't.

With the Gladiator Form, Zero should be able to obliterate them easily, but he didn't use it which means that he has already used the Spirit Gladiator form sometime earlier and now is exhausted.

Unlike the ninth-rank realm Awakened, he doesn't have unlimited energy.

Going into the Gladiator Form is taxing for an eighth-rank Awakened as it puts a heavy strain on their bodies, and thus they aren't able to use it occasionally like Rex turning into his Werewolf form. They need to use it carefully and tactfully.

Although it was unlikely for him to agree, Edward needs to persuade Zero to back away.

But upon hearing this, Zero's expression darkens.

'Everyone around him is also abnormally strong, being a Werewolf is enough but they are even talented as an Awakened. How is that fair?! And more importantly, why is everyone asking for his damn forgiveness?!

Instead of standing down, Zero's light mana becomes even more rampant.

BOOM!

"Rex can go to hell! I'll definitely capture you all and tilt the situation back to Lady Giana's advantage!!", Zero roared like a maniac before turning into a streak of light, his movement got even faster.

Despite being on full alert, Edward finds that he almost can't keep up with Zero's movement.

With the little split second he had to react to Zero's attack, Edward cloaked his fist with burning dark fire before he sent a jab aiming for Zero's chin. But his eyes widened when he saw that his fist went through Zero's face.

Cracking a grin, Zero creates a sword made of light before swinging it in a crescent manner.

Slash!

Edward's defensive capability was exposed in full display as he bent his body back to dodge the glistening sword, his reaction is insane for a human but he almost got caught, 'Very fast! I can't defend a full brunt from a sword even with the Unbreakable Body art. Sentine!'

Upon hearing Edward's calling, Sentine throws the shield in its hand to Edward.

Arriving in the nick of time, Edward positioned the shield above him to block a heavy slash from above. Every muscle in his legs contracted to anticipate the power slash, they instinctively knew that it was going to be a strong one.

"RAARGHH!!", Zero shouted before swinging down the sword with both of his hands.

CLANG!!

"Haaahkk!", the three women aligning with Edward spat a mouthful of blood from receiving that attack, they were connected with Edward's body, and they also can feel the brunt of the mighty slash.

Even the Spirit Shadows becomes wobbly and some of the strings snapped because of that.

"Don't be cocky in front of me! Even without my Gladiator Form, you're still a measly seventh-rank Awakened!!"

CLANG!

Brak!

Edward falls to one knee from receiving yet another blow from above, the impact makes the shield tremble and the effect spreads across his entire body forcing blood to leak out of the corner of his mouth. It was a brutal slash.

Intending to help, Sentine charges from the side but was blocked by a square-shaped barrier.

"Ultimate Spell, Chaotic Storm of Imperial Light!"

Sentine was trapped inside a cage of light before light beams fire from all directions, his big body finds it hard to dodge the light beams as they create holes all over his body. Not only that, the light beams bounced and hit Sentine again.

Under the barrage of light beams, Sentine succumbs to the damage and vanishes.

But just as Sentine went back to Edward's shadow, it screamed inside Edward's head trying to warn Edward of the incoming catastrophe, [Edward!! The shield!! Look out!!]

Edward heard the scream, he looks up and finds the shield of dark fire disappearing.

The shield of dark fire is not made of mana or spirit energy but it's linked to Sentine instead, and when Sentine's physical body was decimated the shield will also disappears alongside Sentine. Edward saw the huge grin on Zero's face as he was completely open for an attack.

"You're wide open, Edward..."

With his eyes bulging in surprise, Edward clenched his entire body and grits his teeth.

SLASH!

BOOM!

In the blink of an eye, the sword of light slashed at his stomach creating a huge cut before sending him crashing away through the entire mansion and bursting out to the backyard. Blood escapes his mouth as he was sent across the backyard leaving a red trail.

Even though the attack landed directly, his body is on auto-pilot as he slowly stands back up.

Trying to recover from the attack, Edward can taste iron in his mouth before a stabbing pain stopped him from straightening his back. Looking down at his stomach, he saw that there was a devastating bleeding cut.

But his attention was pulled to the side seeing Mrs. Greene and the others are still here.

"Leave!!!"

