

Full-Moon 851

Chapter 851 Relatable Leader

It was during his time pondering earlier that he realized something.

Since the Emham Forest operation dealt with Prof. K and Giana is exposed and then got attacked by Awakened from 25 Golden Crest Families, Rex is quite sure that it was non the two's fault that causes this.

The feeling he has towards them doesn't hinder the fact that the two were capable.

One is a messenger from the SCO and the other is one of the pillars of humanity, doubting their competence would be foolish of Rex when so much is at stake. But he reckons when Prof. K came earlier, he only said that the operation got exposed.

If it were his fault, then he would've been more apologetic when he report to Rex.

But he was clearly not, he was more concerned than apologetic.

Then again, Rex couldn't imagine Prof. K tossing the responsibility to the people of the cities if he were the one that is at fault. Considering he has a great sense of patriotism for humanity in him, it's impossible for him to do that.

Surely, this problem came from the cities.

Due to that, he decided to check the number of residents of his future kingdom.

<Kingdom's Inhabitants Number: 10,411>

Even though he doesn't know the exact number of people that are evacuated here from the cities, he's almost certain that there should be moles amongst them. While looking at the numbers suspiciously, he decided to think of an idea to lure them out.

Out of the things he knows, he knows the purpose of the infiltrators for coming here.

It's quite obvious for him since he brings people here.

Until this very moment, Dargena City's location is still hidden from the world. Only a few races knows= about its location, even the high-rank Supernatural kingdoms don't know the location of Dargena City.

Humans definitely wanted to know, for the future when it was time for them to attack.

Because of that, it's harder to spot them as they blended well with the crowd.

Killing intent is needed for the System or even Rex himself to sense the infiltrators, but these infiltrators only wanted to figure out the location of Dargena City. Because of that, they couldn't be singled out.

Rex would need to do something extreme to change that.

Albeit it's quite difficult to spot them instantly, he thought of a way to single them out.

Thanks to the Whire Necklace of Despair, he could see the fear in others through a bleak aura coming out of them. But it was not only that, he also has the ability to sense sorrow and despair from other people.

It's a handy ability, but he didn't expect that he would be using this ability for things like this.

Enough terror will definitely turn the feeling of fear to despair quickly.

Rex would need a black goat to do that, and he was surprised when he announced that he was going to massacre the people, one of the people spark an obvious killing intent. It was the bearded man Flunra killed earlier, he becomes the black goat to induce fear.

Since he was also an Awakened, it's safe to say that he's one of the infiltrators.

Witnessing Flunra killing a man brutally terrifies the people.

Now that the people are terrified and believed that his statement was real, it's time to spot the suspected infiltrators. The plan he has in mind is quite simple, he would use intimidation to induce fear on the people to the point of sparking despair from the people.

Regular people wouldn't be strong-willed enough to sustain their fears.

In their eyes, Rex is their savior. However, the savior that saved them announced that he would be killing them. Knowing that it was Rex that came after them, it's quite easy for them to feel absolute despair.

Due to that, it's impossible for regular people to not feel despair.

On the other hand, the infiltrators that came here definitely has some form of defiance.

Rex's plan is to use their will against themselves.

None of them would know what's coming, clueless as to how they were suspected by Rex.

'Even though it's a good plan that I thought on the spot, I specifically ordered Flunra to only injured them enough to make them unable to run away. It's not a fool-proof method, so I'll have Adhara checks on them and see whether they were infiltrators or not' Rex thought with a nod.

Adhara would be able to effectively check if they are regular people or infiltrators.

Making use of her ability to see emotional aura, none of them would be able to go through Adhara's inspection. And those who are proven to be innocent will be released, and obviously be healed to full health.

Just like that, Flunra severely injured every single suspected people as he was told.

It lasted for a couple of minutes before eventually, the suspected people are already crouching on the ground, groaning and crying in pain. Nodding his head firmly, Rex then glanced at Gistella, giving her the signal.

Upon gaining the signal, she then used her energy and lift the injured people.

Creating a square-shaped barrier below their bodies, she lifted their bodies and brought them to the side where Adhara, Queen Shanaela, and the mayor are standing, "I'll be relying upon the message to Adhara, Master..."

"Hmmm... go do that" Rex replied, waving his hand to dismiss her.

Before she leaped away to go inform Adhara on what to do, Gistella stopped to look at Evelyn who was still standing stiffly behind them. Smiling awkwardly, she then whispered, "Don't do anything more irritating for a while, I think he's genuinely angry at you"

"Gistella, aren't you supposed to be going now?" Rex suddenly said, glancing at her.

Surely he heard what Gistella said to Evelyn, the cold look he was giving is the clear indication of that, "A-Ah, yes... I'm sorry, Master. I'll get going immediately so you can finish up" she bowed before leaping away.

After Gistella left, Rex could finally focus on the matter at hand again.

Looking down at the people that are now clamped against each other near the barrier Gistella conjured, away from him, he decided to deactivate the Black Field Orko spell as there was no need to use it anymore.

"My apologies for shocking all of you like that, but it's necessary for your safety"

Under the onlookers' eyes that were still traumatized and terrified by what Rex did earlier that takes a toll on their minds, Rex's body slowly began to become smaller as he transformed back to his human form.

It was then, he decided to start the introduction all over again and explain himself.

"Some of you might know this, but your evacuation to come here is exposed, and the people from Ratmawati City wanted to dispose of all of you simply because all of you are open-minded" Rex takes a brief pause, slowing his words to evoke aspiration. "Those people that were attacked earlier by my trusted aids right over there, Flunra and Delta are suspected as infiltrators" Rex continues, pointing at Flunra that also revert back to his human form again as well as Delta.

Knowing that his method is quite extreme, he would need to do this to appease the people.

"My eyes can see more than you can imagine. Even though it's necessary for your safety, I know the method I did earlier is extreme. But this is the chance for us to get to know each other, if you stay here, I will be your leader and protector. As all of you had witnessed, I can be brutal at times yet I won't treat all of you like that if you don't actually do something wrong"

While he was saying this, he keep on inspecting the expressions of the people.

Albeit most of them has become calmer than before, it was clear to Rex that they were all still scared of him. This is exactly what he needs, "I understand that you are scared of me, but that's more reason for all of you to trust me that you are safe here. All of you know the horror of Supernaturals and even the Awakened. As our first introduction, I'm showing all of you that I'm more than capable of being more horrifying than them"

"I want to show you that I'm more than capable of handling all of them myself" he added.

Upon saying this, Rex spreads his arms to the side, the air around him was that of absolute certainty. It was so potent that even the people feels like they could be certain about him, he was definitely different than the leaders they had before.

But as far as the people were concerned, their past leaders have failed to protect them.

The people of Lountain City felt the oppressive tyranny of lower-rank Awakened who thought they were kings of the world. Wedron City got abandoned by Ratmawati City and was left to fend against the Orcs with a handful of military force. While Beah City fared far worse, getting completely obliterated by the Blue Demons of Vulvazith.

So it's clear that they are in dire need of a different leader to be safe.

Out of all of them, Rex has without a doubt left a different impression on them, someone that might really be able to protect them from the horrors they had experienced. In addition, they could also feel a familiarity with Rex.

It was not the familiarity of his aura, but the air around him, almost as if he was also a victim.

Just the feeling of familiarity they had with Rex alone makes them feel safer, this kind of relatable sensation has never emerged with the leaders they had before, it's a sensation the previous leaders have never given them before.

Now, because of this familiar air, the people feel connected with Rex.

"I know that all of you have experienced a great amount of horrifying things in your lives, I know because I was once there and helped you. But from now on, I will protect you. Dargena City is designed for people, humans, or Supernaturals to seek shelter from the war. Coming here is the right choice for you"

Smiling confidently, seeing that the mass has shifted to better, Rex continues the final push.

"No evil out there can surpass the level of evil I am capable of, and as long as they couldn't get through me, then they won't be able to get to you. I'll say this once again..." Taking a brief pause, Rex then smiled lightly, "Welcome to Dargena City"

A moment later.

Rex went back to the castle and sit back down on his throne with a sigh.

'I was only thinking of singling out the infiltrators, but I didn't expect that what I did and the speech matches up quite perfectly. Most of them were even expressing strong favorability for me because of that'

After finishing his speech, he was surprised to find that the people cheered for him.

But thinking clearly, these people are suppressed people that were neglected by Ratmawati City and their Awakened. Surely, a strong impressionable move as he did earlier that breaks the rules matches with them strongly.

<Kingdom's Inhabitants have surpassed the threshold!>

<Kingdom Section has been unlocked!>

<Upon unlocking the Kingdom Section, the user can now manage and manipulate the territory under the rule of the Silverstar Pack. Environmental Manipulation, Construction, Territory Expansions, Rapid Cultivation, and other features have been unlocked!>

<Sudden Quest completed!>

<Obtained 500 million Exp, 2 million gold, 10 Pill of Change, Kingdom Investment Ticket>

<Level up!>

Rex looks at the notifications from the System with a light smile.

It seems gaining more people to live in Dargena City has triggered the Kingdom Section, and he also managed to complete the Sudden Quest that requires him to prepare Dargena City for the First Breath.

One of the requirements is to get more people, and he just did with the evacuation.

Albeit he wanted to check the things he unlocked as well as the items he gained from the past few days that he has been neglecting due to the hectic situations, he once again finds himself needing to do something.

Looking at Evelyn standing stiffly in front of the throne, his expression soured.

"So, Evelyn... Have you realized what you did wrong yet or must I tell you about it first...?"

Chapter 852 Genuine Dissappointment

Currently, the Silverstar Pack Members have gathered inside the castle again.

A blanket of choking silence covered the entire place.

Despite the evacuation process having been going smoothly without hiccups which is a good thing, there were no cheers inside the castle, only a peaking tension that is drowning the entire place at the air of wrath seeping out of Rex's body.

In that silence, Rex is looking at Evelyn and Adhara.

Both of them are standing in front of the throne with their heads down, looking at the floor.

Even though he was oblivious to the situation, Flunra could feel that the two were the cause of Rex being like this. But then again, this kind of thing is not an unfamiliar sight for him, Werewolf Princes of ancient times always have a problem with their pack members, especially their Luna.

One way or another, Flunra already expected that this day would come.

Shifting his eyes towards the throne, Flunra saw Gistella standing beside Rex with a troubled yet tender expression on her face. Despite not being in the wrong, she is clearly nervous about this situation.

"Lord Rex, forgive my intrusion. But I believe I should be continuing my work" Flunra said.

Upon hearing this, Rex waved his hand as Flunra's work is very important and he was also not involved in this. His presence is not necessary here, so Rex allowed him to leave with a light gesture of waving his hand.

Bowing slightly, Flunra left the throne room and heads to his own bed chamber.

Currently, Gelmar, Linthia, Dindora, and the Elves were helping the evacuated people to settle in, arranging them to their assigned residents that are already predetermined by Dindora and Linthia who are tasked with handling that matter.

Thanks to them, there was no need for Rex and the others to do anything.

Despite that being the case, Adhara and Evelyn were hoping they could help out instead.

Rex rested his chin on his hand while he looks at the two with his glowing red eyes, he was waiting for Evelyn's answer yet she couldn't muster herself to reply. It was as if her lips were glued together. Nobody could blame her though, it was the first time Rex was genuinely mad at her.

"Rex, she was only trying to help. Isn't that a good t-"

Adhara attempted to advocate for Evelyn, but her words were halted when the throne room was suddenly filled with a dense and oppressive atmosphere. Rex's body seemed to radiate violent energy, like a red liquid cascading down his entire form, making the air inside the room more stuffy.

This reaction alone shows that Rex is not messing around, it's not the same as usual.

Despite always having a soft spot for both of them, this is starting to get out of hand. Ignoring the injuries that linger on his body, Rex exerts himself to the peak, he doesn't want this to escalate.

If he doesn't be stern here, then the two will do more reckless things in the future.

"Have the two of you gone deaf...? Are you starting to get ahead of yourselves because I'm always being nice? Don't forget, I am the one that makes the call here. Refuting me modestly is not a problem, I don't mind it" Rex said before he paused, squinting his eyes at the two. "But this is crossing the line... I can't believe out of all people, the two of you wanted to do something emotionless like that"

Upon hearing this, Evelyn and Adhara's body jolted stiffly.

Rex's words were akin to a shifty swirl of electricity that shocked and numbed their bodies.

