

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

Chapter 101: Lux's Carefully Planned Slaughterhouse

While the Orc Guards were manning their posts, they casually conversed with each other. Several Orc Warriors entered and left the camp from time to time, allowing Lux to get a general idea of how many forces were in or around Baronar's encampment at any given time.

The numbers gave him a headache and made him wonder if there had been others who had tried to clear the quest in the past, but were unable to do so due to the sheer difficulty of the mission.

'If my estimate is correct, aside from the twelve Orc Guards, there are still at least forty Orc Warriors in the encampment,' Lux mused. 'Baronar is located at the Central Tent, and is mostly spending his time alone, performing some experiments. I just hope my plan works.'

After waiting half an hour longer, Lux sent a mental message to Diablo and Ishtar to immediately start their operation.

Immediately, several fiery lights appeared in the distance. A moment later, a rain of arrows fell on the Orc Encampment, setting the tent where the food reserves were stored on fire.

The Orc Guards immediately blew a horn to alert everyone in the camp that they were under attack.

Several of the Orc Warriors ran towards the food storage tent, attempting to extinguish the flames that were already turning their food supply to ashes.

However, that was the least of their problems. The rain of arrows continued, setting more tents in the Orc Encampment on fire, creating more and more chaos.

The Skeletal Grand Archers kept on firing fire arrows that were imbued with the flames of Diablo's Nightmare Mount, Airon.

It was at that moment that the Guard Captain roared and ordered the Guards to attack the Skeleton Archers in the distance. A dozen Orc Warriors joined the Guards and charged towards their enemies as they shouted their war cries.

Seeing this development, Diablo and the Skeleton Grand Archers made a strategic retreat towards the forest. Their role was to lure as many Orcs away from their encampment as possible so that Lux's forces could kill them off one by one and weaken Baronar's forces.

Ishtar, the Forgotten Queen, shot her deadly arrows at the Orc Warriors that were at the rear of the formation. She was like a wraith that moved from tree to tree as she unleashed deadly rain of arrows that were coated in frost, which slowed the Orcs down in their pursuit after getting hit.

The Skeleton Grand Archers had learned the skill Poison Arrow which they repeatedly shot at the Orcs, making their high health decrease by a good margin.

With Eiko's ability to copy Lux's skills, the number of Skeleton Grand Archers on Lux's side rose to eight in total. Although their numbers were few, the way they had used their poison arrows to cripple their enemies had slowly taken its toll.

Naturally, once an Orc got near one of the Skeletons, it only took them five swings of their weapons to completely shatter the bodies of the Skeleton Grand Archers.

But, that was not a problem.

"Ei! Ei! Ei!" Eiko shouted as she summoned her new Skeleton Grand Archers to replace those that had died in battle.

Lux was doing the same. The Half-Elf and the Slime were currently on top of a tree, watching the battle unfold from their vantage point.

Diablo with his mighty steed, Airon, played their role well and were a force to be reckoned with. The two of them were peak Rank 2 Monsters, but although they were weaker than the Orc Guards, they weren't fighting alone.

It was the typical $1+1 = 2$ scenario in which Diablo and his mount, Airon, attacked their enemies in unison.

The Nightmare fired Flame Lances left and right, while Diablo hacked away at the Orc Guards with his sword, and blocked their blows with his shield.

If it weren't for the Skeletal Fighters that Lux and Eiko summoned, which numbered a total of fourteen, Diablo would have a harder time in the battle.

Over twenty-four Orcs charged towards the forest, and all of them fell into Lux's carefully designed slaughterhouse.

Naturally, some of the Orcs decided to retreat, but it was too late by then.

Ishtar had placed traps on the forest floor right after the Orcs had charged deeper in the forest. As a Skeleton Hunter, one of her abilities was Set Trap. Although she could only place five traps with her current rank, those five traps were more than enough to cripple or severely injure those that stepped on them.

The traps that Ishtar had set in this fight were "Steel Bear Traps". These were steel, jagged traps that would leave anyone who stepped on them feel a world of pain.

When the number of Orcs had decreased to ten individuals, the attacks coming from the Skeletons intensified as well.

"Here. Drink this, Eiko," Lux said as he allowed the baby Slime to drink a mana potion in order to recover her almost depleted mana reserves.

Eiko had very high regeneration, and the bonuses she received whenever Lux, or Iris, was around was also quite powerful. It wouldn't have been a problem for the baby Slime were it not for the fact that the Skeletons were clearly no match against the Orc Warriors that could kill them with few swings.

Whenever Diablo was about to die, Lux would unsummon him and resummon him in a different location, allowing the Skeletal Rider to continue his rampage.

Even Airon's eyes glowed brightly as the battle lust engulfed it.

It was at that moment when Colette and her party joined the battle. The Orcs were a mostly spent force at this point, and the damage they had received from the poison in their bodies made their movements more and more sluggish.

"Should I join as well?" Barca asked as he cracked his knuckles. "This will serve as a good warmup."

"Okay, but don't exert yourself too much," Lux replied. "We need you at your peak condition when we fight Baronar. Don't underestimate your opponents."

"I know." Barca grinned as he charged towards the battle holding his Greatsword.

After Colette, her party, and Barca joined the battle, the Orcs could no longer offer any resistance and were gangbanged on all sides.

Lux watched this one-sided massacre, while he and Eiko chugged down another bottle of Mana Potion. At most, he had only halved the forces under Baronar's command. They had yet to deal with the other half, and their battle was far from over.

After the last Orc Warrior fell on the ground, the bodies of Colette and her friends glowed briefly.

"They leveled up?" Lux chuckled when he saw the little Dwarves jump up and down due to happiness.

Usually, Solaians would learn Class Specific Skills and Abilities when they level up, aside from getting Free Stats and Skill Points that they could distribute freely.

Unlike Solaians, Lux was unable to level up, but for him, this wasn't too big of an issue since everyone could increase their stats by absorbing Beast Cores, in addition to being able to learn skills in the same manner, so—for now—the difference between him and Colette's group was almost negligible.

Of course, Lux's friends, who had entered Elysium four years ago, were certainly stronger than him. However, the Half-Elf knew that it would only be a matter of time before he caught up to them.

Lux felt giddy at the thought of letting his childhood friends see how strong he had become. Unfortunately, he didn't plan on meeting with them until his goals in the Kingdom of Gweliven had been met.

For the time being, he tossed this idea to the back of his mind. His Hidden Quest was still not over and he couldn't afford to be distracted. Baronar was

still alive, and he still had to deal with the other half of Baronar's forces remaining.

"Now, it's time for step two of the plan," Lux muttered as he lightly patted Eiko's head. "Eiko, I will leave it up to you."

The baby Slime nodded her head happily. "Pa!"

The father and daughter pair laughed evilly as they moved into Phase 2 of their plan. This was the first time that Lux had given Eiko a mission, and the baby Slime was more than happy to do her best.

If their plan worked perfectly then Baronar and the rest of the Orcs would be in for a very, very, nasty surprise.

Chapter 102.1: Baronar's Fate [Part 1]

"Baronar! Come out, you swine!" Barca shouted

After Lux and his group finished collecting their spoils of war, they decided to strike while the iron was still hot. Barca had already given Lux the item that would help him subdue Baronar without risking his life during their duel.

The Half-Elf then passed it to Eiko who had snuck inside the Orc Encampment, waiting for an opportunity to carry out her mission.

The Orc Shaman angrily came out of his tent, followed by his two elite guards, who he had summoned after hearing Barca's shout. After hearing what happened to their stockpile of food, the Orc Shaman's temper was at an all time high.

