

## **GREED 921**

Chapter 921 The Art Of War: Warrog Edition.

The conflict between the Iron Fur and the sharp tooth pack didn't start and end in a single day. It has been going on for a long time. In that period of time, Sauron had been using some less-than-honorable tactics to weaken the sharp tooth tribe. They are tactics that is usually frowned upon.

He would ambush their warriors when they went out to hunt. He didn't attack them personally so that it wouldn't be considered bullying but he made the warriors of the iron pack attack those of the sharp tooth without any reason. They attacked and killed the paragons of the sharp tooth pack without being officially at war with them.

Those preemptive strikes caught the sharp tooth pack off guard. They couldn't defend themselves against the sudden attack. This way, Sauron reduced the manpower of the sharp tooth pack and also weakened their pack leader.

A paragon gets a boost based on the number of connections that they have. For Warrogs, Betas are at the bottom of the ladder, they don't get any boost. Alphas get a boost from the amount of Betas that they can subjugate and control while the Alpha of Alphas gets stronger the more people are in the pack.

It doesn't matter if they are nameless, Betas, or Alphas. They will strengthen the pack leader as long as they are part of the pack. This is how it is for other races too except that Paragons only awaken at the Mana entity stage. It is different for Warrogs because they have a method to forcefully awaken their divine ability. So to weaken a pack leader, you just have to use the method to weaken any paragon. Which is reducing the population under their control.

Warrogs are honorable to a certain degree. No one touches the Nameless. The nameless are the normal Warrogs. They haven't awakened their divine ability yet, so they don't have names. They are identified through scent and physical features. It is only when a Warrog awakens that they are given a name. A name has to come from a superior so it can come from an Alpha, the pack leader, a Shaman, or the totem pole.

Awakening as a warrior and getting a name is a glorious thing. But as long as you don't have a name, you won't be targeted by the conflicts of the hierarchy or between packs. It is, as they say, The Nameless Are Blameless. That means that Sauron had to target the warriors if it wanted to weaken the park leader of the sharp tooth pack. Even he is not as dishonorable as to attack the Nameless.

His shameless but logical tactics bore fruit. It was a sort of siege on the sharp tooth pack. They couldn't hunt without being attacked. The pack leader of the sharp tooth pack wasn't foolish. He recognized what was going on and he tried to make a full fight occur between both packs but Sauron wasn't willing to see that happen.

Sauron refused to have a full battle between both packs. The only choice the pack leader had was to either go and attack Sauron in the location of the iron fur pack or personally lead his warriors to hunt. Sauron will have to face him if he wants to attack his warriors.

The pack leader of the sharp tooth pack took the latter option. He led his warriors out to hunt. That was his preferred option because the iron fur pack is located up the mountain while his pack is located at the foot of the mountain. He would be at a disadvantage in terrain if he attacked the iron fur pack.

The pack leader of the sharp tooth pack took his warrior out to hunt but Sauron wasn't stumped. He descended the mountain and attacked the valley where the sharp tooth pack was located. Sauron didn't kill or harm any nameless. He killed only the Paragons still in the settlement. The pack leader's pregnant mates like Ragnarok's mother Cuthalin were also present but Sauron didn't touch them either. He only killed the guards and warriors left in the valley.

Sauron played according to the rules but he was shameless about it. No one can say that he was dishonorable. He made sure to follow the rules of war between packs. He didn't touch the nameless.

But the pack leader of the sharp tooth pack didn't think so. A lot of his sons and new Paragons were killed that day. They were too young and weak to hunt. They still needed training before they could control their beast form properly so the pack leader left them back at the settlement where they should have been safe.

Ragnarok's father thought they would be safe. They ought to be safe in their own house but Sauron killed them. He killed them despite their young age because they were Paragons. Sauron had been killing the current generation of warriors before but that wasn't enough for him. He turned his attention to the future generation too. That was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The pack leader of the sharp tooth pack took his hungry and angry warriors on a crusade. He ascended the mountain and assaulted the iron fur pack. He wouldn't take no for an answer this time. He took the fight to them after being harassed for so long. It became a do-or-die affair. He wanted a fight even if it was a bad idea.

He was going to pillage and burn no matter what Sauron thought of it. So Sauron had to fight. They fought a bloody battle at the gate of the iron fur's pack. The sharp tooth pack was incensed with righteous anger while the iron fur had a larger number of warriors and most importantly, they were well-fed warriors. The outcome of the fight was set in stone.

Sauron won the clash easily. He defeated the pack leader and chased the sharp tooth pack down the mountain. The defeated pack leader was supposed to admit defeat but he refused. He didn't give the order to surrender and until he dies, his orders must be obeyed. He himself escaped so Sauron gave chase.

Chapter 922 Potential For Greatness.

The battle continued on while the mates of the defeated pack leader escaped for their lives. Sauron failed to kill the pack leader. He then sent his warriors after the escaped mates with the intention of wiping out the descendants of the former pack leader of the sharp tooth pack.

Ragnarok thought to himself in jest, "Fortunately, my father had the good sense to run. He may be weak, but he knows how to escape well enough or I wouldn't be born.

Sauron would have surely caught up to Cuthalin had he chased her himself. Then Ragnarok wouldn't have been born at all. Fortunately, pack leaders aren't meant to do menial tasks like hunting weak targets or hunting in general.

The Hunt for Cuthalin and the other mates was a move born out of anger. Sauron just wanted to punish the pack leader by killing his loved ones. He wasn't going to chase after them himself.