Such strong words were used against them, the last sentence that Rex said was capable of making their hearts bleed. But the two still didn't understand, helping Prof. K and Giana wasn't supposed to be a big deal.

Especially, considering that Liliya is out there and in need of help.

Once again, Adhara and Evelyn were thrown back to what Calidora said earlier. It was starting to weigh their hearts down, the fact that they couldn't understand why Rex was this mad trouble them.

It was their purpose to become strong enough to help Rex carries the heavy burdens.

Helping Rex deals with certain problems so he could focus on the bigger ones is their reason for pursuing strength, the two wanted to become someone dependable for the person both of them love.

'Was it not what we should do...? We're trying to prove ourselves here'

'Aren't we supposed to be strong in order to help him? Why can't I understand him?'

Rex who was inspecting the changes in their facial expressions had his face darkened, he could see that none of the two were even guilty of what they are trying to do. Both have known him for so long, yet they were not apologetic at all.

Just this reaction alone makes him even angrier, yet his anger burns silently within.

"Even though Kyran was here as a testament, the two of you still don't understand. I expected much more from the two of you, but I was wrong to do that" Rex mutters silently, trying to hold the emotions swelling within him.

Sighing to himself, a long silence ensued inside the throne room.

It went on for a couple of minutes, and both Adhara and Evelyn couldn't stand any longer and raised their gaze to meet with Rex's. But at that moment, the two were surprised to find a pair of cold eyes.

No anger can be seen, Rex's eyes were still, looking at them with such coldness.

Adhara's eyes widened as she suddenly felt an ice-cold knife penetrating her heart deeply.

'A-Ah... Those- Those eyes...'

Deg!

Completely out of her control, her body started to visibly shake upon seeing Rex's cold eyes. In addition, she could hear her heart thumping faster and the blood in her legs starting to run cold, her legs started to lose strength.

'It's the same look he wears back then...'

A while back, Adhara still remembered clearly the night when Rosie begged to be turned.

She still remembers that night because she also promised Rosie to also help plead to Rex to turn her. But that night, Rex was wearing the same cold eyes, he was completely emotionless when he refused to turn Rosie.

Adhara felt the coldness even though it wasn't her that got refused.

But at this moment she was the one that the coldness was directed to, she was on the receiving end, and that alone makes her emotions jumbled in chaos. The fear of the meaning behind Rex's eyes was palpable, crippling her body.

Knowing that this time, it was not a joke, Adhara felt her breath becoming heavier.

"R- Rex, I'm sor-"

Just before she could apologize, a smile of ridicule crosses his face.

"I've chosen the two of you as the Female Alpha and the Luna, yet that seems to be a mistake on my part. Both couldn't do their own roles. Maybe your ranks in the pack need to be changed, maybe the two of you are unfit for your ranks and in need of being demoted" Rex intervenes.

His statement was calm yet it was thunderous in Adhara's ears.

Getting up from the throne, the sound of Rex's footsteps descending the stairs echoed inside the throne room. It was then Adhara saw his feet stopped when they reaches right in front of her.

Out of nowhere, Rex grabs Adhara's chin and lifted her face up to see him.

"Or maybe... I should've just dumped you as I did to Rosie. Someone that couldn't meet my expectation and thus useless like you doesn't belongs in the Silverstar Pack. Maybe I should've stripped you from your powers and given it all to Calidora instead..."

"Heugh!" Adhara yelped when she heard this, her body is shaking violently.

Due to the pressure of remembering the cold eyes that Rex is wearing right now, her mind breaks down and got detached from reality. Rex who was sitting on the throne can see Adhara hugging her own shaking body.

Seems like the pressure is too overwhelming for her and causes this.

Although that is the case, Rex didn't intend to be easy on them as his anger already reached its peak already. It was then, he declared with a monotone voice, "For now, the two of you... don't talk to me"

"No... I don't even want to see you for now" he added coldly.

Upon hearing this, even Evelyn becomes stressed as she doesn't know where she was wrong yet Rex has become this angry. It's safe to say that Rex has never been easily angered by the two of them, so this must be a big mistake.

Realizing that Evelyn was about to say something, Gistella quickly intervenes.

"M- Master, I'll escort them out of the throne room. Is that okay?"

"Yes, get them out of my sight"

Bowing slightly, Gistella descends down the throne and heads to Adhara and Evelyn. Evelyn was stunned while Adhara is still out of the place, paralyzed on her spot. But then, Gistella whispered to them, "If you say anything more, you'll make the situation worse. Leave for now"

Despite wanting to say something, Evelyn restrained herself to not say anything.

Gistella helped Adhara as the three left the throne room.

After everyone left the throne room, Rex could finally lean back again with a gloomy expression. It was then he slightly gritted his teeth, "They spend so much time with me, we've even gone through a lot together. I thought they would understand that everything changed, but it seems I stand corrected"

"Then again, I can still use this as punishment" he added with a sigh.

Meanwhile, in the other hallway on the left, Flunra eavesdrop on the conversation.

Seems he was not spotted due to how much Rex is in a shaken state right now, and he could only sigh and shakes his head, "Both of them are too young, seems like the old tradition of having most of the Prince's mate older including the Luna is the right way"

"It hasn't even been that long since his parents died, yet they couldn't understand"

Flunra then strides away and heads back to his bed chamber.

Leaving the scene as well as Rex alone inside the throne room, sitting with a pondering mind, a flicker of energy can be seen appearing in front of the throne which pulled Rex's eyes towards it.

In a moment, the energy swirls into a portal before a figure came out of it.

Rex gazed at the figure with a calm gaze, completely stoic without any lingering emotions from the incident earlier. It was the Witch of Chaos, she already came a moment ago as promised to fortify Dargena City's barrier.

"Are you here to take your children or are you done with your work?" Rex asked teasingly.

Upon hearing this, the witch's eerie eyes gaze around the throne room before she eventually looks at Rex. It was then she becomes hesitant, almost as if she doesn't want to say what she was about to say.

But this is natural, Rex's request is definitely troublesome for someone like her.

Clearly, the Witch of Chaos came here to discuss his request, it's written all over her usually stoic face. Since she will be working for him in the meantime and also owed him some requests, she doesn't have any other choice.

"Okay, it's for my sake too. I'll accept it" the Witch replied.

Rex was quite surprised when he finds the Witch easily accepted the request, he expected her to be more defiant about the request and negotiate, especially when the request is that humiliating for her to do.

Then again, she already sent her children to be humiliated. It's already too late.

After saying that, the Witch of Chaos then continues with her rasping yet respectful voice, "But Royal Black Prince, you need to unbind your cursed source and cultivate it. Without your aid, altering the Gem would be impossible, especially when your desire is to finish it prior to the First Breath ending and in such strict conditions"

"I'll do it as soon as possible. Can you help me cultivate it faster?" Rex asked back.

Despite not knowing much about cursed power, obtaining it would be a great increase in power for him. Imagine casting Cursed Zone and Domain from the Full Moon at the same time, he would be unstoppable!

In addition, with the help of the Witch of Chaos, his growth will be very rapid.

Listening to what he said, the Witch of Chaos ponders, flipping the page of the invisible grimoire that only she could see before she eventually replied, "Yes, I can. But there are important steps to be done before that. I'll need to tame high-epiphany cursed creatures, and you, Royal Black Prince would also need to stay adjacent to the other half of your curse for a couple of days but preferably more than a week"

Rex frowned when he heard this, clearly her answer troubles him.

Taming high-epiphany cursed creatures is not the problem, there are the Forsaken Man and the Duchess of Tears inside the Humming Damned Forest. But what troubles him the most was the latter part.

"Do you mean I'll need to stay close to Calidora?" Rex asked, trying to be certain.

Upon hearing this, the Witch nodded her head firmly. It's a required step to accelerate the development of the cursed source, "Yes, Calidora's cursed source is more developed than yours. It's better that way, so you will need her. Also, when I say stay very close, I mean very close. Within a room or closer"

Just listening to this alone makes Rex massage his forehead in frustration.

"Is there no other way other than that?" Rex asked again.

But the Witch of Chaos shakes her head, that's an important process because the Eternal Curse within Rex is split into two, "No, yours are a unique case. If this process is not done, then I can't guarantee that we could alter the Gem properly and finish it before the First Breath ends"

"Okay, I get it. I'll see what I can do" Rex replied, sighing to himself.

The timing couldn't be better.

Chapter 853 Abandonment

A heavy atmosphere dawn on them as the three walk through the hallway with slow steps.

Various thoughts swirled around their minds about the incident at the throne room before, it was a very rare occurrence for Rex to be this angry at them to the point that he doesn't even want to talk to them.

Gistella could feel her body feeling weak, she couldn't stand the tension in the throne room.

It reminded of her that time when she mistakenly exposes her Werewolf side to Rex's deceased foster mother, Mrs. Greene. He was really angry at that time, and there was no speck of mercy when he reaches that point.

"B- Both of you should've started with apologizing first..." Gistella suddenly said.

Evelyn raises her gaze when she heard this, she then tilted her head in skepticism, "But why...? He has gotten closer with Calidora lately, and I'm only trying to prove myself to him that I could do way better than her"

"I understand... but Rex always has a reason" Gistella replied hesitantly.

Albeit what she said was true, Evelyn was still confused, "I know that it's dangerous to be there when the Executor is there, but it's the First Breath, his power at most peaked at the seventh-rank realm. We could handle ourselves"

"Rex must've feared for both of your safety, we should try understand-"

"Fear for our safety? I get that, but it's too much to cramp us here inside the castle. We're also his pack members. It may not make sense for me to go out there, but Adhara is the Female Alpha, she should be let out often"

"Think about the consequences, Evelyn. I'm sure Rex already deliberated it"

"Even if I die, I know that I'm fighting for a better future. I don't mind dying, even i-"

"Stop it, Evelyn..."

While Evelyn and Gistella were stuck in a heated argument about the situation, Adhara suddenly intervenes with a whispering tone. It stopped their argument abruptly, and Evelyn's expression softened seeing her standing stiffly like this.

Reaching out her hand to Adhara's shoulder, Evelyn suddenly widened her eyes.

'Her body is shaking...'

Upon touching Adhara's stiff shoulder intending to ask if she was okay, Evelyn was surprised when she felt Adhara's body shaking. It was unlike her, she was usually steadfast and strong but now she in the verge of breaking down.

It was almost as if her sturdy mental wall is crumbling apart.

Judging from her expression and widened eyes, It was undeniably fear that causes this.

Evelyn finds this very uncharacteristic of Adhara as she has her upper body curved forward in a meek posture, looking down at the floor with beads of sweat covering not only her face but also her entire body.

Almost a natural reaction of fear that Evelyn has never seen before, this is the first time.

"What's wrong, Adhara...? Why are you being like this?" Evelyn asked.

Her blazing red long hair falls down to the side as she lowers her face to look at Adhara's face. But then, a couple of tears rolled out of Adhara's eyes which once again catches Evelyn completely off guard.

Tick!

Tick!

The tears make a light ticking sound as it hits the floor's surface.

"Did you remember Rosie, Evelyn...?"

"Yes, she's the woman Rex tried to save but was too late"

"If you remember, then you must also know that Rex in a way cared for her, right...? Then have you ever wondered why Rex didn't turn her into a Werewolf and become one of the Silverstar Pack?"

Upon hearing this, Evelyn frowns as she never thought about that before.

Considering that Rex has the urge to save her from the Delarosa Family that kidnapped her despite risking his life in the process, then it's clear that she's not only a friend. Now that she thinks about it, she finds it very weird that Rosie didn't get turned into a Werewolf.

"Right before she got kidnapped, Rosie begged to be turned. I was there..."

"I saw everything that happened that night. Despite her begging desperately, Rex refused to turn her into a Werewolf simply because her motivation is not aligned with him. Rosie is close to him and me, but he refused her coldly, emotionless... almost like a robot"

As she said this, flashes of memories appear inside her mind, remembering that night.

It was then Adhara raises her face and showed her broken expression, tears rolled down her face which surprised Evelyn and Gistella greatly. Each of them has the impression that Adhara is a strong and sturdy individual, but this is beyond them.

"His eyes are cold, I still remember until now. His emotionless eyes"

Not wanting to see Adhara like this, Evelyn got closer and pulled Adhara into her embrace before she cries even louder, "Rex is being like that earlier! What would we do if he suddenly woke up and decided to abandon us?" she exclaimed in between sobs.