A minute after Baronar left his tent to face off against Barca, a baby Slime poked out her head out of one of the tents near the Orc Shaman's residence.

Seeing that her target had left his abode, Eiko hurriedly crawled towards the tent to start her mission.

The baby Slime looked around for a bit before she moved towards the table. As a Slime, she could practically walk on any surface without a problem. Once

she was on top of the table, she saw a half finished plate of roasted meat, a wooden cup, and a jug of some kind of drink that Eiko had no idea about.

The baby slime used her Air Strider [EX] skill to float in the air and hover above the jug of what seemed to be some kind of Orc Beer.

Earlier, Barca had given Lux a bottle of slow-acting Mage Poison. Although it had the word poison on it, it wasn't lethal enough to kill a mage just because they drank it. However, it could prevent the Mage from being able to harness the mana in their bodies, therefore rendering them unable to cast spells.

And even if they could still manage to cast a spell, it would be a very difficult endeavor for them to do. Barca intended to limit Baronar's offensive abilities and whittle him down in front of his men. The Orc race was a race that obeyed the strong. Unless Barca was able to defeat Baronar in a duel, they would never recognize him as their new Master.

The only downside of this poison was the amount of time needed before it starts to take effect, which was at least an hour or two.

'Pour all the contents of the bottle inside that jar, Eiko,' Lux ordered. Using his connection with Eiko, he checked on her progress. This was similar to how Lux was able to observe Diablo's surroundings as long as he entered a meditative state. It also allowed him to see and hear their immediate surroundings.

The baby Slime nodded her head and took out a glass vial from inside her mouth. She then opened it and poured its contents inside the jug as Lux ordered. After the deed was done, the Half-Elf ordered Eiko to leave because Baronar might return at any moment.

Just as Eiko was about to leave the tent, she heard the sounds of footsteps headed in her direction. The baby Slime immediately turned her head left and right in order to find a place to hide.

A few moments later, the flap of the tent opened and Baronar came inside along with his two elite warriors.

"That bastard, Barca! How dare he do this to me?!" Baronar growled in anger as he slammed the butt of his bone staff on the ground. "Challenge me to a duel in two hours? Hah! It seems that being a Half-Blood made him stupid. I knew that I should have killed him back then when I had the chance."

Baronar walked towards the table in anger and poured himself a cup of mead. He chugged everything down in less than five seconds and poured himself another cup. After regaining his calm, he resumed eating his dinner.

Since he would be fighting against Barca in two hours, he needed to replenish his strength. The Orc Shaman wasn't afraid of his opponent. He had been challenged many times in the past, and the skulls of all those challengers had been added to his collection.

Truth be told, among the four Orc Warlords, Baronar was the strongest. Even the reigning Orc Chieftain, Orobak, treated him with respect.

After finishing his meal, the Orc Shaman laid down on the bed to recover his strength. However, before doing so, he ordered one of his Elite Orc Warriors to get him some water.

The Orc Warrior casually grabbed one of the clay jugs near the door to take it to the river behind the camp to get some water.

As he was headed towards his destination, he suddenly heard a giggling sound near him. The Orc Warrior became alert and looked around him. He was still holding the jug in his left hand, while he held a War Axe in his right.

Looking at his surroundings, he saw no one, and yet, the giggling sound continued.

The Orc Warrior tried to locate the source of the sound. After a while, he realized that the sound came from somewhere beside him.

When he looked at his hand, he saw the clay jug trembling. This confused the Orc Warrior because this was the first time he saw a giggling clay jug. What he didn't know was that Eiko had transformed into one of the clay jugs near the door in order to hide from them.

Unfortunately, the baby Slime was quite a bit ticklish. When the Orc Warrior carried her along, she wasn't able to stop herself from giggling because the clay jug was her body.

Before the Orc Warrior could even decide what to do, a hand covered his mouth, and a greatsword pierced through his chest from behind.

This loosened his grip on the clay jug, causing it to fall towards the ground. However, before it landed, it transformed into a baby Blue Slime that bounced off the ground once before giggling happily. Clearly, Eiko still hadn't recovered from her ticklish experience.

"Good job," Barca said as he looked down on the baby Slime that had carried out her mission well. "Let's go back."

"Un!" Eiko replied, then happily ate the Beast Core that had dropped to the ground before jumping on Barca's right shoulder.

The baby Slime didn't consume the Beast Core, but simply stored it inside her body so she could give it to her Papa later. Although she was a battle junkie and a glutton, she would never consume a Beast Core when her Papa wasn't near.

Lux had told Barca to retrieve Eiko from the camp after the Orc Warrior left Baronar's tent. Since Phase 2 of their plan was completed, all he needed to do was wait for the promised time, so that Barca could duel the weakened Baronar in front of his subordinates.

Chapter 103.2: Baronar's Fate [Part 2]

Two hours later...

Most of the patrolling Orc Warriors had returned to the Orc Encampment after hearing the signal horn. Because of this, the total number of Orc Warriors inside the camp now numbered a hundred.

All of them gathered to watch the battle between Barca and Baronar, interested to see whether they would have a new Warlord to follow. Duels for the position of power usually ended with one party's death. No defending Warlord liked to have their position taken away from them, so they would do their best to kill their opponent to ensure that they wouldn't challenge them again in the future.

Of course, Baronar could have refused the duel entirely. However, after suffering losses from Barca's night raid, the Orc Shaman wanted nothing more than to kill the upstart Half-Orc who thought that it could win against him.

Under the gazes of over a hundred Orc Warriors, Barca stood with his greatsword in his hands. He looked so intimidating and powerful that some of the Orcs were impressed by him.

"Are you ready to die, Barca?" Baronar asked as he held the skull staff in his hand. "Don't worry. I'll be sure to add your head to my collection."

"I didn't come here to die," Barca replied as he pointed his greatsword in Baronar's direction. "I came here to kill you."

"Big words from a Half-Blood."

"You'll soon see what this Half-Blood can do."

Lux and the others were watching the battle from a distance. Although Barca assured them that the Orcs wouldn't attack them because a duel was sacred, he still didn't like taking his chances against over a hundred words with Barca's assurance.

The Dwarves had solemn expressions on their faces because they didn't know if the serum that Baronar had drunk was going to work. Usually, when Fighters and Magicians fought, the magician always had the upper hand.

The reason for this was mainly their ability to use powerful range attacks that could potentially kill the Fighters before they could even come close.

The two combatants stared at each other for half a minute before their battle officially began.

The first thing that Baronar did was to summon two Elite Orc Spirit Warriors to fight for him. They were Rank 3 Monsters, which were capable of stalling the Orc Shaman's enemies, while the latter chanted his curses and offensive spells to whittle down their opponent's health.

That was exactly Baronar's plan. However, after he summoned his two Elite Orc Spirit Warriors, he felt that something was wrong with his body. He couldn't gather mana as fast as he wanted to, which caused the spells he cast to get delayed.

This delay didn't escape Barca's gaze, as he used brute force to make his way past the two Elite Orc Spirit Warriors. He didn't waste his time attacking

them because he didn't want to miss the golden opportunity that was presented to him.

"Frostfire!" Baronar shouted as he unleashed an icy blue flame at point blank range. Sadly, the power of the flames was halved because he wasn't able to gather enough mana to activate its full destructive power.

Barca roared as he swung his sword and split the blue fireball into two halves, making them explode.

Although the Half-Orc received damage to his body, he ignored it and continued to charge at the Orc Shaman who had just barely managed to summon his Soul Shield.

"Die, you old turtle!!" Barca shouted as he swung his great sword towards the barrier that prevented him from taking Baronar's life.