He couldn't chase after them even if he wanted to. His father and his father's mates ran in different directions. Sauron surely couldn't split himself to chase after all of them. So he sent his warriors after them. Even then, it was too much for his mother to bear. Things could have been completely different had Sauron not been preoccupied with hunting his escaped father.

The shaman said after he was done with the story, "So you see. Everything is not as it seems. The dishonorable pack leader was very emotional and very angry. He couldn't let Sauron have the remnants of his pack after what Sauron did. He was dishonorable but Sauron was shameful. I would have probably behaved the same way if I were in his shoes. The loss of a child is a painful thing to a father."

Ragnarok nodded in understanding. Then he looked up the mountain and asked. "Are you really sure you should be saying this in public like this? The pack leader might not like it if he hears."

The shaman laughed again. "What? Are you saying that I should be afraid that Sauron will get angry? I know Sauron very well. I was there when he was born. I gave him his name when he awakened."

"Oh, so you are very close to the pack leader."

"I am close but I am not saying that my familiarity with Sauron will save me from his wrath. I am saying that I know Sauron enough to know that he won't get angry because of what I just did. If he hears us talking about it, he will only laugh in amusement."

"He will laugh?" Ragnarok asked with a strange expression.

"Yes, he will just laugh. Do you know why?"

Ragnarok shook his head in reply.

"It is because Sauron understands that victory and power are above all else. What does reputation mean? What is it worth when you're weak? Can reputation save you or make you stronger? Maybe it might. But one thing is sure, strength is strength and power is power no matter where you get it from or how you got it. He won and now he is stronger for it. His pack expanded to almost double."

"What about the loser? The loser ran away with its tail between its legs. The loser lost everything. Even the refusal to surrender that he did to spit on Sauron didn't affect Sauron much. A pack leader gets most of his or her strength from the Nameless. And you saw what happened today too. More warriors were created because the totem is stronger. The spoils go to the victor and the victor writes history. As for the loser, he promised to return for vengeance. Is that really possible now?"

Ragnarok shook his head. He understands that vengeance is but a wish. It is not a right. Even if it were a right, the world is not obligated to fulfill it for you. No matter the wrong or injustice that you have experienced, you have to bear with it if you are weak.

Strength is required for everything. The loser needs strength to exert vengeance on Sauron but the possibility of it ever happening has fallen low. The pack leader of the sharp tooth pack couldn't beat Sauron when he had a pack. How will he do it now without a pack when Sauron has also become two times stronger? Only luck or a miracle can help the loser change the situation.

Ragnarok agrees with the Outlook of Sauron. The winner takes all while the losers lose everything. Only strength matters. He ate his mother for strength. Things might not have gone well for him had he not eaten his mother. He would have had to crawl slowly across the floor of the tunnel. It would have been very difficult for him to go up the slope of the tunnel with his strength. He ate his mother and he survived. That's all that matters at the end of the day.

"Sauron isn't so bad. He has the potential for greatness. He is just shackled by rules." He thought to himself.

He admires Sauron a little. The pragmatism he has heard about Sauron is something he finds to be a good character. Of course, when compared to Sauron, he is more evil. He and Sauron are not the same.

He would have killed everyone be they Nameless or not if he could get away with it. He would have killed his father if he wanted the position of pack leader instead of waiting for him to get old. Sauron is not bad. But he cannot eat his own mother for power like Ragnarok did. It is because Sauron still cares about the rules of society.

He thought to himself, "Rules are for the weak. They are meant to corral the sheep into a herd. The strong on the other hand stand above rules and the society. Those who allow rules to shackle themselves are still weak. Sauron needs to learn that or he will forever remain weak. The unwillingness to do anything for power will not make him great."

Chapter 923 Two Sides Of The Same Coin.

Ragnarok asked the shaman, "Where are the Omegas in the pack? There should have been one in the sharp tooth pack since they had a totem. But I see only you."

He is working towards becoming the only Shaman in the pack so he wants to know if he will have any competitors.

The old shaman replied, "Yes, there was a shaman. She was still in the prime of her life. That is both a good thing and a bad thing. Being young means that she has a lot of potential. But that also made her as naive as a youngling like you."

Ragnarok rolled his eyes at the subtle remark. He said, "I know what you're doing old man."

The old Shaman didn't address his suspicions. He continued innocently, "She didn't want to be a part of Sauron's tribe after the way everything turned out. She said she wasn't comfortable with the way Sauron took the tribe. So she left."

"I assume that's why you think she is naive," Ragnarok said.

"She is a naive fool. She missed out on the combined strength of the totem and braved the wild just because she couldn't bear to see some bloodshed. Bloodshed is bloodshed no matter how it was carried out and war is war."

He asked, "So she is gone just like that?"

"She probably joined another pack. That's the best thing that can happen to her but there's no other pack in this mountain range with a totem as strong as ours."

Ragnarok and the Shaman had a lengthy conversation that day. The old shaman spent the rest of the dim day and many dim days after that inducting the new Omega into the ways of the shaman. It is his duty as the one that allowed Ragnarok to become indentured into the Shaman profession.

Ragnarok soaked up the teachings and the stories like an eager student. He settled into the tribe easily as the new shaman. He has nowhere he has to be. He is already a paragon so all he needs to do is keep his head low and survive long enough to become an Origin God.

Unfortunately, things rarely work out the way we want them to. There are dangerous undercurrents in the Lumen plane. Ragnarok's mere existence added more flux to those dangerous undercurrents. He stayed in the iron fur park silently without causing any trouble or making waves but his mere existence led to changes that he couldn't foresee.