Despite trying to calm Adhara down, Evelyn's heart also clenched when she heard this.

'I- Is he really that mad at us...?'

~

Meanwhile, Emham Forest.

Since the evacuation process has been completed rather perfectly, with none of the people dying, the Hester and Burton Family's forces started to slowly retreat while still fending off the Awakened from the other 25 Golden Crest Families.

Their job here is done, and it's now for them to evacuate from this place.

Of course, the battle is bloody, both sides suffer a substantial loss because of the fight.

"Retreat to the portal! Make sure to keep your formation tight!"

"Retreat! Retreat!"

Lauren gave instruction to her trusted aid to bring her children into the portal first, their lives were more important than hers. But then, William refused, saying that he would be staying here and helping to fend off the Awakened.

Despite her command, he was stubborn and stayed behind.

Albeit that was the case, Lauren felt proud of him who has been a non-Awakened all this time. But the affinity orb from Rex gave him a chance, and he now started to shine like the sun in her dark life.

On the other hand, Dray also did the same, standing beside his father firmly.

Since the ninth-rank realm Awakened has been warded off by Calidora, both sides are more or less equal, and the fight is fierce. It was then, Calidora landed near the teleportation formation alongside Dealkandrax and the insectoid creature.

Boom!

It seems her task here is completed, she finished it flawlessly.

Not even a scratch can be seen on her ample skin, she was still brimming with power.

Seeing her landing beside the advanced teleportation formation in an overbearing manner, Liliya who was grievously injured and couldn't walk properly, trying to carry the unconscious Prof. K called out to her.

"Wait! Please, help me bring him into the portal" She pleaded with heavy breaths.

Upon hearing this, Calidora glanced at her briefly with a nonchalant gaze before she smiled, "I'm sorry, I got my hands full with these two ungrateful pets already. So you'll have to do it yourself, my job here is done"

"If you don't help me, I'll tell Rex about this" Liliya suddenly threatened.

Calidora who was about to enter the portal leading to the Cluster Domain suddenly stopped, her eyes slightly widened while still gazing at the portal. It was then, a mischievous smile appeared on her face, her vampiric fangs poked out.

"Oh...? What makes you think that threat will work on me?" Calidora asked playfully.

At first, Calidora doesn't view anything of Liliya who was the reason the reinforcement came to help Prof. K and Giana in the first place. But now that Liliya is threatening her, she started to become intrigued.

Putting on an unwavering expression, Liliya then replied, "Rex sent you here for me"

"If you don't help me bring Prof. K into the portal, then I would also not move from my spot and let those Awakened kill me. Then, you will be the one getting the blame for leaving me here" she added, trying to reason with Calidora.

Despite doing so, in truth, she was on the verge of collapsing from her injuries.

Her vision is already hazy, and her body is beginning to get weaker and weaker. It wouldn't take long before she would actually pass out, but she needs to hold on until Calidora at least agreed to help bring them back.

Laughing sweetly, Calidora's eyes glowed menacingly, "Well alright, then. I'll help you"

Slowly, the Awakened from the Burton and Hester Family entered the portal one by one as the others that were still outside covers them. Under the strategic and compact retreat, they didn't suffer too much while retreating.

Lauren and Daniel were the last to get out, they were the strongest so it's a must.

When the coast is clear and the two has their chances, they dashed into the portal and left the Emham Forest. It was then, the two realized that they were in a different place, another dimension of the Emham Forest.

Near another portal was Calidora who was looking at them with sharp eyes.

Smiling briefly, she then entered the portal leading to Dargena City. Following that, the portal that leads to Emham Forest started shaking before eventually, it completely disappears without a trace.

Gazing at each other briefly, the two felt nervous to enter the portal.

Despite already surpassing the limit of being able to go back again, they couldn't help but feel this way. After all, the city that they were about to enter is ruled by the one called Rex Silverstar who easily beats ninth-rank realm Awakened left and right.

Compared to them, Rex wouldn't find any hard to kill them if he wants to.

"My son trusted him so I'm convinced to be here, there's no turning back for me"

"I think you misunderstand, Sir Daniel. I also don't think I could turn back"

A moment later, Daniel and Lauren were informed that Rex has already done his speech but he will meet with them to discuss the future in person. It was unset when they would meet them, but it's not now.

Gelmar was the one that convey this to them, and they nodded in understanding.

Since Rex is now playing a big part in the world as the third neutral party that wanted to break the norm, it's hard to imagine him having free time to converse with them. Nonetheless, the two were glad that there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with the place.

Around midnight, Adhara and Evelyn couldn't find themselves to sleep.

Out of fear of the result of their actions, they were staying inside the bed chamber silently.

Due to that they decided to stay up and waited for Rex to get into bed where the two would then apologize sincerely. It's the best thing they could do right now, the uncertainty of what Rex is thinking is killing them right now.

But even when it was past midnight, Rex never came into the bed chamber.

Evelyn and Adhara wanted to use their energies to sense where Rex was, but they were afraid of doing that lest they would disturb Rex when he was doing something. But when another couple of hours passed, the two decided to search for him.

In the throne room, there was nobody there, and the lights were off.

Since Gelmar is standing outside of the castle's entrance at all times, the two decided to go over to him and asked him about Rex's whereabouts. It seems he was not in the castle, he was outside.

"Gelmar, did you know where Rex is?" Evelyn asked.

Upon hearing this, Gelmar smiled lightly, "Yes, he left a while ago with Calidora"

"Calidora...? When? And where to?" Evelyn instinctively asked again.

Bowing slightly towards the two, Gelmar then explained, "He just left. After talking with Lady Gistella, Lord Rex left with Calidora. He was dressed in his royal outfit without the cape, and if I had to say, there was something wrong with the way he walks. But as for where he was going, I must apologize in advance, but I can't tell the two of you"

Adhara quickly turns around and went back inside the castle when she heard this.

On the other hand, Evelyn was at a loss for words, she couldn't believe that Rex went out with Calidora when he promised her that he would mind the person he was spending his time with.

"Rex... just what is going on?"

Chapter 854 Punishment

Evelyn was in a mess as she heard that Rex has left with Calidora without saying anything.

Being alone with Adhara all day also makes her paranoid, especially hearing what she has to say about their situation that's most likely heading to their abandonment. It made her body becomes weak, her strength was melting away from her body.

"R-Rex... just what is going on...?"

Clenching her teeth, Evelyn quickly sprinted away sensing that Rex hasn't left the city.

Although she doesn't know what she was going to say when she meets him, the only thing in her mind is to meet with Rex. A hunch appeared in her heart, she felt that if she didn't do anything now then she will be too late.

Ignoring the lively street, she kept sprinting towards the gate of the city.

She exerts everything she has to catch up to Rex, it was akin to her running away from the paranoia and fear, the reaching black hands that came straight from the abyss of abandonment that is catching up to her from the back.

Its undeniable coldness already breezes her skin, shivering her body and soul.

Upon nearing the gate of the city, Evelyn pants heavily not so much out of fatigue but out of despair. She then saw Rex and Calidora's backs in the distance, the two left through the gate and ventured outside.

Not wanting to be left behind, Evelyn didn't waste her time and climbed the city walls.

A couple of guards that were from the first batch of Supernaturals were surprised to find her landing on the wall, but she ignored them and looks at Calidora that has Rex's arm around her neck. She seems to be supporting Rex who finds it hard to walk properly.

Despite his injuries, he shouldn't be in this much pain. It seems he sustained new injuries.

Evelyn reaches out her hand and intends to call out his name, but there was no voice that came out of her mouth. Her body was completely paralyzed when Calidora suddenly glanced over her shoulder to look directly at her.

Both of their eyes met for a brief moment, and Calidora grinned from ear to ear.

Just the malicious smile Calidora is directing at Evelyn alone makes her tighten, striking a feeling that she doesn't know to react with. Many new questions and doubts appeared inside her mind, but her heart got completely shattered in the next second.

In a conspicuous manner, Calidora winked at her before she smooched Rex's neck.

Crash!

Like a thunderous uproar, the sight of this completely crushes her heart into pieces. The sound of her heart crumbling into pieces was palpable in her ears, it was an act of declaration from Calidora, showing that she had won.

Despite the pain, she couldn't avert her eyes elsewhere and focus on the scene.

'Why...? How did this happen...?'

Deg!

'I'm okay if he did it with Adhara or Gistella...'

Deg!

'But why her...? And why is he not resisting?'

Deg!

'Why is he letting that Vampire kiss his neck...?'

Almost as if she was trapped in an inescapable trance, she could hear her own heartbeats.

It was steady a moment ago, it was still steady when she was sprinting through the city. But now it started to quicken, each beat from her heart feels like pushing her skin, and it becomes painful. Her chest also began to burn from within.

Evelyn clutches her heart strongly, the pain is more painful than actually being stabbed.

Naturally, responding to the heartache she was experiencing, she also finds it hard to breathe. Suddenly, her legs gave out, she was still facing the ground. Upon seeing this, the guards called out to her in worry.

But their voices were drowned by her own inner voice.

'It hurts, the pain in my chest... it hurts. My senses are numb, my mind is in a mess...'

'The only thing I can feel and think about is the pain'

Just then she saw a couple of droplets of water wetting the ground in front of her.

'Ah... it's started raining'

'No... I was too overwhelmed, detached from reality, and didn't realize that I'm crying...'

Still clutching her aching heart, Evelyn puts her forehead against the ground before her mind went completely blank. Her mind doesn't seem to understand but her body poured out all of the emotions, sobbing and crying without care of her surroundings.

A moment later.

Gistella saw Adhara sitting on the stairs to the throne silently from the side.

Upon looking at this from the hallway, her expression darkens as she clenched both of her hands into fists tightly. It was a sight that she has never seen before, Gistella has never seen Adhara so vulnerable and broken like this.

Approaching her with steady steps, Gistella holds Adhara's shoulder and sat beside her.

None of the two talked for a couple of minutes.

"Back then when Rosie asked me to plead to Rex to not abandon her, I thought to myself 'Well, I'm pretty sure Rex is already fixed with his decision. So even if I do it, the outcome wouldn't change'. Because of that, I didn't really try to help..." Adhara chuckled in ridicule, looking at the floor gloomily.

She pauses for a second before she continues, "Now that I'm in this position, I know I was wrong. I couldn't imagine what Rosie felt back then. Please, Gistella... even if he won't change his decision, can you please try to convince him otherwise?"

"What are you saying? Rex will not abandon you, no matter what" Gistella refutes.

Despite not knowing what makes Rex this angry and disappointed in the two of them, she wants to believe that he would never abandon Adhara and Evelyn. Rex wouldn't be that cruel to the two of them.

But Adhara quickly intervenes, "Promise me, Gistella. Promise me you'll try..."

"I'm not promising you anything, because that won't happen" Gistella stubbornly replied.

After saying that, the throne room becomes silent once again.

However, it didn't take long before the entrance to the castle was opened again. Gelmar walk in a hurry, he was supporting Evelyn that seemed to be in a paralyzed state as even her gaze is already blank.

Gistella quickly helps him before putting Evelyn down on the stairs beside Adhara.

"What happened...?"

"I don't know, the guards report to me that Lady Evelyn started crying on the city walls"

Upon hearing this Gistella could only glance at her in utter confusion, it must be because of Rex. But to actually be crying in public like that must indicate that it's something big, Evelyn is not that weak-willed.

Not wanting to idle further, Gelmar bowed and quickly left the castle.

Gistella looks back at the two and saw both Adhara and Evelyn in their lowest state, the two that she considered family has been completely shattered. It was as if the two has lost their motivation to keep on living.

Such a situation is completely out of her expectation, and it sparks something within her.

"Instead of sulking and being down like this, shouldn't the two of you do something about this? Both of you know whose fault this is, the only answer is to get rid of the source of the problem" Gistella suddenly said firmly.

Her tone was not like usual, it was more commanding and strict.

Adhara and Evelyn instantly know what Gistella meant by that but they could only put on a feeble smile. "What are you saying, Gistella...? You said it yourself, we couldn't do anything that might irritate Rex further. Getting rid of her has a high chance to go wrong..." Evelyn said meekly.

On the other hand, Adhara only looks away, not even saying anything.