Despite the pain that is straining his body to the utmost limit, Edward shouted telling them to run away before coughing yet another mouthful of blood. The only reason he was fighting this fiercely is to buy time.

Mrs. Greene, Robert, his Uncle, Zelene, and Russ needs to survive.

Upon seeing the blood and injuries all over Edward's body, Zelene screamed at the top of her lungs but her mouth got covered by Russ. Edward's uncle is also worried but he knows that he can't do anything in this situation.

Without wasting any more time, they left through the small back door with heavy hearts.

The three women from the Hester Family came out of the mansion and immediately went to help Edward, they were not in great shape either. Since they are linked to Edward, the damage done to him was also felt by them.

Red iron-scented liquid has already seeped out of the corner of their mouth.

But knowing their duty here that was tasked by Lady Lauren, the short-hair woman then asks, "Are you okay?! That's it, we need to escape right now. We can't take that guy on, there's a big realm gap between us and him"

"No, bring the others out of here. I'll hold him off...", Edward gritted his teeth and stepped forward.

Shoving the woman in front of him weakly, Edward stands in their front while readying himself to fight the Awakened again who is slowly coming out of the hole in the mansion with his glowing eyes.

Although she finds that Edward is a madman for doing this, she marvels at his loyalty.

Glancing at the other women that are also wounded, the three of them went into their battle stances as they connect themselves to Edward again intending to help him to the very end to fight this rogue Awakened that ran rampant in sector 2.

Zero walks out with the sword of light in his hand.

But as if he was not already powerful enough, another sword slowly materializes in his other hand.

"You're at the end of your life, Edward. I'm going to kill you now... your blood will be used to cleanse Rex's sin of surfacing the trauma and making her sad", Zero said with a brutal expression.

It's an expression that is unfit for fellow humans.

Edward realizes something in Zero's face, it's clear that in his eyes he was fighting the Supernatural.

Chapter 589 Last Stand Of A Friend (3)

The panting of the people that are exerting their bodies to the utmost limit filled the place.

Corpses of the Awakened guards were scattered all over the place from being hit by the collateral damage, they were once filled with vigor but now they were lifeless just because of one Awakened. It was the first crisis that happened in the Silverstar Family's mansion.

Something that shouldn't happen, sector 2 should guarantee their safety.

Edward sizes Zero up and down searching for any indication of making a move, his left hand is resting on the big wound on his stomach that is still bleeding profusely. Sounds of blood hitting the ground can be heard subtly.

From the initial clash, he's very injured and can't summon Sentine to help.

Sentine's physical presence was shattered and torn to shreds by the spell Zero did earlier, and it needs time before Edward can use Sentine again. But that is a very bad sign, he lost the dark fire shield that is the only thing able to block Zero's attack.

But as if cleansing the doubt inside his head, the three women connect to him again.

Once again the grey strings from their fingertips and their injured Shadow Spirit's fingertips connect to every media and spirit core inside Edward's body, he becomes way stronger than before since now they all focusing on him only without Sentine around.

In the next second, Edward's eyes squinted seeing a twitch in Zero's muscles.

Swoosh!

Zero dashes forward alerting Edward as he puts his senses to the max and get into his defensive stance, but just as Zero takes a couple of steps his body suddenly split into five identical clones.

"Dark Titan Sentinel Art, Unbreakable Body!"

"Great Spell! Whisp o Fire!"

Following the quick succession of the chant, Edward did his defensive move.

Aside from strengthening his body with the Unbreakable Body art, he also summons five whisps of dark fire that shot at Zero and his clones. But that doesn't help much seeing that Zero and his clones slapped the whisps away rather easily.

With the whisps out of the way, Zero and his clones jumped while raising their swords.

The three women from the Hester Family didn't hesitate to help, each of them chanted the same spell and directed it to Zero and his clones in the sky, "Great Mental Spell! Chaos of the Mind!!"

Ngoong!

An invisible shockwave exploded from each of their bodies and headed to Zero and his clones.

It was a very powerful spell that sent a mind attack that will rattle Zero and his clones' minds. The spell seems to be working as the clones got rattled and fall to the ground, they then slowly dissipate into light particles.

But unlike the clones, Zero didn't get fazed at all.