A crack appeared on the Soul Shield's surface after receiving Barca's full strike. A moment later, the Half-Orc swung his sword again, shattering the shield completely.

"Envenom!" Baronar roared as he fired a green glowing dart from his fingertips.

The green dart pierced Barca's chest, but the latter shrugged off the pain and swung his sword with fury. His high resistance prevented the poisonous effect of the skill from manifesting, making Baronar's last resort futile.

A scream was heard in the night as the Half-Orc's greatsword sliced through the Orc Shaman's right arm, cutting it off completely.

Barca was initially going to cut Baronar in half, but the Orc Shaman managed to twist his body just in time. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to dodge the attack completely, losing his arm in the process.

"Stop! I concede!" Baronar shouted as he knelt on the ground. "I recognize you as the new Orc Warlord. Don't kill me!"

Barca stopped his greatsword mid-swing, and looked at the Orc Shaman that had surrendered.

"You recognize me as your new Chieftain?" Barca asked.

"Yes! I recognize you! I will serve you well!" Baronar pleaded.

Lux who was watching this scene blinked because he didn't think that the Orc Shaman would beg for his life.

Barca then glanced in the Half-Elf's direction and asked him a question.

"Should we kill him or not?" Barca asked.

Lux naturally wanted Baronar dead because he wanted to gain the Pseudo-Rare item that the Orc Shaman would drop after his death.

However, before he could shout the word "Kill!", a series of texts appeared in front of him.

—

< Baronar's Fate >

The Orc Shaman had pleaded for you to spare his life. What would you like to do?

– Option 1

Kill Baronar.

Receive one random Pseudo-Mythical Equipment that belongs to him.

– Option 2

Spare Baronar

Receive one random Skill from his Skill Set.

Possible skills that can be acquired: Summon Elite Orc Spirit Warrior, Envenom, Fear, Frostfire, Life Drain, Soul Shield, Dim Vision, Amplify Damage.

– Option 3

You can negotiate your terms. The success of the negotiation will depend on your Charisma stat.

—

The sudden notification made Lux hold back the words he was about to say. Barca eyed him with a calm expression as he waited for the Half-Elf's answer. The Half-Orc didn't care whether Baronar lived or died.

This was why he was fine in letting the Half-Elf decide the Orc Shaman's fate. This would also allow him to gauge Lux's character more and see if the red-headed teenager had what it takes to help him in his quest for dominion.

'Um?' Lux blinked as he gazed at the options before him. Originally, he was dead-set on acquiring a Pseudo-Mythical Weapon after the Orc Shaman's death.

However, acquiring a random skill was also a good option since his special ability, Skill Evolution [EX], would upgrade the skill without fail.

As for the third option, although he was good looking, Lux didn't know if he had enough Charisma Points to succeed in the negotiations. There were two hidden Stats that couldn't be seen using the Soul Book. The two Stats were Luck and Charisma.

Back then, he pestered the God of Games, Eriol, to let him see his Charisma and Luck Stats, but the latter refused. No matter how much the Half-Elf pleaded, the God of Games didn't budge. This was why Lux didn't know if he was lucky or unlucky.

'Option 3 is a gamble,' Lux thought. It was at that moment when he remembered the God of Gamblers, Max. The old man had once told him that either he went all in or did nothing at all.

However, after remembering how the God of Gamblers' SIMP Cannon malfunctioned when he sent Lux to Solais, the Half-Elf shuddered uncontrollably.

'No. I can't take chances. I'll just go with Option 2.' Lux thought. Right now, he couldn't bet on his Charisma and Luck. since that was the case, he would just choose the option which would work wonders for him.

Lux walked towards Baronar and only stopped when he was two meters away from the Orc Shaman.

"Spare him," Lux said. "Having an Orc Shaman serve under you when you become Orc Chieftain is better than having none."

"Are you sure?" Barca asked.

"Yes."

"Okay."

Barca faced Baronar and extended his hand to him. The latter looked at the offered hand for a brief moment before clasping it with his own.

The Orc Warriors that were watching from the side raised their weapons and cheered. At that exact time, Lux received a series of notifications.

Quest: Baronar's Fate (Completed!)

< Rewards >

One Random Skill Ticket received.

– You will obtain one of the skills that belongs to the Orc Shaman, Baronar.

< Bonus Reward >

You gained 125 Orc Warriors under your command!

Baronar became your ally!

+500 Blackrock Reputation Points

10 Medium Quality Rejuvenation Potions

Lux smiled, thinking that the Bonus Reward was truly unexpected. Although he assumed that Baronar and the Orc Warriors would become their allies, this wasn't a guarantee.

Seeing that they had become part of their team, the Half-Elf became more confident that he would be able to clear the mission faster with the help of the strongest Orc Warlord on their side.

Chapter 104: Lux's Demonic Defender

Eiko was sleeping peacefully on top of Lux's chest. The latter lay on the grass, looking up at the star-filled sky.

It had been two hours since Baronar became their ally, so he decided to tell Colette and the others to rest because their quest would continue the next morning.

It had been a long night, and he knew that the Dwarves were exhausted from the battles that they had fought earlier.

'I guess now is a good time to use the skill ticket I received earlier,' Lux thought as he summoned the red ticket from his Soul Book. All of Baronar's skills were good, so he wasn't picky about whichever skill he would end up acquiring.

Activating the ticket in his hand, Lux immediately saw a row of text appear in front of him.

You have acquired the "Summon Elite Spirit Warrior" Skill.

< Skill Evolution [EX] detected a new Skill. >

< Since the Skill is obtained from a reward not from a Beast Core, evolution requirements will be waived. >

< Choose which path of Evolution you wish to take. >

Option 1: Summon two Elite Spirit Warriors to fight for you instead of one.

Option 2: Upgrade Summon Elite Spirit Warrior to one of the three options.

- Upgrade to Spirit Shield Warrior
- Upgrade to Spirit Raider
- Upgrade to Spirit Skirmisher

Option 3: Give your first Elite Spirit Warrior a name. Named creatures will be stronger and more intelligent than normal creatures. Also, you can upgrade your named creature individually if you wish it.

"Oh? I get to have another named minion, not bad," Lux muttered as he decisively clicked the third option, adding a third Named Creature in his team.

—

< You have chosen to give your first Elite Spirit Warrior a name. >

< Please choose a name >

—

"Pazuzu," Lux said softly. "From now on, your name will be Pazuzu."

< You have chosen the name "Pazuzu" as the name for your first Elite Spirit Warrior. >

< Is this your final answer? >

< Yes / No >

—

After choosing yes, a very fat spirit warrior with a pair of black wings on its back appeared in front of Lux. It had a very hideous appearance, which would have been enough to make Eiko cry out in fear if she saw him right now.

It was holding a tower shield in its left hand, and a mace on its right. Its height was over two meters, and its body was fat enough to block the entrance of a cave, preventing others from coming in or out of it.

Even Lux flinched when his gaze landed on his Spirit Warrior's face due to how scary it was. In the end, Pazuzu gave Lux a brief nod as a greeting before disappearing without a trace.

Lux looked at the new page that appeared in his Soul Book and read the information about his new Summoned Creature.

< Pazuzu >

"Have no fear! Pazuzu is here!"

– Named Elite Spirit Warrior

– Protector Spirit

– Rating: C

– Mana 10

– Progress (0/500)

Health: 13,000 / 13,000

Mana: 400 / 400

Strength: 20

Intelligence: 20

Vitality: 260

Agility: 20

Dexterity: 20

Attack: 20 - 40

Attack Type: Bludgeon Physical Damage

Defense: 360

Active Skill: Duel [EX], Taunt, Shield Bash, Body Slam, Madlad Rush, Shield Wall.