But this makes Gistella furious as her eyes spark with a murderous glint, she wasn't going to let this go without any repercussions. In her eyes, Adhara and Evelyn are her close family, and seeing them like this pained her.

"If that's the case, then I'll be the one to do something about this" Gistella eventually said.

Upon hearing this, Evelyn and Adhara's eyes widened in surprise. None of them expected Gistella to actually dare to do something, "But before that, I want you to answer me truthfully from the heart. Do you love Rex...?"

In response to this, the two look at each other in surprise.

But at the same time, Adhara and Evelyn answered in a union, "Yes..."

"What if he's not as strong as he is right now? What if he abandoned you and disappear forever? Will you be fine and still love him or your feelings will also change?" Gistella asked again, this time with a condition.

Although that is the case, the two answered again in a union, "I'll still love him"

"If that's the case, then leave this to me. I'll try and do something" Gistella nodded her head before standing up. She then turned around and walks towards the hallway again, leaving Adhara and Evelyn alone.

Looking at her back going further away, Adhara and Evelyn couldn't help but wonder.

'What is she going to do...?'

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Meanwhile, outside of Dargena City.

"How long are you going to stay like that...? Don't do that if it's not for blood, it's not necessary"

"It's a punishment, right? We need to make it hurt"

Not even turning around to look at Evelyn who was crying on the walls, Rex walks side by side with Calidora on the paved road away from Dargena City. Clearly, the two are heading somewhere without telling anyone but Gelmar.

But the two didn't manage to reach far, Rex suddenly grunted in pain.

Knowing that Rex wouldn't be able to force himself for a bit thanks to what he did, Calidora is forced to put him down and help him lean on the tree trunk near the mouth of the Humming Damned Forest.

Sighing lightly, Calidora shakes her head while looking at Rex's condition.

"You overdid it with that thing, I don't think he will be that meticulous"

"Preventive measure is a must to make the plan go smoother, you should be mindful of that"

Deciding to not think about it much as Rex has his own ways to reach the position he was in now, Calidora didn't argue and sat beside him, "So, would you mind telling me why you decided to use the woman approach? I believe there are other ways of doing this"

"Men, no matter the races only care about three things. Wealth, Power, and Women"

Looking at the beautiful night sky for a brief moment to recuperate under the moonlight, Rex then continues, "No matter which one is their priority, the other factors will always have an impact on them. It would be impossible to get rid of the desire for any of those three things completely. I couldn't afford to incite the Power and Wealth factor as that would make things complicated, so Women is the best factor to approach him with"

"I did this with a heavy heart, but I must take a calculated risk" he added and closes his eyes.

Upon hearing this, Calidora suddenly giggled sweetly.

Rex looks at her with one of his eyebrows raised before she opens her mouth, "If you said that a man couldn't get rid of the desire for any of those three things completely, then how come you could?"

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"Say, can I ask you another question?"

"What is it?"

"My Eyes of Terror has many abilities, and one of them is to sense fear. I couldn't actually see fear but I could feel if someone is experiencing fear. When I first met you, you don't have the slightest bit of fear. But now, when we meet during the fight against the Witch's pets, I sensed immense fear from you. So I'm curious, Rex... What are you so fearful of?"

Chapter 855 Endless Field Of Hyacinth

Calidora's question reverberated through the air and echoed in the ears.

It forces Rex to look at her pearly purple eyes which were fixed on him intently, there were signs of curiosity and stratagem in them, and Rex feels like he was being read by Calidora like an open book.

Sometimes he wonders if the Eternal Curse between them helped her do something like this.

"I'm not scared of anything" Rex replied casually.

Upon hearing this, Calidora shrugs her shoulders and averted her eyes away from Rex expecting such an answer from him, "Well, there's no problem in keeping it to yourself. It's not like I need you to answer me anyway" Pausing for a second, a mischievous smile then crossing her face, "Since... I already know the answer"

"Then, let me ask you this..." Rex suddenly said from the side.

Not expecting Rex to have a question for her, Calidora turned her head towards him and finds that Rex is grinning at her, "What is your true objective for being here, Calidora...? Well, you don't need to answer, it doesn't matter. I also happen to already know the answer too"

Listening to this, Calidora was stunned for a moment before she burst out laughing.

"I knew it, being with you is so fun!"

"I'm glad that it's fun for you. But now, help me get up. Let's keep moving"

Rex with the help of Calidora continues their journey again but then, a flash of white lightning appeared before them. None of them reacted, the two instantly recognized the figure that reached them.

It was Delta, her signature white lightning couldn't be mistaken.

Just like the last time Rex rode her, she was clad in armor that increased her endurance and resistance to cursed energy immensely, "Took you long enough, did you manage to eat all of the corpses?"

Growl!

"Okay then, go down a little, I can't jump right now" Rex added.

Upon seeing Delta, Calidora also went over to her front and rubbed under her chin gently. It sparks pleasant whimpers from Delta's mouth, she definitely feels good being rubbed by Calidora's claws like that.

Looking at this, Rex then asked, "Did you tame her using your scent?"

"Only a little bit, she's way friendlier than she looks. We've become friends" Calidora replied.

After Calidora rubbed Delta gently, she then mounted her too before the trio dashed through the distance. Since Rex is injured, the journey would be way faster with Delta around, and this also provides him time to recuperate properly.

With that, Delta took off at incredible speed, leaving behind only sparks of white lightning.

It took more than a day to properly reach their destination.

Due to the First Breath that suppressed every energy inside the whole wide world, traveling becomes slow again. Compared to the trains in Ratmawati City, Delta is probably only a sliver bit faster than them.

Earlier before the incident, Rex wanted to go to the Fated Mountain with Evelyn first.

Going to that place will definitely increase Evelyn's Luna energy which might play a huge role during the First Breath. But Rex aborted that plan, he doesn't want to go to the Fated Mountain again because of what Evelyn did.

Instead, he would be going to the Endless Field of Hyacinth to gain the Countess' power.

Since he would be needing it soon, he decided to do it now.

Rex still doesn't know what the Countess wants from him going to the Endless Field of Hyacinth, the Lunirich Edict only stated that he would only need to reach that place, no further instructions were written.

But then again, if it's only like that, this should be easy.

Currently, Delta has stopped galloping and trotted through a massive mountainous terrain.

Judging from the map given by the System that would help them reach the place, the three of them should already be near. But the two could only see trees and rocks, there's nothing that resembles the Endless Field of Hyacinth.

Along the way, Rex already checked the items that he got.

Nucleus of Supernatural, Obstacle of King, Pill of Change, Kingdom Investment Ticket, and also the newly added Pack Feature were the things he haven't checked because of the hectic situation earlier.

It was hard to get time to check on them when he was always busy.

However, now that he got some time along the way, he decided to inspect these things.

Starting from the first one, the Nucleus of Supernatural is an item that would allow a medium increase in bloodline evolution. One person could receive two at most, and this item could work on any race aside from the Werewolf race.

Rex gained 10 of these, and he plans on giving two of them to Linthia, Dindora, and Gelmar.

The remaining 4 will be stashed for someone worthy.

Giving it to Flunra or Gistella would probably help them increase their evolution process, but Rex doesn't need to give them that. Being near him alone is enough to quicken their evolution process, so there was no need for him to give the Nucleus of Supernatural to them.

Following that, the Obstacle of King is another useful item.

The Obstacle of King is a defensive layer that could be used on a certain spot, the condition is also similar to the King of Kings skill that he possesses. Anyone that is considered a King-level threat will feel great pressure nearing the Obstacle of King.

Pill of Change on the other hand is way simpler, it will provide physical Gifts.

Gifts were determined from birth similar to those who could become an Awakened. But with this Pill of Change item, one can obtain a Gift that might potentially make them stronger or cover their weak points by simply eating it.

Rex also gained 10 of them which he will use on himself and a couple of others.

As for the Kingdom Investment Ticket, Rex already used it before he left the city earlier. He used it to improve the food production of the city which is much needed especially with that many refugees coming in at once.

It would be bad if they suffer from food shortages because he was not ready.

Lastly is the additional Pack Feature. Rex can now assign his pack members into two separate groups, the Inner Pack and Outer Pack. Those who are in Inner Pack will have their Werewolf abilities amplified and an additional 20% physical stats.

On the contrary, those who are in Outer Pack will not have those benefits.

Instead, they would have an increased obedience tendency towards Rex as well as those who are in the Inner Pack. This feature provides a clear structure of the Silverstar Pack that is more than just instinct, another neat feature.

With this feature, Rex didn't hesitate to assign Prof. K and Giana to the Outer Pack.

<Pack Member Group>

Inner Pack:

-> Adhara Alpenore

-> Gistella

-> Evelyn Luc

-> Flunra

-> Kyran Cervantes

Outer Pack:

-> Giana

-> Prof. K

Additionally, after checking the items he got, he also bought something from the System.

Rex bought an image of the Endless Field of Hyacinth.

In such a time of uncertainty, despite his strength, he still needs to be careful. It would be better if he could finish this as soon as possible, thus an image of the Endless Field of Hyacinth will help him reach the place faster.

The image only costs him a couple of thousand gold, not a big deal.

Rex gained a beautiful celestial image that popped inside his brain when he bought the image. As the name suggested, the Endless Field of Hyacinth is a huge magical field filled with purple Hyacinth to the brim.

An air of celestuality can be felt by only looking at the place through an image in the mind.

Such a sight could only be attributed to the power of nature.

"I was wondering where your second King Mark went, but to think that you lost the favor from a jealous Banished Lunirich God is outside of my expectation. I thought you were holding back all the time" Calidora commented while scanning around the place.

Upon hearing this, Rex clicked his tongue in displeasure, "Why would I even do that for?"

Trotting forward slowly, the three eventually find themselves in a small rocky valley in between two hills. Some mutated animals can be seen here and there, showing that this place is quite dangerous before the First Breath.

"We'll split here, alert the others when you find the place"

After Rex's command, the three split into different directions in search of the field.

It took naught by a moment before Rex and Calidora could hear Delta howl in the distance. Quickly, the two dashes towards her and finds her near the end of the valley, looking down at a cliff that seems to be deep.

Rex looks down before he smiled when he finds the place he was looking for.

"Hmmm... but it doesn't match what it should look like"

"Of course not, this place is probably thousands of years old. It's bound to change"

Compared to the image that he bought from the System, the Endless Field of Hyacinth seems to be bigger. It filled his eyes in the image he saw earlier. But in that image, he could still see the end of the place.

But now, the end of the field can't be seen, this place stretches for miles. Length and width.

On top of that, there were not only purple Hyacinths anymore but other kinds of diverse flora that has unique colors and energy of their own. Squinting his eyes, Rex also finds fireflies decorating the entire place beautifully.

Despite the day being still golden, these fireflies were already illuminated with light.

Looking at this ephemeral sight, the three jumped down from the cliff and landed right on top of the plants and flowers. A dust of translucent colorful energy blew to the surroundings when they landed, and the sweet smell of floras filled their nostrils.

Rex doesn't realize it before but when he landed, he instantly sensed moonlight energy.

It rejuvenates his body every time he breathes, the warm gentle hands of the moonlight energy soothe his entire being. Clearly, there's something magical about the place for Werewolves to have such dense moonlight energy.

Even compared to the moonlight energy at night, this place is even denser.

Although he was coming here simply to finish the Countess' request, his interest was piqued when he reached the place, 'I wonder what would make the Countess wants me to come here, is there some dear object here that causes this place to be filled with moonlight energy?'

Feeling curious, Rex started traversing forward through the Endless Field of Hyacinth.

Nothing catches his eyes along the way, the scenery is still the same. Only the colors of the flowers and plants differ from earlier. After mounting Delta for another hour, the three reach a place that should be the center of the Endless Field of Hyacinth.

But unlike earlier, there was a different spot in the middle that catches his eye.

Purple Hyacinths can be seen surrounding a spot where the flowers and plants didn't grow, leaving a circle-shaped empty ground with a single withered black rose at the center. Additionally, the fireflies that surround the black rose are glowing with purple light instead of the usual yellow color.

In an instant, the scenery changed from mesmerizing to ethereal thanks to the black rose.

Rex then got down from Delta with a light grunt, "Wait here"

Upon saying that, he then approaches the black rose that should be the thing that causes all of the magical properties in this place as well as the purpose of the Countess wanting him to come here.

As he got closer, he realized that there was a mound underneath the black rose.