"Die!!"

Slash!

With the extreme moment of life and death, Edward saw the descending sword of light.

Although he was wide open he was not intending to die just like that, he raises both of his arms above him to block the sword of light in slow motion. In the next split second, the sword descends normally and strikes his arms.

SLASH!

"Gargghh!", red iron-scented liquid exploded into the surroundings.

Edward finds that his arms slowly got cut despite the Unbreakable Body art that he used earlier.

Zero's blade of light cuts halfway through his left arm slowly bringing an immense amount of pain alongside it, his own blood splashes onto his face as he desperately tries to hold on. Realizing that he doesn't have enough strength, Edward's eyes turn bloodshot.

It was starting to get bleak, the three women are also having a very difficult time.

They already pour everything they got into Edward's body but it seems the gap between them is too much and Edward is already weakened from the injury on his stomach, blood even started to come out of their nose, ears, mouth, and eyes.

Following this gruesome scene, Edward and the three women fall to their knees.

More blood gushed out of their mouths, and Edward started to be overwhelmed by the sword of light. Zero smiles even wider seeing that he's finally winning, he puts more strength into both of his arms until suddenly.

Slash!

Blood splurged, staining the grass in the backyard as half of Edward's left arm was sliced cleanly.

Not stopping there, the momentum of the sword of light keeps on going down and also sliced his shoulder. It keeps on going and stops just after cutting through his collarbone. The three women try their hardest to help Edward by infusing him with more of their energies. However, their attempts were stopped when the link between them snapped and the repercussion flung them away.

Despite everything, they still are unable to win against an eighth-rank realm Awakened.

Edward's body loses so much power from that attack as he looks down at his own pool of blood, the pain tries to evoke emotions in his face but he held it in before slowly gazing up at Zero while holding onto the sword of light with his right hand.

Krak!

With a slow movement, Zero pulls out his sword before swinging the blade to clean it off of blood.

"Your life ends here, Edward. Blame Rex for your death."

Knowing that Mrs. Greene and the others are getting farther away and this place will soon be crowded by Awakened by the UWO and FAA, Zero wanted to finish this as soon as possible since he already wasted so much time, fighting against Edward and the three women.

Affirming his intention, Zero raises his sword once again for the finishing blow.

Swoosh!

Pulsating light mana started to imbue the sword of light and made it burn even brighter, the sword started to tremble and become chaotic as it started making a humming voice of death.

But when Zero's eyes glisten as he swings the sword down, something unexpected happened.

Clang!

"Hmmm?!"

Out of nowhere, a scaled hand blocked his attack and even managed to stop his swinging momentum. Zero was watched off-guard, he didn't even sense anyone here except for Edward and the three women.

Zero doesn't have the time to look at the person before he was punched and sent stumbling back.

Even though he was an eighth-rank realm Awakened that is nearing the highest hierarchy of an Awakened, the punch that landed solidly on his face managed to break his nose. Blood started seeping out and his eyes began to get teary.

"Who dares?!"

With his hand covering his face in pain, Zero looks at the person that did this.

But his eyes widened upon seeing that it was not a person, but a Supernatural. Something that he never expected to be here, none of its kind should be here since Ratmawati City doesn't have that kind of problem.

"D-Dragonman?! How is this possible?!"

Contrary to his expectation of another Awakened, the one that punched him is a Dragonman!

Standing in front of him is a creature that has some part of his skin covered with very dark red scales. They were glossy, boasting the defensive capability that they possess. On top of the fierce demeanor, there was no mistaking this creature just from its eyes.

Two large red irises, and vertical pupils exhibiting an air of dominance and arrogance.

Every sense of this creature that appears out of nowhere emits the feeling of the highest-rank lizard the world has ever known, and the shape of its body shows that it has mutated into a humanoid figure.

Dragonman, it's a Dragonman. But there shouldn't be any Dragonman in this part of the world.

Upon seeing the muscular scaled arm that blocked the descending sword of light, Edward looks back and saw the figure that he also recognized as a Dragonman. But it's clear that this figure is someone he knew, "R-Ryze...?!"

Without even glancing and answering, Ryze steps forward protecting Edward behind him.