Passive Skill: Equip Item, Guts, Very Tough, Enhanced Fortitude, Intimidate

Title: Demonic Defender

– Pazuzu is your third Named Creature and has been bestowed the title of Demonic Defender.

– This Named Creature has gained the ability to evolve.

< Demonic Defender >

– Regardless of what happens in the future, this Named Creature will be forever loyal to you.

– All attacks made by Pazuzu will have a small chance to instill fear in your enemies.

– Enemies under the effect of fear will run away from Pazuzu.

– As someone who bears the title, Demonic Defender, Pazuzu's defense will increase by 100% if his Health is reduced by half.

– When you use Beast Cores to upgrade your Named Creature, its effects will be increased by 50%

Note: After this, we share a drink! Do you like goat's milk?

'A defender type? Not bad,' Lux mused as he finished reading the information about his third Named Creature.

Pazuzu's stats made him a Rank 1 Monster in its middle stages. Since he specialized in defense, he would be able to tank the attacks of Rank 2 up to Rank 3 Monsters without fail.

One particular skill caught Lux's attention and he clicked it out of curiosity. It was Pazuzu's Madlad Rush.

—
< Madlad Rush >

– Pazuzu's speed will drastically increase, allowing him to travel up to 200 mph on land and in the air for twenty seconds.

– Skill Cooldown: 10 minutes
—

'What a madlad,' Lux scratched his head after seeing the skill's information.

He could feel his teeth itch at the thought of Pazuzu using the Madlad Rush alongside the skill, Shield Bash, with the full weight of his body.

The Half-Elf believed that even Barca would feel a world of pain if Pazuzu's attack hit him directly.

'Finally I have a defender class Summon,' Lux thought as he let the new Named Creature equip a Norria Light-Plate Armor Set, which further increased Pazuzu's already high defense to a total of 460.

The Half-Elf knew that Diablo couldn't play the tanker position in his party because he was more of a mobile damage dealer. Lux always had this as one of his greatest concerns, so he was quite happy that he finally got a meat shield that would serve as the vanguard for his team.

It was at that moment when he heard the sound of footsteps headed in his direction. Turning his head to the side, he saw Colette walking towards him, with Matty trailing not far behind her.

"What's wrong, can't sleep?" Lux asked the adorable Dwarf girl who served as the vanguard for his friends.

Colette nodded. "Yes."

Colette sat beside Lux, and Matty sat beside her.

"Big Brother, I have a feeling that after we clear this dungeon, all of us will finally reach the Apostle Grade," Colette said with a trace of excitement in her voice.

"Isn't that a good thing?" Lux asked. "As soon as you step on the Apostle Grade, you will be able to go to where your sister is."

"Yes. I am also looking forward to it," Colette replied, "but Big Brother, what about you?"

"Hmm? What about me?"

"What are your future plans after clearing this dungeon? Won't you also reach the Apostle Grade when this expedition is over?"

Lux smiled before nodding his head. He couldn't possibly tell Colette that he could have graduated from the Beginner's Zone long ago because he had more than enough free stat points to level up.

"I plan to stay in Leaf Village for a little while longer after we finish this expedition," Lux replied.

"I see." Colette nodded her head in understanding. "We can stay in the Beginner's Village for ten more days after we reach the Apostle Grade. After that, we will forcefully be teleported out of the Beginner's Zone."

"No. That is not what I mean." Lux shook his head. "I will not step into the Apostle Grade for now. I still have things to do in Leaf Village."

"Things to do?"

"Mmm. I made a promise to myself that I will only leave Leaf Village once I tie up some loose ends."

Colette became silent for a while before she lightly patted the sleeping baby Slime on Lux's chest.

"Understood," Colette said after a while. "When you decide to step into the Apostle Grade, look for us in Whitebridge City. My sister's Guild, Eternal, is based over there. I will be joining her guild as well."

"Eternal Guild?" Lux muttered. "Okay. I'll make sure to drop by for a visit."

"Promise?"

"Mmm."

Colette smiled sweetly as she looked at Lux's face. She really enjoyed traveling with Lux in Elysium because he acted like a Big Brother looking out for his younger siblings.

Colette had a real big brother as well, but the time they spent together was very little. Her brother was very busy managing their family's main guild known as Golden Slayers. He didn't even have enough time to visit home, and only talked to them using a communication crystal whenever he wasn't too busy with the guild's affairs.

This was why she longed for the feeling of having a big brother spoil her, and Lux played that role really well. Especially when he saved her in the Kobold's Nest. The Half-Elf didn't talk much about the affair, but Helen did.

Colette's best friend told them how the red-headed teenager blackmailed the Riders of Norria and forced them to take an oath in order to force them to save not only Robin, but Colette and the others as well.

"Big Brother."

"Mmm?"

"Please marry my sister, okay?" Colette said with a smile. "That way, you will officially become my big brother, and become part of my family."

Lux chuckled. "You're still playing matchmaker? Besides, I don't think that's how it works. Once I become your sister's husband, I will become your brother-in-law, and not your big brother."

"Big brother is big brother," Colette insisted. "Nothing will change."

"...Well, I'll think about it first." Lux could only scratch his head in order to change the topic. "Go to sleep. We need to leave early tomorrow morning and head to the location of the next Orc Warlord. It would not be good if you don't have the strength to fight when you need it the most."

Colette nodded and bid Lux goodnight. Matty gave Lux a side-long glance before following behind the adorable Dwarf girl that had been his childhood friend for many years.

Lux watched the two of them go, and a hint of sadness spread across his face.

"I guess, parting ways is inevitable," Lux muttered as he lightly patted the baby Slime on his chest who was still in a deep sleep.

He had long expected that this time would come, but now that it did, he still felt sad. Colette and her party mates were the first friends he had made in Elysium and seeing them leave made his heart ache.

But, he knew that this was part of the journey that he had to take in order to find a way to help save Solais from its fate.

Chapter 105: I'll Make You My Own Mount

'I think I greatly underestimated Baronar's strength,' Lux mused. 'Making him our ally made this entire expedition so much easier.'

Before they set out to their next target, the Orc Shaman advised that they should deal with Tanabur first before targeting the other Orc Warlords.

There were two reasons why Baronar told them to target Tanabur first before the others.

First, Baronar and Tanabur didn't get along well with each other. However, that was not the main reason why the former insisted that the latter Orc Warlord should be attacked first. It was because Tanabur commanded the Orcs' Warg Cavalry.

Wargs were Demonic Wolves that Orcs usually used as mounts. They were fast, strong, and very agile creatures that would not hesitate to attack bigger enemies. They were especially more fearless when they traveled in packs.

Tanabur could easily send his reinforcements to the other Warlords if they were under attack. Baronar was sure that his rival could've helped him. It was just that the latter chose to turn a blind eye on the battle horns that had sounded as a signal to ask for assistance when their camp was being targeted by Lux and Barca.

"As long as he is taken out, you won't have to fight a two-versus-two battle against the other Orc Warlords," Baronar explained. "Once he is taken down, you can choose any other warlord you like without worrying about getting attacked from the rear."

Lux and Barca found this suggestion very sound, so they immediately marched to the South to deal with the Orc Warlord Tanabur.

Using Eiko to infiltrate their camp to drug their well water with a deadly colorless poison that Baronar had concocted, the Wargs, as well as the Orcs who mounted them, fell asleep and the attack on the Southern Camp went off without a hitch.

Tanabur lay on the ground panting for breath, while Barca's greatsword was positioned just an inch away from his neck.

"Baronar, you filthy traitor!" Tanabur shouted in anger. "I knew you couldn't be trusted!"