Despite still feeling unsure of what the black rose really is, Rex still stepped into the empty ground, his eyes fixed on the withered black rose. Suddenly, the edges of the barren space glowed with a dark purple light, and the fireflies began to move in unison, covering the black rose. It alerted him, but he didn't sense any malice from the changes.

While watching this from the back, Calidor and Delta saw a presence manifesting itself.

The Countess that realized where they are right now appeared above Rex and exposes her godly presence, her powers were overwhelming yet untraceable. Opening her eyes slowly, she then fixed her attention on the withered black rose.

Right as she saw the withered black rose, her eyes weirdly turns tender and soft.

"I'm back..." She uttered with her dainty voice.

Chapter 856 Funeral Procession

A phantom of darkness, the Countess exposes herself to the world once again.

This is the third time Rex has ever seen her presence. However, her presence is still as mesmerizing as when he first saw it. Her black dress teetered as if she was underwater, and the explicit energy coming from her is cold and daunting. The presence of a God.

Rex, Calidora, and Delta could only watch her from a distance.

Out of the three, Calidora and Delta were the ones who reacted the most at the sight of the Countess. Calidora knew that meeting the Gods behind a specific race is even harder compared to meeting with the Origin itself.

Lunirich Gods were the power source of the Werewolves and were completely hidden.

Even if the information about the Lunirich Gods were not hidden, none of the other races would be able to meet them. Unlike the Origin that has a presence, the Lunirich Gods lived in the higher plane, away from the mortal realms.

Due to that, it's natural for Calidora to be awe-struck by the sight of the Countess.

With their eyes fixed on the Countess' presence, almost like metals attracted to a magnet, the three of them saw the Countess slowly descends from the air and land on the ground without making a sound.

But in the instant she landed on the ground, there seems to be a disturbance in reality.

Another form of energy from another dimension brushes against their skin.

Foreign to their bodies, almost as if their instincts felt unnatural from being in its vicinity.

Swish!

Ignoring the gazes she received from the side, the Countess kept her dreamy eyes on the withered black rose. She then pauses for a long minute to look at the black rose, almost as if she was looking at the thing she treasured the most.

Hatred and anger she bore to the other Lunirich Gods vanish at that moment.

Rex can see it clearly as a person who has felt the full extent of hatred during the last time he met with her, the hatred and anger were burning inside her body silently. But now, that's all but been gone.

A cloud of gloom hovers above the Countess whilst the fireflies dance around her.

"Now that I think about it, I don't know anything about her..."

"Really? I thought you knew since you've gotten her favor and gained her King Mark"

"I freed her from imprisonment, that's how I get her favor"

Currently, Rex only knows that the Lunirich Gods were the ones responsible for imprisoning her due to something she did in the past and created the Lunirich Edict that shackled her until she repent.

As for the sin itself, he doesn't know the specifics.

It was also because of that he realized that there should be two Lunirich Gods that represent the Dark Moon. The Countess is a banished one, while the one that favored Zegrath should be the current Lunirich God that replaced her.

Even the nature of their powers was different despite representing the same full moon.

On top of that, the information from the System regarding the Lunirich Gods was always very expensive to purchase. It's out of Rex's reach. No matter how much he tries, he would probably need years to save up enough gold to buy the information.

Almost as if the System wanted him to find out about the Lunirich Gods himself.

But even then, considering they were actual Gods, Rex should've been happy that the System even have the capability to give him the information about them. It further pushes him to believe that the creator of the System is way out of his league.

Due to that, he also doesn't know much about the Lunirich Gods themselves.

Rex only knows that the Lunirich Gods are Gods of the full moons, they were the ones responsible for giving the path to power for Werewolves through King Marks, bestowed blessings, and favorability.

Apart from that, he doesn't know anything about their personal selves.

It's not even a stretch to assume that any information regarding them has been wiped from the ancient records. If he had to guess, then the only ones who knew about the Lunirich Gods would be the Werewolf Origin himself and his trusted aids.

'Now that I think about it, Flunra must know about the Lunirich Edict. I should ask him'

Back then when he was breaking the Countess' chains that shackled her, he remembered Flunra shouting at him to stop lest he angered the other Lunirich Gods. So he must know more than his current self.

Since he came from the first generation of Werewolves, his knowledge is paramount.

After making a mental note to ask Flunra, the Countess eventually moved.

Rex was surprised when he saw the Countess suddenly go to her knees and curled her body on top of the withered black rose, almost as if she was trying to embrace it with every being of her body.

Upon seeing this, Rex becomes even more curious as to what the black rose represents.

Swish!

In the next instant, the purple Hyacinth around them started to emit a purple light. The fireflies absorbed the purple light before their bodies also glowed even brighter, fueled with the abnormal energy that appeared in this space.

<Sacred Pith>

Race: Mutated Lampyridae

Power: Ninth Rank (Peak) - Purifying Apostle (9)

Mental: 1

Strength: 1

Agility: 1

Endurance: 1

Intelligence: 750,510

Scanning the mutated fireflies, Rex's eyes widened in an instant.

Earlier when he saw the fireflies the size of his thumb he already scanned them, he did it out of habit and finds that they were nothing but normal fireflies, it seems they are below the sixth-rank realm and the First Breath suppressed their powers heavily.

But upon absorbing the light from the purple Hyacinths, this sudden change happened.

Rex's eyes almost popped out of their sockets when he saw the normal fireflies turn into ninth-rank realm mutated animals, the change was so sudden and drastic that he couldn't keep his expression at bay.

It's safe to say that these mutated fireflies are not normal mutated animals.

Additionally, despite being ninth-rank realm mutated animals, they were not suppressed by the First Breath and Rex also didn't feel like they were any threat to him. On the contrary, he felt at ease in the mutated fireflies' vicinity.

Following that, the Countess straightens her back again reluctantly.

Pointing her hand towards the withered black rose, she then manipulated the mutated fireflies which then shoots a subtle beam of purple energy towards the withered black rose, giving it the gathered purple energies.

Even though the movement of the beams was slow, the dense energy is no joke.

'I can't breathe...'

Rex reaches out to his chest when he realized that the presence of the purple beams was strong enough to tighten his body so much that he couldn't even breathe, he also felt his body crushing despite not being the target of the purple beams.

Glancing to the side, he then intends to activate his Blood Moon King Mark.

Calidora and him will be fine as they could hold on for much longer, Delta on the other hand finds it very difficult as not only she couldn't breathe, but the air inside her lungs was forced out due to the tension.

But as he was about to do that, a wave of dark energy cloaked the three of them.

"Please, I sanctioned no energy until it's finished..." the Countess said, her voice shaky.

Upon hearing the Countess' words as she glanced back at them, Rex dissipates his kingly energy as the dark energy that cloaked them protected them from the power of the purple beams.

It went on for a while, the withered black rose received all of that energy without difficulty.

Additionally, Rex and the others could see that the withered black rose started to regain back life again. It started to become lively again, slowly becoming upright whilst the flower started to bloom robustly again.

Rex watches this attentively and finds the black rose leak with black droplets.

These black droplets stained the ground beneath it, almost as if it was melting. But then Rex's eyes widened slightly in realization, 'No, that's not coming from the black rose... The Countess, is she... crying?'

Even though he doesn't want to believe it, there was no other explanation.

Since the Countess is facing away from them looking poised, it's almost impossible to tell if she was crying or not. However, Rex is pretty sure that she is. Despite her best efforts to hide it, her shoulders are slightly moving up and down.

Now that he saw how the Countess is reacting, he realized what was going on.

'Wait a minute... is this a funeral procession?' Rex thought in disbelief.

Although he doesn't know what was going on earlier, assuming that this is a funeral procession matches the stark gloomy air, the withered black rose, and also the fact that the Countess, a God is crying.

Rex couldn't believe it, but he must believe what he was seeing right now.

But now that he knows, he couldn't help but asks himself, 'Who is buried in this place...?'

It takes about ten minutes before the black rose has become lively again, it wasn't wilted any longer thanks to the purple beam. With that out of the way, the fireflies flew away and returned buzzing around the field.

As the purple energy was exhausted, they returned back into a normal firefly again.

Throughout the process, Rex, Calidora, and Delta kept silent to respect the Countess when Rex whispered to them that it was a funeral procession. It's a sensitive moment and needed to be respected.

Standing up once again, the Countess has become poised once again.

Glancing over her shoulder lightly with the same expression as she appeared before, the Countess fixed her eyes on Rex, "You've done as promised, and so I will also return the favor. I'll grant you back my King Mark..."

Upon hearing this, Rex nodded his head, that's what he came here for.

Expecting a future fight against the Executor who would only become stronger and stronger the longer the World Awakening progresses, Rex already targeted to at least reach the first ascension on three different King Marks.

It's the only thing that would make him feel safe and ready to fight against the Executor.

Blood Moon King Mark has already reached the first ascension. Now that he gained the Banished Dark Moon King Mark again, he would quickly try to tackle the first ascension before moving on to gaining the third King Mark.

Out of the full moons, he wanted to find a neutral God. But that's going to be hard to do.

The only Lunirich God that he could meet right now is the Lunirich God of the Ice and Snow Moon through the Confide of Ice item. But then again, he couldn't expect it to go his way, that Lunirich God probably hates him too.

Just as the Countess was about to give her power again, the black rose suddenly glowed.

Upon sensing this glow, the Countess glanced back at the black rose that is now pulsating with subtle dark energy. It makes her eyes widen in surprise, she couldn't control her facial expression at the sight of this.

Rex was also surprised to find her like this, he has never seen her this surprised.

After that, a copy of the black rose made entirely of dark energy detached itself from the original body and floated over toward Rex, causing everyone including the Countess to turn their attention to him as well.

But Rex was confused too, he doesn't know why the black rose hovered in front of him.

It was then a prompt from the System appeared.

<A virtuous soul is asking to merge with the user, do you want to accept it?>

'What does it want with me?'

<It's a sign of favorability for the user, there was no direct impact aside from favorability>

Since it doesn't do anything to him, Rex decided to accept it without much thinking. Following that, the black rose slowly seeped into his body and merged with him, rejuvenating his body with its energy.

Not knowing how to react, Rex suddenly saw the Countess turns towards him.

"Okay... if you also favor him, then there's nothing much I could do except give him my all" the Countess mutters, she then made eye contact with Rex and continues, "Royal Black Prince, you resemble him... I'll give you my power without restraint now. You have my full support, so don't waste it"

"I'll now boost you to the first ascension, be prepared..." she added.

Chapter 857 Godlike Declaration

Rex thought nothing of it, favorability from a wandering soul should be nothing for him.

Even the System said that it has no effect on him.

But he should've known that this soul that came from the black rose is an important entity for the Countess of the Dark Lunirich, she actually cried for whoever was buried in this place. Surely, favorability from this person also grants him favorability from the Countess too.

Additionally, the way the Countess looks at him changed.

It's hard to explain with words but he felt like the Countess' gaze has turned softer.

Now he realized that the entity buried here is more important than he anticipated, the Countess even declares that she will give her full support and boost him to the First Ascension without going through the normal trial.

Maybe, since the dawn of time, he was the only Werewolf to get this privilege.

In a way, this is the ultimate sign of favorability.

'What does she mean by me resembling him? Who do I resemble?'

Although there were a couple of questions inside his mind, Rex suddenly realized that Calidora and Delta were backing away slowly. Hearing the Countess' declaration, the two thought that it wouldn't be good to stay close to him.

"Use your power to enhance your build, this is going to hurt..."

Listening to what the Countess said, Rex tries to activate his enhancement skills.

Despite not being fit himself, he still decided to try. His body was exhausted from what he did to Gistella, and also the fact that it hasn't been that long since finishing the fight against the Supernatural Elders speaks volumes.

Rex tries to focus on strengthening himself, but he finds it very hard to do.

Even with his very best attempt, harnessing the power of the moonlight strains his body and makes the wounds throb violently. Focusing on his red force, he also finds it's not responding to his will too. Additionally, the mana and spirit energy inside of him were only able to barely make him stronger.

<The user's body is exhausted, and all powers have been weakened severely>

Upon seeing this, he could only sigh as he was too weak right now.

Not having the presence of Evelyn beside him is a real problem, but he couldn't go to her right now. It's going to take him longer to fully recover, "I think we need to postpone this. My body is not responding to me, I'm completely exhausted"

Finding that Rex is not fit, the Countess slowly puts her hand down in response.