The paragon system of Warrogs has a hierarchy. The connection between Warrogs is just a part of their divine ability. But their divine ability has been diluted so they only awaken the paragon part which is based on the connections between each other. Even then, they are not allowed to become transcedents because they will get access to laws and become able to interfere in the workings of their divine ability.

But that's just the external problem. It is a problem caused by the wood elves and the fountain of life. The change that Ragnarok caused is an internal problem or maybe it is an opportunity. Only time will tell. He awakened the divine ability of an Omega. That action set other events into motion unbeknownst to him.

The issue here is that Omegas work together with an Alpha. They don't work for the alpha, they work together with one. The Alpha leads the living while the Omega leads the dead. So the Alpha and the Omega are opposite sides of the same coin. One cannot exist without the other in the hierarchy.

To be precise, he awakened the divine ability of the Executioner. The Executioner is an Omega that acts alone and gains strength from the dead. The corresponding Alpha divine ability is the Emperor. The Emperor is an Alpha who works with an enlarged pack that can be as large as the entire race itself and also gains strength from the living.

Another thing is also known about them, there is always an Emperor for an Executioner and vice versa. It has always been that way in the history of Warrogs. It is just that the Executioners are not well known compared to the Emperors. As it is, an Executioner has been born, which means that an Emperor must be born too.

Remnants of dead Paragons can still remain in this world. In a situation where those warriors had faith in a God, those remnants would have gone to the divine kingdom of that God. Those remnants can be empowered by their god to become angels. The Warrogs are able to achieve something close to that to empower themselves because of the spiritual connection that they have with each other.

This spiritual connection exists on a very large scale. It mimics the connection between every being born within the plane and their plane. This connection binds all Warrogs together. The existence of an Executioner creates a void in the hierarchy that must be filled by the connection.

Ragnarok's existence evoked the creation of an Emperor just as the dead warriors evoked the activation of the dormant divine ability within other Warrogs. A Warrog fetus somewhere awakened the divine ability of the Emperor. The resistance of the law fragments within the divine ability couldn't stop the determined will of an entire race.

The law of devouring within the fetus became whole again. It was accompanied by the law of earth which Emperors have instead of the law of Slaughter. But things didn't end there.

This special event was witnessed by two entities. The first entity is the one that cursed the Warrogs. This entity goes by the title of Fountain of Life. The fountain of life is also the one that was watching Ragnarok.

Ragnarok has been under its surveillance ever since before he was born. This surveillance existed even before he was born. The fountain of life has been monitoring him from the very moment he reincarnated into the fetus. He drew the fountain of life's attention when he began tampering with his divine ability.

Chapter 924 The Child Of The Lumen Plane.

The fountain of life doesn't know that he reincarnated. It only knows that some changes were made to Ragnarok's divine ability and that he awakened the original one. It doesn't know that Ragnarok made the changes but such a thing couldn't escape the notice of the fountain of life. But the fountain of life didn't do anything about it. The Fountain of Life chose to simply watch.

The fountain of life is a powerful entity. It is not threatened by Ragnarok despite sensing that he has a very powerful soul. Ragnarok surely has potential but potential doesn't equate to strength. Potential needs safety and time before it can become Strength. A dead genius is no different from a dead moron.

The most important reason why the fountain of life chose to abstain from killing Ragnarok for breaking the curse is that it is in a stalemate with the demon God of Carnage and it wants Ragnarok to help it. These are dire times after all.

The fountain of life doesn't expect Ragnarok to help out of the good of his heart. From the little it has seen about him, Ragnarok has very little good in his heart. But Ragnarok has to help out of necessity. He has to help or the demon God of Carnage will kill him.

The demon God of Carnage is not going to target him personally. The aim of the demon God of Carnage to subjugate all life and propagate Carnage endlessly will surely lead to it facing off against Ragnarok. So the Fountain of Life chose to watch instead of taking action to eliminate Ragnarok.



The fountain of life is so powerful that it has the entirety of the plane under its surveillance. So it noticed the creation of an Emperor immediately too. It would have noticed even if it were not that powerful. After all, the curse on the Warrogs has been deactivated twice on the same day. So it noticed this unborn future Emperor. The will of the plane also noticed the creation of the Emperor.

The will of the plane is the second entity that witnessed the creation of a future Emperor. But unlike the fountain of life who could afford to wait and see, the will of the plane is very desperate and anxious. The will of the plane is being threatened directly by the demon God of Carnage. It is facing an existential crisis because even it, a mere will, is not safe from the hands of a demon God.

A demon God is a vile universal virus. It will spread and rewrite everything it comes into contact with, be it spiritual, elemental, or physical, to create more of itself. The will of a plane is not safe from it either. The will of the plane is connected to every living thing within the plane so the demon God of Carnage can reach it through the living.

In fact, it has been fighting a losing battle with the demon God of Carnage for hundreds of years now. To a demon God, there's no better meal than the consciousness of all life within a plane. It is a delicacy to it just as much as the heart of a world or world god is to a Chaos entity.

The will of the plane was losing at the start of the battle and it is losing faster since the demon God is also simultaneously attacking the living things in the plane while directly attacking its will. The will of the plane can be likened to the ultimate Paragon. It is connected to every living being in the plane. It is unfortunate that it cannot use that strength personally. So it needs a worthy defender that it can bestow its strength to.

There hasn't been a worthy target for the position of defender of the plane these past few hundred years. The tree people dominate the plane but they are also the favorite target for the demon God of Carnage.