Fixating his spiteful lizard eyes toward Zero that reduced Edward to this state, Ryze grabs a regular sword on his side that seems to once belong to an Awakened guard. Looking and raising at the sword for a bit, Ryze glances back at Zero again.

"Another Supernatural, Is this a Supernatural farm? But it's good that you're here, I'm killing you too!"

But instead of being intimidated as those words came from an eighth-rank realm Awakened, there was no change in Ryze's expression. Stone cold. But slowly, Ryze's jugular started to burn with flames.

In the next split second, he did the signature dragon move.

Swoosh!

Without a second thought, Ryze breathes dark red flames directly into the sword.

After doing that Zero unconsciously steps back in surprise, the sword is now coated with the flames that came from Ryze's mouth that can even make his danger sense ring inside his heart. From the way it sizzles domineeringly, Zero knows that it's not a regular flame.

Ryze has the soul of one of the Heavenly Dragons, Zadress Lord of the Red.

One of its distinctive features is the flame that Zadress possesses that can melt anything it touches, the absolute King of the flame that is unrivaled by even the True Fire element. It's a flame solely possessed by Zadress.

"I've never killed a Dragonman before, you'll be my first!", Zero exclaimed with a maniacal laugh.

Ryze seems unfazed as he bent his body a little before his body seems to make boney noises, he was going into a world of pain as his human fangs becomes thicker and longer. But the most noticeable change is happening on his back, the skin on his back is tearing apart.

Upon looking at this, Zero doesn't intend to let him finish his transformation.

Swoosh!

Disappearing from the spot he was on before, Zero tackled Ryze's body with his hand on Ryze's neck before both of them turns into a streak of light that burst through the fence and screeched across the ground.

But while Zero is smiling brutally, his smile went stiff when he saw Ryze's neck start to burn.

Even though the light aura is covering his entire body like a blanket, the heat coming from the flames inside Ryze's neck burns his hand. In reflex, he lets go of the neck before Ryze glares at him and opens his mouth.

Boom!

Ryze shot a spiral of dark red flames that threatens to melt anything in its way.

Upon looking at this, Zero scoffed.

Although he wasn't able to dodge the flame breath in time due to how big it is, there was not the slightest bit of worry on his face, "Vanishing Light!", with the activation of the spell, no attacks can touch his corporeal body of light.

It was an exception for Adhara that can attack him in this state, but this flame shouldn't be able to.

Soon enough Zero regretted that decision as the dark red flames hit his body despite using one of his strongest spells, "RAARGGGHH!!!", he screamed at the top of his lungs finding his entire body got severely burnt.

With the last bit of his strength, Zero propels himself out of the spiraling flame breath.

Zero looks at his trembling hands and finds that his skin is already burnt to a crisp leaving nothing but his actual flesh, even his white robe which is also battle equipment got tattered and scorched showing glimpses of burnt flesh.

'H-How...?! How did that flame touch me?!'

But just as Zero was in confusion, he can feel a powerful gust of wind pushing him back.

Looking over to his back while his body still screaming from the burn, he finds that Ryze was not on the ground anymore. Tilting his head upwards, Zero finds Ryze in the sky with wings wrapping around turning him into a ball.

In the next second, the wings on his back flapped open as he roared loudly.

ROAR!!

An ear-shattering roar escaped his mouth filled with sharp teeth as he spreads his dominance to the surrounding, this caught everyone's attention as it was very eye-catching. Two burning horns started protruding out of his head like two spikes from hell.

Even Edward that is still hurting saw this scene with wide eyes.

'R-Ryze... he finally managed to overpower Zaddress's soul', Edward thought with a light smile.

Chapter 590 Last Stand Of A Friend: Might Of The Dark Fire Sentinel Art

Roar!!

Ryze flies majestically, boasting his new form with the dark red burning sword in his hand. Shadowed by the morning sun behind him, the only feature that can be seen is his sharp yellow eyes that are glowing evermore.

Slowly, a mark appears in the middle of his chest.

A couple of fire streaks created a mark that is shaped like a flame symbol, it was the mark of one of the Heavenly Dragons from the Dragonman race. It was a noble mark bearing the power of the sacred dragon.

Even though Zero doesn't know what the mark means, he knows that it's not something good.