Tanabur gnashed his teeth in anger as he glared at the Orc Shaman, completely ignoring the blade that could cut his neck at any moment.

"All of this is due to your stupidity, Tanabur," Baronar sneered. "I bet you were laughing when you commanded your subordinates to not send reinforcements to my camp. This is just the consequences of your shortsightedness!"

"Bah! Shut up you weakling bone collector!"

"At least I'm not an Orc who screws his Warg because women won't look at him!"

"Bastard! Fight me!"

"Hah! Come! Who's scared of who?!"

Matty had covered Colette's ears so that she wouldn't hear the foul languages that the two Orc Warlords were spouting in front of them.

Lux did the same to Helen because the two Orc Warlords had now started to call each other "Warg P*ssy" and "Dead F*cker".

It was at this moment when the Half-Elf realized that after unlocking the Hidden Quest, the settings of the dungeon had changed. Instead of a regular dungeon run, where they just killed monsters until they reached the Boss Monster, the dungeon had activated its "Story Mode".

It was like they were re-enacting events that had happened long ago, while giving the Dungeon's challenger free reign to decide how the story would end.

"Should we kill him?" Barca shifted his gaze on Lux. "It's your call."

As soon as the Half-Orc said these words, a series of notifications appeared in front of Lux.

< Tanabur's Fate >

Barca doesn't know if he should spare the Orc Raider, Tanabur, or not. He wants you to decide the Orc Warlord's Fate.

– Option 1

Kill Tanabur.

Reward: Receive one random Pseudo-Mythical Equipment that belongs to him.

– Option 2

Spare Tanabur.

Reward: Receive twenty five Wargs as compensation.

These wargs can be used as battle mounts and all of them are Rank 2 Monsters.

– Option 3

You can negotiate your terms. The success of the negotiation will depend on your Charisma stat.

'Mounts?' Lux's eyes widened in shock when he read the reward for sparing Tanabur. 'Are you freaking serious? Twenty five Rank 2 Monsters as mounts?!'

The red-headed teenager's jaw almost dropped after seeing the second option. Only fools would pass up such an opportunity. Because of this option, the Half-Elf decided that he would choose a Rider Class upgrade for his Skeleton Fighters once the opportunity appeared.

"Spare him," Lux said with a serious expression. "But, I'll take twenty five of his Wargs as my reward."

Barca nodded his head. "This is acceptable. Very well, you may take twenty five Wargs from his Bestiary. You are free to choose which one you take in as your own."

Lux smiled as he happily looked at the rewards that he received upon the Side Mission's Completion.

Quest: Tanabur's Fate (Completed!)

< Rewards >

Twenty Five Elite Wargs

< Bonus Reward >

Tanabur has become your ally!

+500 Blackrock Reputation Points

Colette, Matty, and the other Dwarves who were just listening to the conversation to the side looked at Lux with envy. The Wargs were at least two-meters tall, and looked very intimidating. Although they didn't want to admit it, the thought of riding one had crossed their minds after seeing them in action.

"You heard him," Lux chuckled as he crossed his arms over his chest. "All of you pick a Warg for yourself. From now on, they will be your personal mounts."

"Eh?" Colette blinked as she pointed her finger to her face. "Ours?"

"You don't want to?" Lux asked in a teasing tone.

"I want!"

"Then choose one. Helen, Andy, Axel, and Simp get to choose as well."

"Oi! Who are you calling Simp?!" Matty flared up as he raised his hand menacingly.

"Simp!" Eiko giggled. "Simp! Simp!"

The baby Slime had developed a tendency to tease Matty after seeing her Papa always do it. For her, whatever Lux did was right, so she copied her Papa as if he was the only role model for her.

"Tch!" Matty could only click his tongue as he walked towards the Wargs that were now slowly regaining their consciousness from the sleeping drug that had been given to them earlier.

Since the quest rewards had been activated, none of them attacked the children. They even allowed the little Dwarves to touch them all over, as they decided whether or not they were good enough to become their mounts.

There were over three hundred Wargs in the camp, so Lux cheated and checked the Elysium Compendium to automatically choose the top twenty Wargs from among the rest.

Lux was surprised when he found out that there was one Rank 3 Warg among the rest. It was a Black Warg with a scar above its right eye, a feature that made it stand out from the others.

The Half-Elf looked at the Warg, and the latter looked back at him. Its predatory eyes observed the red-headed teenager in front of him, but made no move to attack.

"I'll make you my own mount," Lux said as he looked at the Warg with a serious expression.

Sensing that it had been chosen by the Half-Elf in front of it. The Warg lowered its head and allowed Lux to touch its forehead.

The moment Lux's hand rested on the Warg's head, a notification appeared in front of him.

Would you like this Elite Warg to become your mount?

< Yes / No >

Lux clicked yes and a new notification appeared in front of him.

Would you like to give this Elite Warg a name?

< Yes / No >

Lux pondered for a bit before saying the name that came to his mind.

"Jed," Lux said. "That will be your name from now on."

The Warg turned into particles of light and flew towards Lux's Soul Book.

What Eriol didn't tell Lux was that the Soul Book held a miniature world of that person's soul. One could call it a spiritual world, where the creatures that served them could stay, while they weren't active in the real world.

This was where Beast Tamers like Iris stored their Beast Companions whenever they weren't present in the real world.

Colette and the others had also finished choosing their mounts, and just like what happened with Lux, they also turned into particles of light and flew into their Soul Books. They could be summoned any time their Master wished, and serve as their mount for as long as they needed to be.

Naturally, these mounts also feel thirst and hunger, so having many Mounts, or Beast Companions required that you feed them on a regular basis, or else their loyalty would decrease and they would leave you the next opportunity they got.

Lux summoned Jed once again and attempted to ride on his back. He had ridden on Sophie's back many times before, but the White Hippo was a gentle beast. She would not move very fast to ensure that the Half-Elf didn't fall off her back.

Now that Lux had his own mount, he wanted to get used to riding it, so that he could also fight battles while mounted if the situation called for it.

Colette and her friends had the same idea, so they also summoned their beasts to try and mount them. However, since the wargs were taller than the Dwarves, they had to order them to lie down on the ground so that they could ride on their backs.

Barca and Baronar also chose a mount for themselves as they prepared to head to their next destination.

Now that two of the Four Warlords had been subjugated, only two remained. Their next destination was the Orc Warlord, Morgazar. He was an Exceptional Orc Hunter that ruled the East, and was known for raising an elite army of Orc Archers who specialized in range combat.

Lux glanced at Barca who was currently riding at the head of their formation. He didn't know if this Hidden Story Quest was something that had happened in the real world or not.

If it did, the Half-Elf wondered if Barca originally spared or killed the Orc Warlords that were serving Orobak.

'I guess, I'll never know,' Lux thought as he followed behind the Half-Orc whose wish was to form his own Orc Dominion.

Chapter 106: Too Bad You Are Already Dead

"I'd rather die than become your subordinate!"

This roar of anger resonated in the surroundings as Morgazar firmly held the Warbow in his hand like a sword, ready to strike at any moment.

The Orc Hunter's encampment was easily subdued due to the strategic trickery that Tanabur had suggested to Barca. Since the Orc Raiders often visited the camps of the other Orc Warlords, Morgazar and his subordinates automatically assumed that this was just part of their regular inspections to ensure that everything was in order.

Unfortunately, Barca had already subdued Tanabur and the latter used this method to sneak Barca inside Morgazar's Orc Encampment and trap the Orc Warlord, forcing him to fight Barca one-on-one.