The tree people are vulnerable to the sin of Carnage. It will be game over if the will of the plane makes a connection with one of the tree people only for that tree person to be turned into the spawn of the demon God. That will create a direct connection to the will of the plane for the demon God. In summary, that will be the literal end of the plane.

The will of the plane didn't have a good choice apart from the tree people. The other races are weaker and don't have a divine ability. The Warrogs are good but they have been crippled by the fountain of life so they can't fully utilize the boost from the will of the plane. They still have their connections but the boost will go to waste because there's nothing to use it for.

The fountain of life diluted their divine ability with the fragments of the law of life on purpose. It ensured that the will of the plane will not be able to use the Warrogs to fight it. So the Will of the plane didn't have a good choice that will fully utilize the power of the plane. That changed when Ragnarok appeared.

The will of the plane would have chosen him immediately if his boost was aligned toward the living, not the dead. The Will of the plane represents the will of the living and the power gained from them. That power would have gone to waste on Ragnarok. But the will of the plane wasn't disappointed. Another opportunity arose because of Ragnarok and it took it.

It made sure that Ragnarok's existence successfully invoked the creation of a future Emperor despite the resistance of the curse of the fountain of life. This new unborn Emperor is the perfect vessel for its power so the will of the plane selected her.

The will of the plane selected the Empress as the child of the plane. It created a bond of power with the unborn fetus. It didn't wait for it to be born before it made the selection. It wasn't going to leave anything to chance. It also wanted to craft the empress into the perfect weapon to use against the demon god.

Chapter 925 Changes To The Plane.

Of course, this impatience drew the attention of a third party. The demon God didn't notice Ragnarok but it surely noticed this unborn Empress. It is fighting the Will of the plane so it noticed that the movement and actions of the Will of the plane within a living being in the plane. The demon god began to move its forces to eliminate her.

The will of the plane knew that its activities wouldn't go without being noticed but it did it anyway. It did it for several reasons. The first reason is the chance to mold the Empress into a bane to Vampires. So it swapped out the law of earth in her divine ability for something more dangerous to Vampires.

The second reason and the most important one is the supply of infinite energy that the fetus will get through their connection. This will ensure that the fetus grows to its best potential and also speed up the development process. That wouldn't protect the new child of the plane. After all, potential is not equal to strength.

So to keep the child of the plane safe, the will of the plane made a deal with the fountain of life. The two of them are enemies normally. The fountain of life is an invader and the will of the plane hates invaders.

Their enmity is worse because of what the fountain of life is. The Will of the plane has tried to eliminate the fountain of life before and they were still at each other's throats just before the demon god came to their plane. But the fountain of life accepted the deal for the greater good.

It is good for the fountain of life to have two potential people who can help with the fight against the demon God of Carnage. Besides, it doesn't hate or want to kill the Will of the plane. It is just defending itself against the attacks of the Will of the plane. If it wanted to, it could have done something worse than cursing the Warrogs.

The Fountain of Life's decision to protect the child of the plane led to the mobilization of the tree people. The fountain of life has always had a beneficial relationship with the tree people. So it got the word out to them about protecting the Warrogs.

The fountain of life didn't tell the tree people anything specific since they can be easily compromised by the demon God of Carnage. It only told them to protect the Warrogs but didn't mention anything about Emperors or Executioners, who they were, or where they were. The fountain of life even sent out its own forces to help out.

All these changes happened in the plane without Ragnarok noticing. He thinks his reincarnation and birth went smoothly apart from the problem of his dying mother. He thinks he just has to keep his head down and stay low for him to avoid trouble. He is partly right. He will be completely right if the three main forces in the plane are not aware of his existence and are not interested in him.

----

In a City Controlled by the Tree People.

This city is called Lush Mountain. It was named so because it was formed by massive evergreen trees that are as tall as mountains. The trees formed a thick forest that has resisted change for millions of years.

Lush Mountain has been one of the abodes of the tree people since ancient times. They built shelters on the branches of trees and around the trees. None of the trees were removed to create space for the tree people. The tree people lived in complete harmony with their environment so no harm came to the trees.

Despite the limitations of space due to the size of the trees, the tree people managed to create a sprawling city with high-rise structures. The trees are skyscrapers if one isn't picky with the term. Roads of vines were formed between trees. There are ladders everywhere that were used to reach tall places for those who can't fly. As for those that can fly, there is no problem at all with getting anywhere.

This city is a utopia for the tree people. This utopia was threatened when the sun was blocked. The lack of light and the plummeting temperature threatened to destroy the city. The Vitality of the trees was put to the test.

The tree people had to do something they hated to do in order to preserve the city. They built a barrier around the city to protect it and created an artificial source of light within the enclosed city to preserve the city.

The city was saved but the tree people were not happy about it. They were not happy because what they did to save it interfered with the natural order of the world. They had to isolate the lush mountain from the rest of the world for their selfishness. It goes against everything that they stand for. They are supposed to be guardians of the forest that maintains the natural order of things. They aren't supposed to interfere with nature.

Some might say that they are nitpicking and being hard on themselves. After all, the blockage of the sun is not natural and they are only rectifying the disorder caused by the advent of the demon God. That reasoning elevated the mood of the tree people but it didn't last long because they had to do more things that they ought not to do in order to preserve the world.

The lush mountain is not the only forest in danger because of the demon God. Are they to isolate the entire plane and create an artificial sun? They refused to do that. So they watched as their beloved trees wilted and died.

They mourned the loss of their forests as they planted new trees that could survive in the low light and cold temperatures. It was a plane-wide replacement of trees. Many tree people cried and mourned the death of so many trees.