"Don't look down on me!"

While pointing at Ryze that is flying in the sky, arrogantly looking down on him, Zero's body started glowing again but this time a ghastly formless spirit with golden eyes appeared on his back amplifying the spirit energy that he emits.

Roaring angrily, Zero points at Ryze with his hand, "Great Pure Light Spell, Beam of Eminence!"

SWOOSH!

An even stronger beam of light was shot towards Ryze that watches this happening without any emotions on his face. Responding to the incoming attack, he flaps his wings before diving down from the sky with the burning sword pointing at the beam of light.

The temperature in many miles radius started heating up as Ryze turns into a meteor.

Ryze's body started to be stratified by heat and the flames around his body becomes even stronger by the heat generated by air and energy friction, he flaps his wings once more boosting his speed.

Upon reaching the beam of light, it was split into four directions.

Even though Zero puts everything he got into the beam of light, even stronger than the ones he fired before, the burning sword can pierce through the beam of light as Ryze keeps on descending down like a meteor rumbling the entire ground.

"B-Bastard!!", Zero shouted, he puts in more energy desperately but it was futile.

BOOM!

Just like the shockwave created by a meteor landing on the ground, Ryze and Zero collide decimating the entire place and even turning the mansion into nothing but rubble. The shockwave was devastating, cracking the ground and still spreading.

On the side, Edward got sent rolling across the ground from the huge air of the shockwave.

When the shockwave and dust receded, Zero can be seen again with a huge cut crossing his chest.

Ryze looks over his shoulder as his sturdy dark red scales are able to absorb most of the impact, he also manages to land a solid slash onto Zero which created that huge cut. But this makes Zero angrier, his eyes started to throb in anger.

"Raarrghh!!!"

Clang!

Clang!

Both of them resumed their fight, brawling with each other like two ferocious beasts.

Despite never experiencing any fight in his life and moving sluggishly, the dark red scales protected Ryze from a couple of slashes that landed on him. Some of the training that he received with Kyran started to come to play.

Although he was very bad at defending, his attack was not bad for a rookie.

Most of that was caused by the draconic instinct that is now present inside of him, the overwhelming pride and arrogance help him to be confident in each of his strikes and avoid fatal attacks from Zero.

Sparks of energy were created every time their swords collided with each other.

Everything around the was in ruin but as Ryze was fighting against Zero, his eyes suddenly caught a glimpse of a group not that far from the fight. With his new enhanced vision, he can tell that it was Mrs. Greene and the others.

It seems the shockwave he created before hits them and injures some of them.

With the help of Russ and Robert, Mrs. Greene and Zelene are being helped to get up as their legs seem to be scratched by the rubbles that were like bullets, 'I need to help them, they are not going to get far like that'

Just as he thought of that, Ryze's eyes glimmered when he saw Delta dashing at the others.

Coming out of nowhere, Delta turns into a streak of white lightning before arriving at Mrs. Greene and the others. Knowing that they were in danger, Delta signals for them to ride on her which makes Ryze at ease knowing that with Delta they would be out of there in a minute.

But knowing that his focus was somewhere else, Zero's eyes flickered.

Swish!

Ryze was surprised to see Zero suddenly vanishing from his spot, he tries to look around in search of Zero but he was stabbed from the side, "Krgghh!", he grunted and quickly swipes his burning sword at Zero but missed.

With swift movements, Zero stands again in the sky.

Glancing to the side, Zero finds Mrs. Greene and the others are being helped by Delta.

"You're not getting away!"

Swoosh!

Materializing a white spear from thin air, Zero throws the white spear straight at Delta.

Upon seeing this Ryze immediately jumped into the way to block the white spear, but he was shot by a light beam before he can even reach the white spear. Ryze got sent crashing to the other side unable to reach the white spear.

Delta didn't sense the white spear until it was already very close.

Just when the white spear was about to connect with Delta's head, out of nowhere, Edward jumped and slam his shoulder to the white spear in the nick of time and tilted the direction of the white spear a little to the side.

Growl!

Thanks to that, the white spear missed but still stabbed Delta's back leg instead.

Crash!

Edward rolls on the ground weakly before he started vomiting blood, he was in a very rough shape with a previous stomach wound and half of his left arm severed. It was a miracle for him to move that quickly.