It's a bummer that he couldn't receive the blessing at this sacred moment, but her hand suddenly stopped mid-way and she glanced over her shoulder to the sky. A look of worry can be seen on her face for a brief moment.

Pondering for a moment, a frown then appeared on her face before she turns to Rex again.

"Bear with this Royal Black Prince. Clenched your teeth, we need to do it right now"

"Wha- Wait! I'm not re-"

Swoosh!

Disregarding what Rex was trying to say, the Countess vanishes from her spot.

Like a literal untraceable phantom in the night, she quickly reappeared right in front of him. Grabbing his forehead forcefully, a surge of dark energy started to travel into the Countess' arm and flowed directly into Rex.

Under the enchantment of the dark energy, Rex's King Mark was forcefully activated.

"Krraaaagghhk!!"

Rex shouted at the top of his lungs and grabbed the Countess' arm instinctively, but he couldn't budge her arm and fell to his knees weakly. It was no use, he was too exhausted to fight back properly right now.

Like an endless stream river, the dark energy keeps gushing into Rex's King Mark.

It was violent and excruciatingly painful as the Blood Moon's kingly energy inside of him was being suppressed heavily and replaced by the Dark Moon's kingly energy, this sensation keeps on going as the veins all over his body bulged.

Out of nowhere, almost as if she was in a hurry to finish, the Countess poured more in.

Despite his shout, the Countess didn't mind it and kept going.

Calidora and Delta watch as Rex's King Mark that glowed with red kingly energy started to be corrupted with the black color. Under the intense dark energy, it didn't take long before his King Mark turned completely black.

Both of them knew that the pain would be unbearable.

Rex has never been shouting like this, at least the two of them have never seen him in such a state. If even he couldn't bear to restrain his hoarse voice, then the pain should be out of their imaginations.

Not stopping at that, the Countess pushed even more, drowning Rex in a sea of pain.

Most of the people close to Rex know that he has a very high pain tolerance level, but this moment overwhelms him completely. Of course, this is not the most painful thing he has ever experienced.

But the volume is way bigger, and the pain provides no gaps for him to take a breath to rest.

Rex feels like he was suffocating while being tortured at the same time.

As the intensity of the Dark Moon's kingly energy grew, an outer black ring started to appear around Rex's King Mark. It was the ring that symbolizes a Werewolf reaching the First Ascension and is worthy to enter the upper echelon of the Werewolf hierarchy.

Exactly as she declared, the Countess actually boosts him without a proper normal trial.

What seems to be a minute at most feels like an eternity for Rex.

Time slowed down and stretched on for hours despite being a minute at most, such an intense amount of pain is capable of rendering his senses of time useless. However, he refused to give up and is determined to endure it to the very end. As long as his body doesn't melt, then he always believed he can sustain as much pain as needed.

If it could make him stronger, then no amount of pain will make him succumb completely.

Just when his patience was starting to be tested by the pain, it suddenly stopped abruptly. The pain was gone in an instant, and Rex's body instantly becomes relaxed once again. He panted heavily but he was left in a worse state than earlier.

But as he recuperates for a few seconds, he felt a burn on his forehead.

Grabbing his forehead, he could feel his King Mark glowing with the Dark Moon's kingly energy. It was a familiar sensation. If not for the exhaustion that dawns on his body, he would've felt powerful.

<Congratulation! The user's Dark Moon King Mark is now active!>

<First Ascension in the user's Dark Moon King Mark has been achieved, and the user has been rewarded with a moon ability, Seize of Twilight!>

Looking at the notifications from the System, Rex exhales deeply.

Reaching the First Ascension in his Dark Moon King Mark should be a great boost for him, but he now feels even worse thanks to his unhealed wounds. Considering the stress his body experienced earlier, this doesn't come as a surprise for him.

"I told you I'm not ready, why are you being so forceful" Rex muttered mildly.

But as he said that, the Countess replied in a monotone voice, "I suggest you stand up and prepare yourself, Royal Black Prince. Seems like the others were displeased for you being chosen by him"

Upon hearing this, Rex raises his gaze to look at the Countess in confusion.

It was then he saw the Countess' back facing his way as she looks skywards. Additionally, at the same moment, Rex also saw a weird occurrence in the night sky that left him completely baffled and even more confused.

To his surprise, he saw eight moons decorating the sky with different colors.

"What in the world...?" Rex mused in horror.

Although he wanted to believe what he was seeing right now, his vision is blurry, and he couldn't help but feel like his eyes must've been playing a trick on him. Eight moons in the sky are surely not true.

He believed that he must be too exhausted and started hallucinating right now.

But then, a voice came from the side, "Rex, are you okay?"

Just as he was witnessing something unimaginable, Calidora approached him from the side without a care in the world. Rex is now even more certain that he was only seeing things. If it's real, then she should've been more worried about the eight moons in the sky rather than his condition.

"Can't you see that?" Rex pointed at the sky in question.

Calidora raises her right eyebrow questioningly and gazes at the sky. But contrary to what Rex is expecting her to react, she doesn't seem to be disturbed by the sight, "What's wrong with the sky? It looks normal"

Albeit he was now certain that he was hallucinating, the Countess interrupted him.

"It's reality, Royal Black Prince. Get up and use that power of yours that you used to break my shackles" the Countess said, her eyes then squinted in the face of the eight moons. "None of them has a Champion yet except for Garland and Ethna, but I don't think I could block all of them at once"

Upon hearing this, Rex snapped out of his daze instantly.

Maybe he was feeling out of it due to the exhaustion and migraine inside his head, but he now realized that this is not a hallucination. It's real. Seems like for whatever reason, he evokes the wrath of the Lunirich Gods.

'Goodness, one after the other. I can't even recuperate properly...'

A savage look crossed his face as now realized the situation, his body started heating up from the anger swelling inside of him, 'I'm very angry now, I'm very angry... Why do all of you likes to taunt and attack me for reasons I don't even know? This is bullshit!'

Crack!

Rex slammed his fist on the ground and cracked it, he was starting to lose it.

The fact that he was completely exhausted as well as having so much to deal with right now makes him frustrated. He has enough on his plate already, yet these Lunirich Gods decided to add another problem while he was in this state.

"Unreasonable!"

Crack!

"Arrogant!"

Crack!

"Pathetic!"

Crack!

Under the immense anger, he kept pounding the ground to vent the suffocating feeling.

Glaring at the eight moons that were being boorish for attacking him when there was a bigger threat for the Werewolves other than him, Rex gritted his teeth as the blood inside of him pump faster.

Despite his anger, his body is still exhausted, and he became even more frustrated.

Rex then summoned the Silver Eye from his inventory and stabbed it to the ground, he then uses it to climb back to his feet once again, ignoring his legs that were shaking violently. He fought his exhaustion with every fiber of his being.

Clang!

Calidora who watches him from the side being angry was confused.

But when she activated her Eyes of Terror in the next second, her eyes widened and her gaze instantly went over to the night sky. She was surprised to see eight moons glowing brightly in the sky.

'Seems like the Werewolf Gods were not happy with him, but for what reason?'

No matter what it is, this wouldn't end with a display of power.

Glancing to the side, Calidora was worried that Delta who was oblivious to the situation would get into the mix. Due to that, she decided to mount her and forces her to gallop away before the situation escalated.

On the other hand, Countess flew to the sky and spreads her power to the surroundings.

Rex who was in a berserker state started transforming into his Werewolf form, he's grinding his teeth in anger thanks to his anger. In the next second, he then pulls the Silver Eye and points it at the sky.

"I have enough of this!! I'll declare an open war to all of you Lunirich Gods!"

"If any of you value your Godly lives, then don't meddle with this. However, those foolish enough to try and kill me, I'm ready! Come straight at me! Pick your champions and attack me!! Or better yet, come down here yourself. This lesser being will teach you the euphonious meaning of pain and death!!"

"I'll teach you to value your Godly lives because I'm coming to take them!"

ROARR!!

Chapter 858 Cold War Of Attrition

"My King, let me accompany you. I'm not comfortable with you going out alone"

"No need, I need to go somewhere alone"

"But still-"

"I said I want to be alone! Are you going to keep refuting my direct order?!"

Currently, King John was on his way to leaving the SCO main headquarter, he was wearing a large black trench coat that covered his entire body from top to bottom. But he was intercepted by the black messenger in the lobby.

Earlier, the black messenger saw King John from the side.

Albeit he was confused as to where King John was going to go at this late hour, the black messenger frowned when he saw King John walking weirdly. He was hunching a little and his hand is placed on his stomach.

It was almost as if he was hurt, but that's not possible, King John hasn't gone anywhere.

But the way he was acting made the black messenger worried, and it seems King John also wanted to leave without anyone knowing. However, that's not possible, the headquarter is swarmed with Black Hands.

Realizing that he had overstepped, the black messenger bowed in apology.

"Forgive me for my forceful behavior, I overstepped. Please notify me if something happens"

"It's fine, I'll be going now"

A moment later, King John is inside a car that he drove on his own.

Unknown to him, the black messenger is following him from behind. The black messenger tested something earlier, it was a risky idea but he decided to try to attack King John with his power, fully preparing to receive the consequences.

But when the attack was about to hit, King John didn't react and kept on walking.

Just from that alone, the black messenger sensed something is wrong with this, King John has never been this careless, he could sense an attack before it was even launched. However, he didn't react to the black messenger's attack right now, and the black messenger was forced to dissipate his attack.

Due to that test, he decided to follow King John from the shadows.

It didn't take long before the car King John was driving stopped at an empty parking lot.

King John walks out of the car before he pulls his hat down to cover his face and walks along the empty pedestrian street, there were almost nobody around. Another half an hour passed and the black messenger realized where King John was going.

'The Executor's castle? Did he get summoned by the Executor...?'

Unable to get close, the black messenger could only watch as King John entered the castle.

Meanwhile, King John went straight to the throne room.

Entering the throne room he finds the Executor is already sitting on the throne, looking down at him with an air of superiority and arrogance. For a brief second, King John saw a red gem in his hand which he puts away in an instant.

"What do I owe your visit this late at night, John?" the Executor asked nonchalantly.

Not answering instantly, King John kneeled in the presence of the Executor before he then answered, "I apologize for disturbing you at this hour, but I want to know what have you done to me...?"

After saying that, King John takes off his trench coat and exposes a gruesome sight.

Countless scratches and wounds adorned every part of his body, they were not healing properly and also looks very painful. Even King John's expression depicted the pain, he was enduring the pain for quite a while now.

Looking at this, the Executor grinned and shrugs his shoulders, undisturbed.

"I've awakened your bloodline and unlocked your suppressed powers," He said, crossing his legs before he leans his head to his fist. "Of course, there's going to be something you need to do in return, something to pay back what you received"

Upon hearing this, King John looks down to the floor with his eyes wide open.

Many thoughts flew past his mind when he heard the Executor's answer, he already prepared himself to pay anything but this is going to be troublesome. "Nevermind that, do you now have the rough estimate of that damned Werewolf's location?"

"Yes, the attacks we launched before give us some leads" King John replied calmly.

Launching the attack on the Supernatural territory with the small armies they collected is killing two birds with one stone. In that process, he managed to test the new power he bestowed on his people and also locate the Royal Black Prince's location.

Pinning the aim of attack from the armies that got annihilated gives them those cues.

Nodding his head in acknowledgment, the Executor then snaps his fingers and created a small soundwave that echoed inside the throne room. In the next instant, a couple of white glowing objects appeared from thin air.

Taking a closer look, King John finds them looks to be some sort of pendants.

It takes the shape of a white glowing crescent moon with a thin two-headed dagger piercing from below, the tip rests at the center of the crescent moon making the pendant look more like a staff instead.

"What are these pendants for...?" King John asked.

Upon hearing this, the Executor's grin bloomed even wider. His eyes flashed with murderous intent before he eventually replied, "Nothing spectacular, these are only used to find the weakest link. It's a bait. Go engrave this on the Great Barricade's wall nearest to the leads, I'll lure him out"

~

Meanwhile, the Silverstar Pack castle.

Naela has been cramped inside the room taking care of Kyran with all her heart, she was down realizing that it would take a long time before he would actually wake up. But then again, Rex did promise her that he would do anything to wake him up quickly.

Right now, she stepped outside of the room to get some fresh air.

Just as she stepped outside of the bed chamber, she instantly felt the suffocating air.