Although the Orc Hunter was capable of fighting like a rogue when it came to close combat, his true specialty lay in ranged attacks. It didn't even take Barca two minutes to completely subdue the Orc Hunter, who was now glaring at the Half-Orc with fury.

"Just kill me!" Morgazar shouted. "I will never recognize you as our Chieftain!"

—

< Morgazar's Fate >

The Orc Hunter had no intention in joining Barca's rebellion. He would rather die than allow himself to serve someone who didn't earn his respect.

– Option 1

Kill Morgazar.

Reward: Receive one random Pseudo-Mythical Equipment that belongs to him.

– Option 2

Try to convince Morgazar to join Barca's faction.

Reward: ???

Lux frowned as he looked at the two options. The fastest way to deal with this matter was to kill Morgazar, which would reward Lux one of the other party's Pseudo-Mythical Equipment.

However, after sparing Baronar and Tanabur, the Half-Elf had gained lucrative rewards. Having considered this, he was more inclined to have Morgazar join Barca's side, so he would get an unexpected bonus as a reward for his troubles.

'The reason why Morgazar refused to become Barca's subordinate is because the Half-Orc wasn't able to gain his respect,' Lux thought. 'So, I need to make him respect Barca?'

The Orcs were a race that followed the strong. As long as they acknowledged you as stronger than them, they were willing to listen to your words and consider them seriously."

Barca had already glanced at the Half-Elf's direction, asking Lux how he wanted to deal with the Orc Hunter, who refused to submit no matter what.

Lux shook his head as he approached the Orc Warlord who stood arrogantly in front of them. Since he had no other choice, the only thing he could do was do his best, and take the chance to see whether he could salvage the current situation in their favor.

"I challenge you to a duel," Lux said. "You are free to choose what type of duel you want, and I will be the one to choose who your opponent will be. If I win, you will join Barca's side and support him to become the Orc Chieftain. If you win, we will leave this place peacefully, on the condition that you will not intervene with our fight for the seat of Orc Chieftain."

"You? Challenge me?" Morgazar snorted. "A mere half-blood? But, this is indeed intriguing. Are you sure you want me to be the one to choose what type of duel I want?"

"Yes," Lux replied. "That way, you will have no excuse when you lose."

The Orc Hunter growled as he eyed Lux menacingly. "Trying to rile me up? Very well, I want to see how you try to beat me at my own game. The Duel I want is simple. It will be a point-blank range battle!"

The Orc Hunter raised his bow. "My opponent and I will fight in our stronghold's special arena. We will only be fifty meters apart from each other, and whoever gets hit by an arrow first loses."

"Can the two combatants approach each other?"

"Of course. It doesn't matter if we fight each other in close quarters, using only an arrow. The important rule is that the first one to get hit by an arrow will automatically lose. Anything goes!"

Lux nodded his head in understanding.

"Very well, I accept this duel," Lux replied.

"So, who will be fighting on your side?" Morgazar asked. His voice was filled with arrogance and confidence. Clearly, he didn't think that he would lose to anybody.

"Ishtar, come forth," Lux ordered.

A Skeleton Hunter materialized beside the Half-Elf.

The moment the Skeleton appeared, Morgazar narrowed his eyes as if sizing up his opponent. Surprisingly, Ishtar did the same and the golden glow in her eyes burned brighter. It was as if she was looking at a worthy adversary who specialize in the same profession as she did.

"Good!" Morgazar said. "This is more like it!"

Ten minutes later...

Morgazar and Ishtar stood fifty meters from each other in a closed arena inside the Orc Encampment.

The arena was a special training ground where the Elite Orc Archers under Morgazar trained on a regular basis. This helped the Orc Archers improve their close combat fighting skills whenever their opponents managed to close the gap between them.

"Are both of you ready?" Lux asked.

Ishtar and Morgazar nodded at the same time.

"Let the battle begin!" Lux shouted.

Immediately after that, the two proud hunters unleashed a barrage of arrows at each other. They were first testing each other's abilities to have a better grasp of their opponent's strength and weakness.

Both of them dodged, and fired arrows at an amazing speed that made Lux wonder if the Orc weighed like air. Although he was quite big, Morgazar was able to perform incredible maneuvers of dodging and counter-attacking despite his size.

Ishtar on the other hand, side stepped, jumped, rolled, and performed other feats in order to evade Morgazar's deadly arrows that seemed to have a life of its own.

"Morgazar is stronger," Barca muttered.

Baronar, Tanabur, and Lux nodded their heads in agreement. Just like Barca, Morgazar was a Rank 4 Alpha Beast.

His expertise and skills far surpassed Ishtar's. The only saving grace was that when the two dueled, the settings of the Dungeon lowered his rank to match Ishtar's. This was perhaps the consequence of Lux's choice to give the Orc Hunter the right to choose which duel he wanted.

Because of this, Morgazar found it was beneath him to bully someone that had a lower rank than him. This then prompted the changes of his current rank, making him on the same level as his opponent.

Although his rank had regressed, his skills and expertise remained the same. Just as Lux was wondering how Ishtar would be able to overcome her opponent, the Orc Hunter shot a barrage of arrows that had forced Ishtar into a corner.

"This is my win!" Morgazar declared as he fired a flaming arrow, merely twenty meters away from Ishtar, who had stumbled on the ground due to his earlier arrow barrage.

Just as the flaming arrow was about to hit Ishtar's body, the Skeleton Hunter summoned a steep trap in her hand and used it as a shield.

A metallic rang reverberated inside the arena as the arrow was deflected by the trap in Ishtar's hand, surprising everyone that was watching the duel.

The Skeleton Hunter didn't let the opportunity slip by, and threw the Steel Trap towards her opponent.

Morgazar was forced to use his arms to block the unexpected ranged weapon that was thrown at him at close range with his arm.

After blocking the steel projectile, the Orc Hunter was about to do a counterattack when he saw the Skeleton Hunter standing ten meters away from him, holding two steel traps in each of her hands.

Just as he expected, Ishtar threw the two Steel Traps in his direction, forcing the Orc Hunter to block them with his arm once again.

The next time he laid his eyes on his opponent, the Skeleton Hunter was almost upon him. In Ishtar's left and right hands, three icy arrows—that resembled claws of a certain superhero from Lux's world—could be seen.

Without saying a word, Ishtar thrust the arrows that were firmly held by her bony fingers towards her enemy's chest.

As a last resort, Morgazar used his bow to slash down on Ishtar's right hand, shattering it completely. Unfortunately for him, the Skeleton Hunter's decisive attack was far from over.

The Orc Warlord felt a stinging, ice-cold, pain as the arrows in Ishtar's left hand, embedded themselves into the side of his body.

Everyone watched with bated breath as the battle ended in a way that none of them expected.

"Ishtar, was it?" Morgazar said as he looked at the Skeleton Hunter with a complicated expression on his face. "Too bad you are already dead. If you were alive, I would have made you my wife. I accept my defeat. This is your win."

Ishtar rattled her jaws as if telling her opponent that he wasn't too shabby himself. After the two combatants exchanged their words. The adorable blonde Dwarf raised her hand from the stands and shouted.

"Huzzah!" Colette raised her hand in happiness. "We won!"

The Orc Warriors also raised their hands and shouted their war cries to honor the two warriors that had fought with honor and dignity. Even Lux who was trying to keep his expression calm could feel his blood from boiling due to the incredible performance that he had just witnessed.

He never thought that he would get this much excitement and inspiration from a battle between two Hunters. It made him realize that his second Named Creature, Ishtar, could do something awesome when pushed into a corner.

Morgazar's Fate (Completed!)