Looking at Edward's state, Mrs. Greene covers her mouth, "Edward..."

"I'm okay, just keep running", Edward replied before slowly standing up stumblingly, his strong back now starting to become frail. Looking at Mrs. Greene's worried expression, he gave her a comforting smile despite his state, "No matter what, I'm not going to let you die today"

But out of nowhere, someone crashes right beside him.

Boom!

Mrs. Greene looks at the person and saw that it was Ryze in his new form, she can still somewhat recognize him despite the immense changes from the last time she saw him. Slowly, there was a reluctant feeling appeared inside her expression.

It was a fact that two youngsters, important figures are trying to save her.

Something about that fact is unsettling for her.

Unlike her that is nearing the end of her life with probably about ten to fifteen years more to live, Edward and Ryze still have a long journey in front of them and they can also help many others with the power they had.

"Anna! Let's go!", Robert shouted from the back snapping Mrs. Greene out of her daze.

Although reluctant, Mrs. Greene ran and gets on Delta before they resume their run again. With the bleeding hind leg, Delta is limping but nevertheless, she's still faster than if the others are running on foot.

Coughing blood to the side, Ryze gets up with some of his scales seeping with blood.

Glancing at Ryze that seems to be in pain, Edward asks knowing that his mental fortitude is not strong enough for a fight like this. It was hard for a kid without any fighting experience to be thrown into a bloodied fight like this.

"Ryze, can you still fight?"

"It hurts but I still can, I've injured him quite a bit"

Upon hearing this, Edward gazes at Zero in the sky and finds the injuries Ryze is talking about.

Without being able to dodge each of Ryze's attacks due to the fire that negates Zero's favorite spell, he suffered many slashes to the body as he was not used to fighting someone that can touch him easily like this.

Panting with murderous eyes, Zero glares at both of them without any hint of mercy.

Now that it has come to this he won't stop no matter what happened, the thought of capturing them alive vanished from his mind as he was focusing on killing the two of them without mercy. Zero was filled with bloodthirst.

But out of nowhere, ten Awakened arrive at the scene.

Zero glares at the incoming Awakened and finds they were all from the UWO, "Don't get in my way!", he didn't hesitate as he conjures two swords of light before both swords started spinning and heading toward the ten Awakened.

The swords were filled with the full brunt of an eighth-rank Awakened's power.

Under such an enormous force, the ten Awakened tried to defend themselves but they eventually got sliced in half. Even though they were seventh-rank realm Awakened, they died in cold blood.

After killing the Awakened, Zero focuses back on Ryze and Edward.

"Both of you have troubled me enough, I'll definitely kill you both without fail! RAARGHH-!!!"

Out of nowhere, Zero's entire body started brimming with power that cracks the entire place and wipes the heat coming from Ryze's dark red flames. He was generating energy at a ridiculous pace not holding anything back.

Just like a god of light, his body glows with a blinding light.

Not only that but Sentine inside his head instantly warn him of what's about to come, [Run! Edward, Run! That lunatic is using his permanent mana from his spirit core, and with this amount of spirit energy he's clearly using a third-circle Pneuma Spell!]

Looking at this, Edward frowns warily but he then gritted his teeth.

'Mrs. Greene, Zelene, Uncle, and the others are on my back, I can't run...'

[No! You can't, it's suicide!]

'Even if it's suicide, I'll have to at least try. I know my body well, and I'm sure I can take it'

'Get ready, I'm going to use our last move'

[If that's your decision, then it can't be helped. I'll help you along the way]

With a glint of determination flashing inside his stubborn eyes, Edward also activated his dark fire too as he also slowly extracted the permanent mana inside his spirit core. It would weaken him permanently in exchange for a one-time use of power.

The last trump card of a seventh-rank realm Awakened and beyond.

Upon seeing that Edward is trying to stop Zero from casting his Pneuma Spell, Ryze also decided to respond with the same thing. Dark red flames started to burn around his body stronger, he uses the bloodline of a Heavenly Dragon inside his veins to the utmost limit.

Ryze's heart which has now turned into a Draconic Heart started pumping blood flames.