It feels like something is going on inside the castle that she was not aware of, the tension inside was quite high and the others also couldn't be seen anywhere. "I hear a crowd outside, did we take in more people?"

Due to having Kyran in her mind constantly, she didn't know about the refugees.

Striding along the hallway with a dejected look, Naela suddenly heard someone at the end of the hallway. Peeking to the left, she realized that it was Gistella and Flunra that seemed to be talking with each other.

"I know you're nervous, but this is for the best. Be natural and be careful, this is detrimental"

"Yes, I'll try my best..."

But as the two were talking, Flunra's eyes darted to Naela peeking at them from the junction.

"I'll get going. It seems like out of the methods anticipated, he's using that thing. I'll look after the two while you are away, the scent might affect them too hard. Keep your head strong or you'll be affected too"

Upon hearing this, Gistella bowed slightly before Flunra walks away.

After seeing Flunra off, she then turns around to find Naela walking towards her, "How long have you been listening there, Naela? I thought you were not going to come out from Kyran's room"

"Just getting some fresh air" Pausing a second, she then asked, "What's that about?"

"Oh, I was only talking with Flunra about the refugees that we've taken. If you want to get some fresh air, why don't you go out and check the city? It's getting more lively with the refugees and the Elves" Gistella offered.

Pondering for a moment, Naela was interested, "Will you accompany me?"

"Sorry, I need to do something. Go ask Adhara and Evelyn to go with you, I think the two of them also needed some fresh air" Gistella replied before she waved her hand, walking away and headed to the throne room.

Looking at this, Naela frowns as she could tell that Gistella is hiding something from her.

On top of that, Flunra consoles her for being nervous. If the two of them were talking about the refugees that the city has taken in, there's no reason for Flunra to console her like that. It doesn't make sense.

Deciding to not think about it, Naela went to search for Adhara and Evelyn.

A moment later, the three is walks out of the castle.

Evelyn and Adhara decided to accompany Naela to stroll around the city as the two really does seem to need a stroll from their exhausted expressions, it was weird to see considering both of them hasn't done anything strenuous.

At the first moment of entering the city, Naela was utterly mesmerized.

Most of the buildings except for the stores were now functioning, and the resident houses were full of people that were still uncertain but nevertheless felt safe and happy to live in such a wonderful city.

In addition, Naela was also shocked to find an Elf talking to a Human without hostility.

"W- Wow... I've never thought something like this will exist"

Due to the thousands of years of war between races that always ended up with blood and corpses, the hatred between them was thick and strong, and would probably last until the end of time.

But in this scenery, hostility and hatred were not present at all.

Naela almost mistakes this place to be an unbelievable utopia, Supernaturals, and Humans shouldn't be able to co-exist, at least that is what she was told. But this city, Dargena City that is built by Rex was capable of destroying that stigma.

Such a sight is fresh to see, and filled with many would consider a miracle.

"Path of vengeance always leads to bloodshed and agony, I think Rex finally realized that after he exact his revenge for his parent's murderer. I don't exactly know where his determination comes from, I don't exactly know what motivates him to create this place, but I can say that I'm happy that he did..." Adhara commented from the side, smiling lightly.

Upon hearing this, Naela glanced at her with sparkling eyes, this place is beautiful.

Albeit that was the case, Naela frowns when she saw a hint of sorrow and despair in Adhara's eyes while she watches the people talking and bantering with each other. Her expression and her words expressed doesn't match up.

It troubles her to see Adhara like this, especially remembering what Rex said to her.

'He wanted me to become their friend...'

Deciding that she would also try her absolute best to fulfill Rex's request, Naela then leans to Adhara's vision with a smile and asked, "Why do you look sad when you're supposed to be happy? Is something bothering you?"

"H- Huh...? Oh- nothing is bothering me, it's okay" Adhara replied and also smiled in return.

But Naela didn't let up that easily, "Tell me, I'm a great listener"

"Well, if that's the case... I'm just sad that maybe I wouldn't be able to see the city develop into something even greater. After all, this city is probably made in honor of his deceased parents. I'm irrelevant" Adhara replied with a deep sigh.

Not expecting such an answer, Naela frowns as she doesn't know what she means.

Just then her eyes were attracted to Evelyn on the side, she was looking at the far distance with a frown on her face, "Evelyn, is there something wrong?" Naela asked again, the two seemed off right now.

"I don't know. But is it only me, or does the two of you smell that scent?" Evelyn asked.

Upon hearing this, Adhara also frowns, "I think I smelled it too, it's pleasant"

"Huh...? I didn't smell anything, what are the two of you talking about?" Naela commented in confusion, she doesn't smell anything in particular in the air. But it seems Adhara and Evelyn could smell whatever it is.

But then, Naela suddenly remembered what Flunra said earlier to Gistella.

'I'll look after the two, the scent might affect them too hard'

Realizing that Flunra was talking about some scent with Gistella earlier, Naela frowned as there seems to be something going on that she was not aware of. Just then, she glanced to her back and finds someone on top of a distant roof, looking at her.

It was Flunra, he was watching them. But when Naela saw him, he simply disappeared.

"What's going on...?"

Chapter 859 Make Sure To Succeed

Rex has had enough, the treatment he got is starting to become outrageous.

The Lunirich God of the Dark Moon and Kaiser of the Scarlet Garland has deliberately tried to screw him over, the two of them were actively seeking to kill him. It was only because of that, he decided to retort and fight back.

If he didn't fight back then those two would've kept on pestering him.

On the side of that, the Lunirich Edict stated that the Countess wanted him to exact revenge on the Lunirich Gods. But it was what the Countess wants, and there's nothing in the Lunirich Edict that states the Countess wouldn't change her mind.

Maybe in the future, the Countess and the other Lunirich Gods can make a settlement.

Somehow, if both sides can come to an agreement, then there wouldn't need to have any bloodshed whatsoever. The Countess can change her mind, and write off the requirement of him exacting her revenge from the Lunirich Edict.

It was never Rex's intention to commit genocide on the Lunirich Gods.

But not anymore.

Rex is currently walking at the edge of a steep cliff, one wrong move and he might find himself falling into the deep abyss, dragging everyone that he holds dear with him. Something he was desperately trying to avoid.

However, the Lunirich Gods stand in his way, being too narrow-sighted for possibilities.

Even at this point, Rex is still confused about one thing.

Despite his feats that could shake the entire world, surpassing most of the entities inside the whole wide world if not all, those who he didn't consider enemies always use the aggressive and uncaring method to approach him.

If even one Lunirich God came to talk to him, then he would really appreciate it.

Just like what he said to the Witch of Chaos when she kidnapped Kyran, his attention is never expensive, and power displays are not necessary for him. The System could help him discern which of the opposing sides he needs to be serious with, he could gauge the opposing sides' power.

Additionally, even without the System, his senses and intuition can already do that.

Out of the important things at this current moment, taking care of the Executor is the first on his priority list to secure the city and make the others safer. But the Lunirich Gods have to show hostility to him in this kind of way.

None of the opposing sides understands that doing this will only make it worse for them.

But it was too late now.

Rex was already pushed to the absolute limit and declared war with the Lunirich Gods. If it was only the Countess earlier that wanted them dead, now he also wanted them dead if they are too prideful to reason with him.

Despite his fatigued body, he roared to the sky, baring his vicious claws.

ROAR!!

His wrathful and overbearing voice reverberated to the surroundings, causing a tremor in the air. Rex lets out the anger and frustration inside of him and directed it at the Lunirich Gods that wanted him dead.

If anyone could see what he was seeing right now, then they would've been mesmerized.

One will witness the sight of Rex's sturdy and robust back as he faces eight glowing moons in the night sky that emit a powerful aura beyond comprehension, it was almost like a painting of him protecting the whole world from the Gods.

Swoosh!

In a moment, the eight glowing moons started shooting an energy beam to the center point.

Each of their beams was infused with their respective energy, containing the nature of the different full moons. It was then, the beams collided with one another, splitting the sky open and creating a big ball of combined energies that even shadowed the white sphere of the First Breath.

Gazing at this dominating sight, the Countess prepares for the incoming attack.

"I will conjure a layer to reduce their combined attacks, the rest of it, I'll leave it all to you. Don't die now, my dear Royal Black Prince..." the Countess said with her astral voice as the tip of all of her fingers started to glow brightly with her dark energy.

Upon hearing this, Rex nodded his head before the Countess made her move.

Levitating higher into the sky, the Countess shoots the dark energy gathered in her fingertips around her. It was akin to ten dark sprites, floating to the side, leaving trails of its energy and creating a pentagram-like shape.

After the dark sprites get into their position, they shoot a stream of energy at one another.

The Countess then started chanting an unknown language that made her energy climbs higher and higher, and a thin layer of dark energy started to take form above her, copying the shape that the dark sprites made. It was so bad that the white sphere of the First Breath shoots a beam at her but it didn't even manage to reach her.

Surely, this is the power in the realm of Gods, beyond mortal comprehension.

In addition, Rex could see that the ball of concentrated beams from the eight Lunirich Gods becomes bigger and spreads what seems like clouds to the surroundings that twisted and swirls to the rhythm of the ball of energy.

Judging from the energy the ball contains, it was nearing its peak.

If not for the fact this attack came from a dimension separated from the material dimension of the mortal world, then this kind of phenomenon would definitely garner attention. But only a few could see this sight, others could only feel cold.

Rex then puts his arms to his sides and laughed diabolically.

Not a hint of fear can be seen in his eyes, in fact, he seems to be excited. Due to the situation, his mind is a bit foggy, but he thought that receiving this attack would probably jolt his mind awake for the nearing big fight.

"Come! Attack me with all you got! I'll salvage all of you from your Godly ignorance!!!"

Almost as if the Lunirich Gods take offense in this, the ball of energy that was about to be fired increases in size even more as the beams shooting at it grew thicker. Eventually, the ball of energy reaches its limit and fires its might.

Instead of shooting a catastrophic beam, a huge arm came out of the ball of energy.

Just from a glance, Rex could tell that it takes the shape of a Werewolf's arm. The fearsome claws descend down from the sky, bringing down with them a cataclysmic energy that is able to shake the entire world in its quake.

On top of that, a vacuum of space can be felt, pinning Rex on his spot.

Even though the claws were still far up in the sky, the unimaginable energy it contains was enough to force Rex to cough out blood. It was horrifying, every single sense in his body was screaming at him to run away.

But he couldn't, he was already fixed in this spot and unable to move.

<Warning! An absurd amount of malicious energy is heading toward the user!>

<Warning!...>

<It's advised to leave the place immediately!>

<Warning! Receiving the attack will obliterate the user's entire being completely!>

Rex didn't find it surprising for the System to warn him about the incoming attack. It was quite obvious that the attack that is targeted directly at him is the strongest attack he has ever seen and felt, the realm of a higher power is truly impeccable.

It's been such a long time since he feel tiny like an ant in front of something.

Halfway through its trajectory, the humongous claws picked up its pace which the Countess reacted by expanding the layer she created and pushing it into the claws' way. Seeing this, Rex expected a powerful shockwave from the collision.

Despite expecting that, he was wrong when the claws passes through the layer easily.

Albeit that was the case, the dark energy condensed inside the layer created by the Countess was akin to a magnet to the energies inside the claws. Upon passing through it, more than half of its energy got stuck in the layer, reducing the attack power of the claws greatly.

The Countess has done a miraculous feat, showing that she's extremely powerful.

It needed to be borne in mind that the claws were the attack combination from eight Lunirich Gods, the power inside of it should be paramount compared to a single banished Lunirich God such as the Countess.

So being capable of doing something like this speaks of her powers.

Knowing the ridiculous amount of energy that seems to be crushing Rex's body as well as the world beneath his feet, the sharp decrease in the claws' energy from simply passing through the layer caught him off guard.

But in the next instant, he smiled in excitement as this is far better than his expectation.

Ignoring the blood leaking from his mouth, nose, and ears, Rex's eyes flash with excitement as he embraces the incoming claws with extreme exhilaration, 'I wonder... how much potential I have with the world awakening, multiple elemental affinities, and also the active two King Marks. Surely, my potential would easily reach the eleventh-rank realm or possibly even higher!'

Rex couldn't help but smile while thinking about this.

Now that it came to this state, he was curious to know how much his potential has grew.

Last time he checked, his potential maxed at the tenth-rank realm.