Chapter 926 Shameless Enough.

Something as absurd as the death of more than 70% of trees in the plane was never anticipated by the tree people. It is a nightmare for them.

They realized they were overreacting when the real nightmare came. The spawns of the demon God appeared amongst them. Many of them succumbed to the temptation of power. Most of the spawns appeared from within the dark elves that lived underground. It wasn't much of a surprise to the wood elves since those elves were already evil.

It came to them as a shock that some tree elves also succumbed to the whisperings of the demon God. It couldn't be helped. The tree people are all about balance and peace but there has to be a black sheep in a flock of sheep. It is a matter of probability. After all, the dark elves used to be tree people so the tree people can be evil too.

A nightmare descended on the tree people who are also called wood elves and the dark elves. It led to war, suspicions, hate, and strife that divided the elves for hundreds of years.

The nightmare lasted for hundreds of years. Then peace came to the wood elves. The wood elves were able to easily purge the abominations. The sun is blocked but its light still shines on the upper world. It made the upper world not conducive to the abominations. Some of the abominations could go out during the dim day but the fountain of life could always tell where they were hiding in the upper world so they were forced underground where they continued to fester. So the wood elves regained peace.

This peace which has lasted for hundreds of years has finally been disturbed. Something is making the demon God target the upper world again. The fountain of life has informed the council of the leadership of the wood elves about the movements of the abominations. The Fountain of Life also made an absurd request that the wood elves don't want to do at all.

----

The council of leadership is currently meeting in Lush Mountain. They are meeting to decide their plan of action due to the recent developments. Thousands of Sovereigns of law are attending this meeting.

The meeting is taking place in an open-air plaza formed by the joining of the flattened branches of numerous trees. The Sovereigns are seated in a circle around the chairman of the council.

One of the sovereigns asked incredulously, "What did you just say?"

The representative of the Fountain of Life who also happens to be the chairman of the leadership council replied, "I said that the Fountain of Life asked us to protect the settlements of the Warrogs."

The distraught Sovereign spoke, "I heard you the first time. I am not deaf and slow of mind. I just wanted to see if you're shameless enough to repeat such a scandalous request." Then the Sovereign sneered, "It seems you really are shameless. You disgust me."

The chairman of the council sighed. She is usually not someone that hostility is directed at. She is an impartial party meant to streamline the voting process and make sure that order is kept. She herself can't vote. She is the representative of the fountain of life so it can't be seen that she is being biased or trying to put in motions that favor the fountain of life.

The wood elves respect the fountain of life. They have a lot to be thankful to the fountain of life for. The fountain of life helped them when they were weak and allowed them to survive and even become the overlords of the plane. But some of their awe and respect have diminished the stronger they have become. It doesn't help that the recent generation of wood elves has not met or seen the fountain of life in millions of years.

The absence of the fountain of life has not made it a myth. There are records and memories of the fountain of life in their bloodlines. There is also the historical civil war of the tree people caused by the blessing of the fountain of life. So it is certain that the fountain of life existed. What they aren't sure about is its current situation.

The fountain of life might be weak now or even dead. At least, those are one of the reasons they came up with for its prolonged absence. It should have become an Origin god after such a long time. Maybe it died during the tribulation or at the tower of heaven. Or maybe it has become an origin God and left the plane so there's no reason to fear it within the plane.

Only the representatives of the fountain of life claim to remain in contact with it. But that doesn't help the situation. It has alienated the representatives. After all, what could be so special about them that the fountain of life will only reveal itself to them and not to the rest of the wood elves?

The representatives of the Fountain of Life also have wings. They are not bird wings with feathers but scaled bat wings. Wood elves don't have wings so it has further set the representatives apart from the others. The only respect that the wood elves have for the fountain of life is the respect ingrained in them due to their bloodline. But that respect cannot compare with the hatred that they have for the Warrogs.

The Warrogs terrorized the tree people. They ate everything both trees and tree people alike. They even ate non-living things too. They destroyed everything wherever they went. The days of the world wars were the worst times for the tree people. It took all they had not to wipe out that race once and for all. Some of them wanted to wipe out the Warrogs. It caused a lot of arguments and bitterness among the tree people.

The ones that wanted to wipe out the Warrogs left at the end of the civil war to leave underground. The remaining tree people on the surface are the ones that held to the values that made the fountain of life choose them in the place. They settled themselves to be content with crippling the Warrogs.

But now the fountain of life wants them to also protect the Warrogs. It is like asking them to throw a party for someone who murdered their parents and siblings. It is utterly shameless to ask them to do that.

Chapter 927 Kill The Warrogs.

So the Sovereigns refused to comply with the request of the fountain of life. They shouted and disagreed en mass. The plaza became rowdy and noisy despite the usual calm disposition of wood elves.

The representative of the fountain of life remained silent and bore the criticism. It turned out to be a good idea. The sovereigns stopped shouting when they got no response from her.

So someone asked her, "Why does the Fountain of Life want us to protect the Warrogs? Surely there must be a valid reason for this absurd request."

She answered, "The spawns of the demon God are coming to the surface and they will target the Warrogs. They cannot turn the Warrogs but they can feed on them to strengthen themselves. Protecting the Warrogs is in our interest."

They understand her reason and they also expect it because they know why the suggestion is a good one. But they made her say it so that they could propose a more pleasant alternative that could achieve the same thing.

Another sovereign said, "We know that the spawns feed on all life and are strengthened by the feeding. Why don't we get rid of all the Warrogs? That way, the spawns of the demon God won't be able to get to them and use them against us."