Just like being injected with adrenaline serums, Ryze's body started brimming with power as the dark red flames cloaked his entire being. Even his wings are starting to burn with dark red fire making him the embodiment of the King of Flame.

Not stopping at that, two additional wings sprouted on his back. A four-winged Dragonman!

Rumble!

Each of their auras clashes against each other violently.

Not only that but the auras coming out of the three of them are like a sadistic earthquake that makes the ground tremble, they were going for a final clash that will determine the winner of the fight.

Zero points both of his hands forward with the intense spirit energy gathering in between.

With as much mana and spirit energy as he can gather in the span of time, Zero roared like a lunatic boasting his most powerful spell in his arsenal, "Now, Die!! Pneuma Spell, Refined Ray of Obliteration!!"

BOOM!!

A massive beam of light shot out from his hands heading toward the two.

Even the air in the surroundings got sucked into the massive beam of light and blinded everything in the surrounding, the ground started to shake even stronger the closer the massive beam of light gets to the ground.

It covers the entire sky with blinding light, the light of heaven.

Responding with the same, the mark on Ryze's chest glows as he flaps his wings aggressively.

Knowing that he won't be able to sustain the massive beam of light without being confident in his defensive ability, Ryze wiped the hesitant thought and instantly heads to the massive beam of light.

Just like before, he flew and pointed the burning sword at the massive beam of light.

BOOM!!

"Raarggh!"

Ryze feels the enormous force threatening to shatter the burning sword, he didn't even last a couple of seconds under the force. But with sheer determination, he perseveres knowing that he needs to help Edward, 'I-I need to create a chance!!'

With the determination burning inside of him, he opens his mouth a spat flames.

The burning sword that threatens to dim down and shattered instantly got rejuvenated by the dark red fire breath, Ryze started pushing back the Pneuma Spell that already traversing through his red scales wanting to destroy his body.

Not stopping at that, the spirit energy started to run rampant inside his body.

But despite every pain that he's suffering through, Ryze didn't back down remembering the kindness that Rex and the others did for him and even take care of him instead of just throwing him out as any other people would.

It was a fuel that made Ryze keep on going in this extreme moment.

Swoosh!!

Flapping his wings, Ryze pushes through the massive beam of light, penetrating it with the sword.

Zero was absolutely terrified seeing that Ryze kept on pushing and pushing under every ounce of energy that he fired, and it surprisingly didn't take long before he managed to cut the entire massive beam of light bursting from the other hand.

Boom!

"W-What... Impossible!"

The absolute shock was etched on Zero's face seeing Ryze cutting through his most powerful spell, it was his pride knowing that possessing the spell alone puts him in the upper echelon of the eighth-rank realm.

Not even high-rank Supernaturals are cocky enough to take the full brunt of that spell.

After bursting through the massive beam of light, Ryze's body sizzles as his fire dimmed quickly.

With the last bit of his strength, he swings down his sword but Zero recovered quickly and blocks the attempt. Upon contact, the sword in Ryze's hand shatters but not before sending Zero to the ground.

"I-It's up to you now, Edward..."

Swoosh!

Immediately after Ryze started falling from the sky, Edward appeared in front of Zero that was caught off guard by his sudden appearance. With eyes bulging murderously, he cracks a sadistic grin, "Dark Titan Sentinel Art..."

Edward's right fist started burning with uncontrollable dark fire stronger than before.

The spike in energy surprised Zero so much as he realized that the energy coming from him is already reaching the eighth-rank realm, not a pseudo-eight-rank realm anymore. A devastating feat unheard of in the entire Ratmawati City.

"Colossal Wrath, Plane Destroyer!!!"

BAM!

KABOOM!

A thunderous booming sound was created from the punch Edward delivered.

The ground crumbles and keeps on expanding which creates a miles-wide crater that obliterates the perfect and gorgeous place of sector 2, it was devastatingly powerful that a dark fire fist was imprinted on the ground.

If anyone were to see this, they were going to guess wrong.

Nobody would expect that such a destructive force was generated by a seventh-rank realm Awakened, but that was the might created by the perfect synchronization of the Fire Titan Art, Dark Fire Element, and Pneuma Spell.

Showcase of the might of the last move of the Dark Fire Sentinel Art.