< Rewards >

One Rank Up for Ishtar

One Elite Orc Warlord Set Equipment

+4 Summon Skeleton Grand Archer

(Summon Four Additional Skeleton Grand Archers)

(Elite Orc Warlord Hunter Set)

Pseudo-Mythical Armor Set

Requirement: Only for classes that specialized in range weapons

+200 to Defense

+ 30 to Dexterity

+ 30 to Agility

+ 30 to Vitality

20% Physical Damage Reduction

20% Magical Damage Reduction

< Bonus Reward >

You gained 500 Orc Archers under your command.

Morgazar became your ally!

+500 Blackrock Reputation Points

Lux whistled at the unexpected reward that he received from clearing Morgazar's Side-Quest.

Right now, he was short on resources, so he couldn't level up his minions willy-nilly. Fortunately, Ishtar received a free rank up after defeating Morgazar, which boosted her overall stats, and added a few skills in her ever-growing deadly arsenal.

But, that was not all. Lux could now summon four additional Skeleton Grand Archers, bringing their total number to eight.

'It was more than worth it.' Lux couldn't stop the wide smile that appeared on his face. Now that there was only one more Warlord that they needed to deal with, the Half-Elf was looking forward to the next batch of goodies that was waiting for him.

Chapter 107: If You Want My Head, Come And Get It!

As Lux and his group traveled North to face the last Warlord, Oreg, he checked Ishtar's stats to see how much she had changed after she received her rank up.

Ishtar was his main, long range, damage dealer. Lux wanted to know how strong she had become after her duel with Morgazar, so he would be able to make the necessary adjustments when using her expertise on the battlefield.

< Ishtar >

– Named Skeleton Hunter

– Rating: A

– Mana: 10

– Progress (0/2000)

Health: 12,750 / 12,750

Mana: 6,500 / 6,500

Attack: 305 - 355 (+160 Heartstriker)

Attack Type: Ranged Ice Damage

Strength: 125

Intelligence: 130

Vitality: 125 +30

Agility: 130+30

Dexterity: 175 +30

Defense: 155 (+200 Elite Orc Warlord Hunter Set)

Active Skill: Hunter's Mark, Set Trap, Arrow Shower, Piercing Arrow, Siege Stance, Poison Arrow (New) Knockback Arrow (New), Stun Arrow (New), Frostfire Arrow (New), Air Steps (New), Air Kick (New)

Passive Skill: Equip Item, Fast Reload, Hunter's Eye, Bow Mastery (New), Deadly Aim (New), Precision Shot (New)

Title: The Forgotten Queen

Note: She's one of the good guys, but not that good.

'Those are a lot of new Skills,' Lux thought as he checked Ishtar's Skills one by one.

He was pleasantly surprised upon seeing that his Skeleton Archer now had a wide array of attacks that could deal status changes to the enemy like Stun and Poison. She also had an interesting skill called knockback, which meant that her arrow could push her target backwards by five to ten meters.

Although that might not sound much, when used in the right situation, it could create opportunities for her and her allies, in the midst of battle.

Overall, Lux was quite satisfied with the boost in offensive power that Ishtar gained after finishing Morgazar's Side-Quest.

'Now, there's only Oreg,' Lux mused.

After traveling for two days, they had finally reached Oreg's Stronghold, which was located on the North side of the Dungeon. So far, their scouts hadn't encountered any patrols coming from the Orc Warlor's Stronghold.

The Orc Warmonger, Oreg, was known for his Elite Orc Berserkers. They were the juggernauts of the battlefield and would charge at their foes without any hesitation.

They were the most fearsome warriors among the Orcs' melee units because of their "Either you die, or I die" mentality. However, since all of them had come prepared, they were confident that they could deal with whatever the Orc Warmonger could throw at them.

"Strange," Baronar said after they decided to camp for the night. "We are already deep in his Domain, and we still haven't seen any signs of his men."

"Indeed," Morgazar replied. "Although Oreg might not be the smartest among us, he is not stupid. He might have realized that something big might have happened and decided to act according to his gut instincts."

Tanabur, who was busy eating grilled meat, only commented after he was done eating.

"I have already sent two of my fastest riders to his Stronghold to check the situation," Tanabur commented. "They should be back in an hour or two. We'll know the real reason then."

Barca nodded his head in agreement as he listened to the discussion. This was the final stretch before his battle with Orobak, so he was reserving his strength for the inevitable battle between the two of them.

Lux was also paying attention to their discussion as he spoonfed Eiko the stew in his wooden bowl. The baby Slime was not a picky eater, enjoying whatever food her Papa fed her.

An hour later, Tanabur's Riders returned to the camp, and the news they brought with them made everyone understand the lack of patrols in their surroundings.

"Oreg has chosen to abandon his encampment to regroup with Orobak at the Chieftain's Stronghold," Tanabur said. "It is a smart move. Since he knew he's not a match against us, he decided to go to Orobak in order to have a higher chance of survival."

All the Orc Warlord's present then shifted their attention to Barca, who was looking at the burning flames of their campfire. His eyes reflected the color of the flames, making him look more formidable than he usually was.

"We ride at first light," Barca said after a minute had passed. "Our destination, the Orc Chieftain's Stronghold."

The group traveled for a day before they arrived at the center of the Domain where Orobak's Stronghold could be seen.

They had encountered several of Orobak's Scouts and managed to kill a few of them. However, some managed to escape, alerting their Chieftain of their arrival.

By the time Barca, and the other Orc Warlords arrived near the Stronghold, the gate was already shut tight, and several Orc Warriors manned the ramparts.

Two Orcs that stood out from the rest could be seen standing right above the gates.

The Orc on their left, who was over two meters tall and had his entire body covered in black-plated armor, stood arrogantly. He was wearing a horned helmet that covered his entire face, with the exception of his eyes.

A black spear was held firmly in his hand as he stared at the Half-Orc that had dared to oppose him.

"So, you are here, Barca!" Orobak shouted. "I knew I should have killed you when you were just a baby. If I did, I would have been saved from all of this trouble!"

"It's too late for regrets, Orobak!" Barca shouted back at the Orc that had made his life miserable. "I'm here to pay you back for everything you've done to me!"

"You're just like your Mother. Stubborn and stupid," Orobak replied. "She was a fine woman, but he chose your father instead of me. Since that is the case, then it is only fitting that he followed her into the afterlife."

"You Bastard! Fight me!"

"You're not qualified, Half-blood. If you want my head, come and get it!"

The Orcs on the ramparts raised their weapons and shouted their warcries. Some of them even taunted Barca, insulting his dead mother and father.

"Don't let yourself get riled up by him," Baronar advised. "This is how we play his mind games."

Barca nodded as he observed the defenses of the Stronghold. Right now, they only had a little over a thousand warriors on their side. The Half-Orc estimated that Orobak's forces, with the addition of Oreg's Orc Berserkers, numbered about the same.

Although their forces were near equal, in reality, they were at a disadvantage. From the looks of it, Orobak had prepared himself for a siege battle.

Barca knew that if they tried to storm the gates, their forces would only decrease at a rapid rate, with no certainty that they would be able to scale the walls, or break past the gate's defenses.

Even the Orc Warlords, Baronar, Tanabur, and Morgazar, didn't have any advice to give him, which put their assault at a standstill.

It was at this moment when Lux realized that it was up to him to create an opportunity for Barca's forces to break inside the Stronghold and initiate a duel with Orobak.

"I have a plan," Lux said as he approached Barca. "But, I don't know if it will work."

"I'm all ears." Barca smiled as he looked at the Half-Elf who had helped him get this far.

Barca had a feeling that if he allowed Lux to take action, the arrogant Orc Chieftain would soon find himself, face to face with the Half-Orc's fury that he had kept in his heart for years.