That's what they want. Rather than spend time and effort to protect the Warrogs, they prefer to get rid of the Warrogs once and for all.

The representative sighed and asked. "What about the other races in the plane? Do we also get rid of them or are we to only eliminate the Warrogs? Is that what we are now? Are we butchers? I thought we were guardians. Isn't it our job to protect and to maintain the natural order of life? What will separate us from the dark elves if we start killing wantonly?"

They couldn't answer her. Her questions made them feel deeply ashamed. They hate the Warrogs a lot but they are not killers. They would like to visit pain on the Warrogs for the loss of many trees bonded to them but they are not the dark elves. They are wood elves and they respect all life.

They agree with her but that doesn't mean that they will protect the Warrogs. She has only convinced them not to kill the Warrogs. She still has a lot to do if she wants to convince them to protect their hated enemies. So the argument continued for a long while after that.

Even after they agreed to protect the Warrogs, they didn't do it to the best of their abilities. They were negligent. Their negligence allowed the following events to occur.

-----

100 Years After The Birth Of Ragnarok. The Rising Mountain Range.

The Rising Mountain Range is a geographical feature formed with several mountains joined at the edges in a continuous linkage. It is the location of one of the settlements of the Warrogs. Specifically, it is also



where Ragnarok is staying. This mountain range is currently home to 2 tribes. They used to be 11 but they became just 2 today.

Ragnarok stood on top of a peak. There is a very tall white pillar behind him while there is a large population of Warrogs beneath him. The white pillar is stained with red marks and blotches. It has grown taller over the years just as the Warrog population has increased.

His eyes roamed the scenery of the mountain range. He found Warrogs everywhere he looked. All these Warrogs belong to the iron fur pack. A single pack has enlarged so much that they occupy the entirety of the mountain.

"There must be at least a million of them." He said to himself.

The iron fur pack has annexed most of the other packs and they have also subdued the environment to make it more suitable for living. Just today, Sauron defeated another pack leaving just one other one. The population of the pack has ballooned from 10,000 that it was a hundred years ago to about 1 million now. That is remarkable growth.

The success of the iron fur pack is partly due to Sauron and partly due to Ragnarok who is the current and only Shaman of the pack. The previous Shaman grew senile and mad in his old age. Then he didn't wake up one day. They found blood running down his nose. It was a tragic death. But the old shaman wasn't missed.

It is disputable if Ragnarok is solely to thank for the prosperity of the pack, but the changes to the environment are mostly due to him. He has achieved things that the old shaman didn't. No one misses the old shaman because of it.

Someone called to Ragnarok from behind him. "Shaman Chief, there are some warriors here for your blessings."

He replied without turning back. "I will be there soon."

The acolyte that called for him nodded and stood waiting patiently.

Ragnarok continued to look at the changes to the environment. He can see tall structures built out of hewn rocks. These are used as houses for the pack members. It is an upgrade from the usual cave living conditions of the past.

There are other developments, mostly based on the use of rocks as building material for a lot of things. Warrogs lacked tools and methods to work rock and create things out of rocks. But that has changed thanks to him. They have furniture, utensils, weapons, and tools made with rocks now.

All these changes occurred in the last hundred years because of the "Shaman Chief."

"Shaman Chief." He thought to himself with a chuckle.

It is a title that belongs to him automatically since he is the only Shaman of the pack. That was also when the iron fur pack began its meteoric rise. Both the pack leader and the Shaman were ambitious so they worked together and brought glory to the pack.

The pack has changed a lot and so has he. He is not a vitality core stage refiner anymore. He has made the leap to become a Mana entity.

Chapter 928 Strength Is Supreme.

It was a matter of course for him to become a mana entity but it was considered a momentous achievement by the Warrogs. A party was even thrown for him. It lasted 7 days and 7 nights. He managed not to snicker, sneer, or mock them through the period of festivities.

"Only strength is supreme."

He doesn't care about the respect and adoration of the Iron Fur pack. All he cares about is his strength. Becoming a mana entity is not enough for him to be content or happy about. The only thing about him that impresses him is his divine ability.

The vitality core within him has enlarged and become a black ball with 9 spikes. He is bigger and taller now. He reaches over 4 meters tall when standing. That is the height of Aeternus and Soverick combined.

His white fur is marked with some red tattoos. One of the horns on his head is completely red. All in all, he looks like a tribalistic Shaman of a backward race.

The changes he has undergone are much deeper than that. Soverick has become the child of the plane so he has unlimited access to Mana and origin energy. The tree father has also awakened so he has access to divine life energy. Mana and Origin energy is currently not useful to him. Divine life energy on the other hand is a blessing to him.

His divine ability has awakened officially when he became a Mana entity. Its current ability is to devour living things or the flesh of living things to empower him. He hasn't had many opportunities to use it because his preferred targets are Mana entities and Mana entities are very rare to come across.

Vitality core refiners don't even add 1 stat to him anymore if he eats one whole. Mana entities are the next best thing that eating will grant him power. But the only Mana entities around here are pack leaders. They are rare and he can't eat them.

A shaman can have a problem with a pack leader and even fight one to the death but that shaman has to give the pack leader an honorable burial unless the pack leader has broken some rules and is dishonorable.

Pack leaders rarely fight. And even when they do, they rarely kill each other. A pack leader can surrender when it becomes obvious that they are going to die if they don't. Their life will be preserved if they do so.

Pack leaders uphold the customs and rules of the society. They will surely be noticed if they go missing. It will also be very weird if he is picking fights with pack leaders for no reason, kills them, and then eats them. It will draw the attention of the overlords of the plane to himself if he acts out of place.