'System, activate the Invincible Item...'

<Affirmative, activating the Invincible Item...>

A sudden pause happened when Rex instruct the System to use his Invincible Item, the iconic item that the System has always been his last trump card in the face of something that he couldn't deal with.

The first time he used it was against a Shapeshifter, but now he's using it against Gods.

Clearly, the Countess was talking about the Invincible Item which is the item that helps Rex breaks her free from the shackles that bound her to the Lunirich Edict. If it weren't for the Invincible Item, he couldn't have had a relationship with the Countess properly.

In the next second, Rex's aura exploded and shattered the ground for miles away.

Such a feat was even more impressive as he was merely exposing his aura alone, and thanks to the World Awakening and First Breath, the world has also gotten stronger. Destroying the ground is way harder compared to before the First Breath.

But that didn't stop Rex's energy from utterly destroying everything around him.

ROAR!!

<Calculating potential...>

<Calculation is completed!>

<The user's maximum potential: Eleventh-rank (Peak)>

Kaboom!

Rex could feel he was turning into something else, the level of power inside of him was nothing like he has ever felt before. Starting from all of the elements inside of him becoming united and turning into an entirely different element before the kingly energy from the two King Marks started to complement each other perfectly.

Despite not expecting anything, he gained insight from feeling this power alone.

Not lingering in the sensation of invincibility inside of him, Rex reaches out his hands upwards and blocked the humongous claws descending on him. His size is hundreds of times smaller than the claws.

But even then, the moment his hands touched the claws, it stopped mid-track.

Boom!

Under the power of the Invincible Item that makes him feel that he could take on the entire world and beyond himself, he bears the huge burden of the attack with both of his arms and gritted teeth.

It's true that he could stop the claws' advancement, but this process also crushes him.

Rex could feel the untold energy inside of the claws pulsating into his body, this forces more blood to gush out from his arms, piercing the skin and spurting out like a fountain. It was so bad that he could also feel his bone turning into ash bit by bit.

Surely, if it weren't for the Countess, he would've died here for certain.

"GRAARGGHH!!!"

Keeping his stand and withstand the powerful force coming from the claws, Rex roared desperately as his eyes bulged, trying to stop the claws from crushing his body. But the excruciating pain is enough to tear every muscle in his body.

Blood keep on coming out, and even his eyes and nose started to bleed profusely.

Although he was having difficulty sustaining the claws, something switched inside of him and Rex started laughing amidst the extreme moment. It was horrifying to find that someone could laugh in the face of death.

But the fact that if he survived, he would destroy them makes him laugh like a maniac.

"Killing me needs way more attempt than this half-assed attack. If you attempt to kill me, then you better succeed in killing me because if not... I'LL MURDER ALL OF YOU- RAARGHHH!!!"

BOOM!

Chapter 860 Surviving With A Help

Splash!

Under the intense pressure, surpassing anything that Rex thought was possible, the meat of his arms started to get torn to shreds. Muscles, tendons, ligaments, and even bones were being torn apart, dyeing the ground around him crimson.

It was a great spectacle to behold, this is the most intense struggle in his life.

Both of his feet started to sink deeper into the ground while the collective claws pressured him from above, his nerves are sending danger signals to his brain rapidly, stating that one wrong move and he might be crushed completely.

Rex couldn't lose a moment of focus in this situation.

Death is already knocking on the door to his soul, he could feel its palpable cold sensation.

'Damn it, is the Invincible Item not enough...?!'

Albeit the Invincible Item has already brought him up to his body's fullest potential, the attack from the Lunirich Gods still surpassed that. He would need to do something if he didn't want to actually die here.

'System, recommend me an item to increase my power temporarily!' Rex exclaimed.

<Searching for the appropriate item...>

<Completed!>

<Does the user wants to buy and use Treaty of Infernal Physique for 5 million gold?>

<Please bear in mind that there will be a requirement to complete after using the item>

'Buy it! I don't care!'

Regardless of what the requirements are, it's definitely going to be way better than dying here. Rex didn't want to waste any time and buy the item, he needs to do this quickly, or else it would've been too late.

Crash!

Out of nowhere, Rex's legs gave out and he got slammed to the ground.

Now he got stuck in a difficult situation where his back is against the ground. In addition, the claws were inches away from his body being held back by nothing but Rex's arms that were desperately trying to resist the pressure.

But it was then, the Treaty of Infernal Physique started to take effect.

<Congratulation, the user's body has been developed into an infernal physique temporarily!>

<All stats has been increased by 100%>

Upon seeing the two notifications from the System, Rex saw his body started swelling and he became even bigger. A weird energy pulses alongside his blood, pumping him with power that enhances his bodily power immensely.

In regards to this, he intended to stand up but he was surprised to find he still couldn't.

'Oh, no. This is bad...' Rex thought, looking down at his legs that were pinned on the ground. 'The position I'm in right now is not optimal, I couldn't use the strength in my legs to help me sustain the attack. I could only use 40% of my strength in this position'

Rex couldn't push the claws back with his upper body alone.

Since he was now lying on the ground with the pressure from the claws attacking him from above, he couldn't use his legs, and he was completely stuck. If he were standing like earlier, then he would be fine.

The power from the claws started to become rampant, striking the places around them.

While he was trying his best to stay alive under this attack, the Countess who was also doing the same whispered to him in sorrow, "Don't let the attack hit, Royal Black Prince. I beseech you..." She pleaded desperately.

If the claws hit the ground, then the entire Endless Field of Hyacinth will be destroyed.

Upon hearing this, Rex could only click his tongue, 'Even if you say that how can I prevent that from happening? I could only barely stay alive, and the outcome of me is still not clear here yet'

But as if responding to his emotion, the kingly energies started to move weirdly.

Rex widened his eyes when he saw the cracks on his skin due to the kingly energy from the two King Marks slithering towards his hands, moving in a slow yet steady manner until eventually focused on his hands.

Surprisingly, the two kingly energies started to complement each other and merge together.

'I thought the Invincible Item only shows my fullest potential and has a time limit?'

<Yes, the Invincible Item is an item that would show the user's full potential. But this item also has the effect of blocking one attack. Since the attack from the Lunirich Gods was still going, the Invincible Item wouldn't lose its effect until it was done>

Nodding his head, Rex's eyes flashed as he now had a chance.

Swish!

Harnessing the combined kingly energy, he also tries to move the kingly energy on his own. The Invincible Item might not allow him to attack using this power, but it will definitely allow him to strengthen himself.

Disregarding his entire body, he only focused the kingly energies on his arms.

"Rrrrggghh!!!"

Rex grunted as he pushes the claws back with immense difficulty and managed to reach a sitting position, he now needs to stand up but that's way harder than it sounds. He could feel that if he force it, then he would slip and get slammed to the ground again.

But it was at that dire moment between risking everything or dying, he felt something.

Glancing over his shoulders to the ground, his eyes widened finding that the ground beneath him turned into a pool of blood. An enchanting voice then whispered in his ears, "Hey... I have an idea, but I want to ask permission from you to do this"

Rex instantly recognized the voice, it was Calidora's voice.

"What are yo-"

Just before he could finish, Calidora whispered something that made his eyes enlarged.

It was a daunting idea that requires both bravery and boldness.

This idea strikes Rex's brain like a needle shock as he couldn't believe what Calidora is planning to do. But even then, he can't undermine that idea as a bad one. If he wants to be perfectly honest that idea is simply brilliant and undeniably wicked.

Rex praised her inside his mind. However, that idea is not optimal for this situation.

"No, the Countess doesn't want to let the attack hits and destroy this place. I'll- I'll need to disintegrate this attack. But if push comes to shove, and I grghh- failed... do what you need to do" Rex said with a stern voice that doesn't want to be rebuked.

Upon hearing this, Calidora could only sigh, "Okay, if you say so..."

Focusing back on the catastrophic descending claws, Rex decided that he was going to risk it. But then, he suddenly felt cursed and blood energy enveloping his body from behind, coating him like some sort of armor.

"Calidora, are you sure you're staying? You might die" Rex utters in surprise.

But Calidora didn't answer and instead help Rex push himself back to his feet, her body emerged from the pool of blood with both of her hands on Rex's back, "I'll give you my power, so use everything you got"

Listening to this, Rex smiled lightly before he nodded his head.

<The user has been coated with armor made of curse and blood energy!>

<All stats have been increased dramatically!>

It was when the cursed and blood energy got transferred onto him, Rex glared back at the claws and also the eight glowing moons in the sky that were flickering, almost as if the Lunirich Gods were mocking his futile attempt.

"RAARRGGHH!!"

Kaboom!

Rex lets out a thunderous roar, his power exploded like a nuke, creating violent shockwaves.

Each of the shockwaves was pulsating with immense power, the power of an eleventh-rank realm being that surpassed the power limit in the modern era. It was so powerful that the reality around him cracked.

Since the Lunirich Gods came from a higher plane, he was also teleported to their dimension.

In the actual world, from Delta's perspective, for instance, she couldn't see anything except for Rex getting pressured down by an invisible force. But when his power exploded, Delta was surprised to see a powerful reign of energy come out from a void crack.

A pathway between the higher plane and the mortal plane was created because of him.

Likewise, being able to see the intense attack of the Lunirich Gods, Calidora decided to help. Aside from giving Rex her powers, her eyes also glowed red brighter as she activates the power that many Vampires envied her for.

"Eyes of Terror!"

Splash!

Despite knowing that it would only be of little help, Calidora was utterly surprised.

Not only was the power from the claws overwhelming, but she felt her entire body shiver when she made contact with the energy. On top of that, her eyes and nose started to bleed the instant she use her Eyes of Terror power.

But that little help is the only Rex needed to get back to his feet.

Garnering more power into his claws which were now sizzling violently with the merged kingly energies, Rex pauses for a second to focus his merged kingly energies into the tip of his claws before he clenched both of his hands.

It was then, his merged kingly energies pierced through the claws.

Almost like tree roots or blood vessels, his kingly energies spread inside the claws like multiple snakelets that are trying to disrupt the flow of energy inside of the claws. This puts a powerful strain on Rex's body.

Even more so considering that many chunks of his body were missing right now.

<Weakness point located!>

Rex also already tries to scan using the System while he made contact with the claws, hoping that the System would be able to find a weak point of the attack. And now, it seems that has paid off.

"I survived..."

Grinning mischievously, he controls the merged kingly energies to attack the weak point.

Splash!

Upon focusing on the weak point and taking down the entirety of the energy flow of the claws, the energy inside becomes unstable, and the attack wobbled for a good five seconds before eventually.

KABOOM!!

One more twist and the claws dispersed completely, vanishing from the spot.

Since he aimed at the weak point of the attack with his merged kingly energies, the claws didn't explode and instead only dispersed. Normally, an energy-related attack would explode when it came in contact with a stronger opposing attack.

Rex usually overpowered others through this method, and that causes much destruction.

But now that the Countess treasured this place, he decided to do this instead.

When the claws dispersed completely, a powerful gush of wind blow to the surrounding area followed by the remnants of the energies inside of the claws earlier, dropping from the sky almost like a colorful snow.

In the next second, Rex fell to his knees as his body was rendered into a horrifying state.

The majority of his body was in a grotesque condition, it was hard to look at him, especially his arms that were in tangles. One could even see the veins and bones inside Rex's arm that were tanking the full brunt of the attack.

One after the other, problems never ceased to leave him alone.

Earlier, he was still extremely weakened to the point of not being able to use any of his powers. In order to put him in that state, he would need to experience an insurmountable of pain and agony.

But now, the Lunirich Gods are bullying him who is in a weakened state.

Surely, it should be unfair for Gods like them to take advantage of his situation and attack.

Just as he thought it was over, a red glint appeared in the sky.

Swoosh!

A red object fell from the sky like a meteor, the tip was cloaked with an intense spiraling blood moon energy. It flew at an extremely fast speed and in an instant, the red object arrived right when Rex raises his gaze.

Upon seeing the tip reaching him, Rex's eyes slightly widened in surprise.

But there was no mercy, the world, and the Gods doesn't care whether he was ready or not. Blood flew into the air creating a daunting arc, piercing the flesh. Clearly, this red object was sent by the Kaiser of the Scarlet Garland who hated him the most.

Considering he took the Kaiser's power, it's not a surprise.

Delta howled in worry from the side seeing this. It was then, she quickly rushes over to help.