So all in all, he has not had the chance to taste a Mana entity. But he has been able to strengthen himself through other methods. The first one and his best method is divine life energy.

Helios could absorb Mana to grow stronger and then use life energy to break his limits. As for him, he cannot absorb Mana, but he doesn't have any limit at all. He can continue to grow stronger and stronger the more he eats.

Divine life energy is easily absorbed by his divine ability and turned into power for him. Unfortunately, the tree father doesn't have infinite divine life energy. The tree father needs faith to create divine life energy and faith is finite.

He is also not the only clone that needs divine life energy. Legion-7 is currently the one that needs it the most. He needs it or he might die. So Ragnarok has to limit how much divine life energy he uses and look for an alternative to strengthen himself.

He turned to the normal way that the shamans use to strengthen themselves. Omegas use the law of Slaughter in their divine ability to strengthen themselves. That also involves killing. But killing anything will work. They use what they kill to form power tattoos.

These power tattoos are the red tattoos on his body. That's why they say Omegas empower themselves with the dead. The red tattoos empower the Omega just like the connection that an Alpha of Alphas forms with the park empowers them.

He empowered himself and also learned more about his environment. He learned of the numerous problems facing him. He is now sure that the object covering the sun is a demon God.

He doesn't know the exact demon God but he knows that his situation is not good at all. He is yet to have a solution to that problem but that's understandable. There's nothing he can do against a demon God right now. He needs a lot more strength to be anything more than a bug to a demon God.

He also learned about the oppression of the Warrogs by the wood elves. He learned about the bitter and violent history between the two races so he understands why the Warrogs are being controlled and manipulated.

This mountain range is one of the scattered settlements of Warrogs. There is a large distance between each settlement. It ensures that the Warrogs are scattered and can't communicate with each other. If they can't communicate with each other then they won't be able to combine their strength either.

His search into the methods that the wood elves use to control the Warrogs also led to the suspicious weakening of the divine ability of the Warrogs.

He thought the presence of the fragments of the law of life within his divine ability was a personal and singular situation. But he has not seen or heard of any other Warrogs with the ability to eat things and grow stronger from it.

So he is relatively confident that the Warrogs have suffered a calamity and that it probably has something to do with the curse inflicted on them by the wood elves. And he is also sure that he is the only paragon with the full divine ability of Warrogs.

Chapter 929 Slow And Steady.

There are a lot of things that he isn't sure about yet. He thinks it is the demon God that is watching him but he isn't sure yet. He also doesn't know what makes the Underdark so terrifying. There have been a lot of rumors and scattered stories about some beasts or undead but nothing accurate has been determined.

Reliable information about the Underdark is rare because there is no witness who has seen the terrifying beasts and the fact that it has been hundreds of years since they were last sighted. Warrogs have a low lifespan of 200 years without becoming mana entities and they have no record-keeping system. They don't even have written language. So most of their history has been lost or reduced to tales.

"Slow and steady wins the race." He said to encourage himself.

He would like to go all out on a killing spree to strengthen himself. He is not one to be subdued for so long, but he has to show restraint in this uncertain environment. The nail that stands out gets hammered. He doesn't want to get hammered especially when he doesn't need strength urgently.

There are a lot of forces and powers that he doesn't know or understand so he shouldn't risk danger for quick strength. It is better to grow steadily while being relatively unknown. What he knows is already enough danger to him much less the unknown.

So he held his impulse to kill despite the daily ravings of his stomach. He doesn't need the story about the tree people eliminating suspiciously violent Warrogs to control himself. He is not a beast that can't

control his instincts and impulses. The fact that he can't go about killing and eating any pack leader has only made him more cautious.

"Alright. Who is here to be blessed?" He asked the acolyte.

"It is Warrior Tesrat and her squad." The acolyte replied respectfully.

He nodded and turned towards the totem pillar. The totem pillar has become almost a hundred meters tall now due to the additions over the years. It has also become a lot more powerful than it used to be. It was moved to this peak so that everyone in the large area of the park could see it.

He would like to use it for his own purposes but he isn't strong enough to handle Sauron yet. He has to be able to fend off Sauron if he wants to tamper with the spiritual foundation of the park. Sauron will definitely want his head for what he wants to do with the totem.

He gave it one final glance before he turned away. He went on a path that led to his abode on the peak. There is a shelter made of felt, wood, and rocks at the end of the path. It is a tribalistic-looking large structure adorned with several animal bones.

It is a grand structure of opulence in this pack. That's what other Warrogs think of it. He can't disagree with them more. He thinks the only thing right about his abode is that it is large enough to contain him. As for it being luxurious, it is far from it. It cannot compare to the luxury of Helios's life as the son of a god.

Some people are waiting for him outside the shelter. They are all Betas and they are about 10 in number. They all bowed wordlessly as he passed by. None of them met his eyes or dared to look at him for too long. They fear him for his power. But they also revere him for his position as Shaman.

That makes two very important reasons to respect him. He ignored them and entered his abode. It was after he was gone that they raised their heads.

There are three people waiting for him in the shelter. They are seated in the visitor seats. One of them is a female. She is bigger than the two male Betas sitting beside her. She smiled when she saw him. All three of them stood up to welcome him.

"Welcome, chief shaman Ragnarok." She bowed in greeting.

The other two also bowed.

He said to them, "Welcome to my humble abode. Please take a seat."

They sat down and he sat too. She laughed and said, "You're a big shot now. I remember the day I found you at the entrance of the Underdark. You have become so strong and influential right now."

He nodded in agreement. "Yes. How time flies."

"I remember you were so small that I could smack you around. I did smack you and you almost fell. You were that small Omega Warrog that was lucky enough to survive the Underdark."

Then she laughed and said, "Now you're twice as tall as me. I can't try to smack you around anymore. I will fail at it and might get smacked around for my impudence instead."

He is truly taller than her. She used to be the one that towered over him back then. A single clap of her hand on his back made him stumble back then. He might just break her back if he subjects her to the same treatment now.

He smiled too, "You have also become stronger."

She shook her head wistfully. "I have become stronger but not as much as you."

She has increased the number of Betas in her squad to 12. That's twice as many as her previous amount of Betas. She has become almost 2 times stronger than she was. It is a significant amount of improvement but it lacks when compared to him.

What she knows about his strength already outclasses hers. And he was just a youngling when she found him a hundred years ago.

He encouraged her. "At least you're still alive and you still have more good years left. You too can become an Alpha of Alphas. It is just a matter of time if you continue to work hard."

He advised her like a good shaman would. It is his job and he is very good at it.

Chapter 930 The Calamity That Is Sauron.

He is not just saying useless words for encouragement. Tesrat has become older but she still has at least 50 years to try and coerce her cells to switch to metabolizing Mana for vitality. She is still alive and it is better than what some get. Sauron has been fighting a lot of wars these years so a lot of warriors from the original Iron Fur pack have died. It is a boon that she still has her life ahead of her.

"Yes, I suppose you're right. But what are the chances of me becoming an Alpha of Alphas?" She asked.

He replied, "It is very high if you ask me. You have shown progression all these years. You haven't stagnated so there is still hope for you."

His reply made her sigh. She understands that life is precious because she has lost many Betas over the years. But things are not looking good for her. She is getting close to death and her situation will only get slightly better even if she becomes a Mana entity. Sure she will get more lifespan but she will be expelled from the pack too. Sauron is not willing to share his pack with another leader so he has not taken a second in command.

Any new Alpha of Alphas from the pack is free to challenge him for the position of pack leader or just leave the pack with their life. But Sauron is constantly expanding and taking every good place available on the mountain range. New Alpha of Alphas have to go to unsafe places to start their own pack. It is not a good prospect for her or a good encouragement for her to become a Mana entity.

"Who can live as an Alpha of Alphas under the shadow of Sauron?" She lamented.



Ragnarok didn't reply. His silence made her chuckle deprecatingly. She thought to herself, "You bear part of the blame for the current situation."

She thinks Ragnarok is also to blame for the current unpalatable situation for new Alphas of Alphas. But she didn't dare voice her thoughts.

Sauron has become a hegemon in the surroundings. The iron fur pack is an overlord and their chief shaman is someone that other Omegas are begging to teach them. Sometimes she thinks it will be better if she stays a member of this pack because she doesn't want to become an enemy of this pack. She has seen what happens to the enemies of the Iron Fur pack over the years.

He looked at the pile of animals by the side and spoke, "So you're here for your blessing. Have you decided on which one you want?"

She replied. "Yes. We want the 13 protective charms, 1 healing blessing, and 12 power charms."

"That will cost you 27 offerings. As an old friend, I'll make it 25 offerings. I will also throw in a free power charm for you to complete the blessings for your squad." He told her.

She smiled and said, "Thank you so much, Chief Ragnarok. You're a lifesaver."

He waved away her praises, "Don't worry about it. What are friends for?"

She told him why she wanted his blessings. "One of my Beta is injured. He broke an arm. He can heal it but we don't want to risk it. The charms are for each of us."

He nodded in understanding. "Bring the one that needs healing first. Then everyone should take turns"

The animals in the pile are offerings for him. They are in exchange for his blessings. His blessings have become quite popular all around the mountain range for their power and usefulness. It is one of the major reasons for the strength of the iron fur pack.

Sauron is very strong. He has no match throughout the mountain range but Sauron is only one person. He is the backbone of the tribe but he can't be everywhere at once. The strength of his warriors is also very important. Ragnarok has managed to double the strength of the warriors and effectively double the strength of the tribe. Even Sauron himself comes for the blessings.

It is the job of the shaman to strengthen the warriors but the other shamans are not like him. They only offer a single blessing which is the power tattoo. They bestow it upon warriors using the dead prey that they bring as offerings. Those power tattoos are permanent but they cost two offerings for a single one.

A warrior will need at least 10 power tattoos before they can experience a significant increase in strength. That means a warrior will need 20 offerings for them to see a 1% increase in their power. They will need exponentially more offerings to gain more power. The amount of offerings needed might be higher than that depending on the skill of the Shaman.

As for him, there are several blessings that he offers. There is the healing blessing which is just a healing spell. Warrogs have very strong regeneration abilities. They can heal broken limbs but they cannot regrow severed limbs. His healing spell can heal detached limbs as long as they are rejoined and he can heal almost every sickness so it is very popular.

There are other blessings like the protective charms which is just a tool that creates a protective barrier for a short while. It is from a simple barrier spell but the Warrogs don't know it. They think it is a divine blessing since it can block any type of attack.

The power charm is another consumable tool that empowers its users for a limited time. He used a wind spell which makes the user faster. Its users experience a sudden boost to their speed so it gives an illusion that they are stronger. They attack faster and move faster due to the spell. Hence, they believe that gained extra power.

Ragnarok thought to himself in ridicule, "Sometimes, being among ignorant people isn't such a bad experience. I can sell them off and they won't even have an inkling of it."