Chapter 108: Eiko's Nighttime Escapade

Eiko had a big smile on her face as she looked at her Papa who had entrusted her with an important mission.

"If things become dangerous, don't hesitate to use your Family Bond [EX] to teleport back to me, okay?" Lux said as he held the baby Slime in his hands.

"Pa!" Eiko nodded her head in understanding.

"Are you ready?"

"Pa!"

Lux nodded and summoned Pazuzu and Ishtar. In order for his plan to work, he needed the Demonic Protector to smuggle Eiko inside the Orc Stronghold. Once he succeeded, he would then create a distraction, alongside Ishtar, to give the baby Slime an opportunity to do her mission.

The good thing about Pazuzu was that he could fly. No gates or walls were too high for him, and it would definitely make Orobak panic if he saw that someone from the opposing side managed to fly past their defenses.

The Demonic Protector held the baby Slime in his left hand, and held his Tower Shield in his right.

After listening to Lux's instructions, the Demonic Protector, and the Skeleton Hunter nodded their heads in understanding.

"Ishtar, make the world burn," Lux said to his Skeleton Hunter. "Pazuzu, smack them with your shield. This is a suicide mission, so I hope that the two of you will forgive me for letting both of you die deep behind enemy lines."

Pazuzu chuckled, and Ishtar patted Lux's shoulder, as if telling him that they understood.

Soon, the Demonic Protector was airborne, with Ishtar holding onto his neck as she rode on his back.

Pazuzu's flying speed was fairly average, and any archer could easily hit him without problems. However, he had a secret weapon in his arsenal and that was the Madlad Rush. When he used that skill, he would be just like a race car, zooming across the land and the sky, and leaving everyone in the dust.

Lux watched as Pazuzu shortened the distance between himself and the Stronghold. Just as he expected, Orobak immediately ordered his men to shoot the flying creature out of the sky.

A moment later, the sound of arrows hitting the tower shield reverberated in the surroundings.

"Shield Wall!" Pazuzu roared and a blue tower shield that was six meters tall and five meters wide appeared in front of him.

Shield Wall was a skill that summoned a defensive shield in front of Pazuzu. The shield's defense was equivalent to Pazuzu's overall defense multiplied by three. This ability would last for a full minute, and was one of his main defensive skills that was especially useful when tanking bosses.

As the Demonic Defender, whenever his health fell below 50%, his defense would increase by 100%. If both abilities were activated at the same time, Pazuzu's defense would rise drastically for a minute, allowing him to withstand deadly blows that could instantly kill anyone but him.

"Madlad Rush!"

Just like a blue comet, Pazuzu charged towards the Stronghold, ignoring the rain of arrows that pelted his Shield Wall.

Orobak's panicked roar could be heard the moment the Demonic Defender flew past the ramparts and headed towards the center of the Stronghold. As soon as he landed, Eiko jumped down from Pazuzu's hand and ran away as fast as she could.

However, before the baby slime completely left, she made sure to summon her Skeletal Fighters and Skeleton Grand Archers to help Pazuzu and Ishtar hold back the Orc Army. She then looked for a safe place to hide.

Ishtar and Pazuzu exchanged a glance, and proceeded to perform their roles separately. The Demonic Protector crouched down and used his hands to allow the Skeleton Hunter to use it as a stepping stone.

A moment later, he propelled Ishtar upwards, allowing her to use her Air Steps, so that she could position herself at a high vantage point in order to best make the world burn according to Lux's orders.

Ishtar nimbly landed on top of an elevated platform. She immediately used her Siege Stance and with the raise of her bow, several fire arrows were launched around her surroundings.

When Orobak and his warriors arrived at Pazuzu's landing site, several of the buildings were already starting to burn.

"Stop her!" Orobak shouted. "Kill that Skeleton!"

Ishtar ignored Orobak's shout and continued to rain fire arrows on her surroundings. Since this was a suicide mission, her life was not important. The only thing that currently mattered for her was to create as much chaos as possible, distracting the enemies until Eiko completed her mission.

When the Skeleton Hunter finally crumbled to pieces and Pazuzu got subdued, the Orcs became busy with doing their best to put out the flames that were blazing around them.

Little did they know that while they were running around, carrying buckets of water to deal with the flames, a baby Slime had already entered their main Stronghold.

Eiko giggled as she sneakily entered the Stronghold's kitchen where the Orcs stored their food. She then spat a few bottles out of her mouth, which was given to her by Baronar in order to drug the Orcs' food supplies and leave them unable to fight to their fullest.

This was not the first time that Eiko had done this mission, so she was already well versed on what she needed to do.

The baby Slime giggled a second time before she summoned her Skeletal Fighters to help her sabotage the food supplies of the Orcs. Since her supply of potions was limited, not all of the food inside the kitchen was doused with the debilitating potions that Baronar had prepared.

Fortunately, Lux had been prepared for this scenario.

Eiko approached the baskets of food with a smile on her face. After looking at her left and right to ensure that no Orcs were coming to the kitchen, the baby slime opened her mouth and ate the entire basket.

Well, ate was not the right word for it. She merely stored the basket of food inside her own personal storage.

The baby slime continued to "nom nom" every basket that hadn't been drugged inside her storage. After making sure that everything was covered, she left the kitchen with a giggle before continuing her exploration of the Orc Encampment

Although her main mission had been completed, Lux had given her a side-mission which he believed his baby Slime could pull off.

With her main mission complete, it was now time for her to tackle the side mission that Lux had assigned her.

Eiko traversed sneakily through the Stronghold and headed towards Orobak's main quarters which was located at the very rear of the Orc Encampment. There had been occasions where she had nearly been discovered, but due to her Mimicry [EX] ability, she was able to escape all of them.

The baby Slime would transform into a rock, a piece of wood, or even a bone, just to avoid alerting the Orc Warriors that were wandering around their encampment to do their duties.

After nearly two hours of painstaking effort, the baby Slime finally arrived at her destination and looked for a place to rest for the night.

She was still a baby, and her night escapade exhausted her.

Lux smiled as he cut off his connection with his baby Slime, who was now sleeping safely inside one of the cupboards in Orobak's residence. He knew that when morning came, they would be able to attack the Stronghold, with minimal casualties on their side.

Chapter 109: Let's Just Take All Of Them. Maybe They Are Valuable

"Did she succeed?" Barca asked upon seeing Lux's figure enter their tent to discuss their plans for the siege.

Lux nodded. "She's done her part perfectly. We should get some rest for tonight so we're in our best condition for the siege next morning."

"Good." Barca smiled. "You don't have to worry about Orobak, I will deal with him myself."

"Okay. I'll just cheer for you from the side." Lux smirked.

Lux, Barca, and the Orc Warlords discussed for half an hour more before going back to their quarters to rest. After the meeting, their plan of action for tomorrow was finalized. The only thing they needed to do for now was wait for Eiko's signal to storm the Stronghold and end Orobak's rule once and for all.

As the Half-Elf laid on his bed, he wondered how strong Orobak really was. He was the Boss of the Ranked-C Dungeon, and the strongest monster in the Dungeon's Nightmare Mode.

He already knew that Barca was strong, but if Orobak was really just as strong as Barca, then things didn't add up. The Dungeon wouldn't allow them to have a massive advantage over the Boss Monster even if the challengers managed to unite all the Orc Warlords.

"I hope I'm just thinking too much," Lux muttered before closing his eyes to rest. He hoped that when morning came, they would be able to clear the dungeon and finally return to the real world and take a break from their exhausting expedition.

—

When the first rays of sunlight peered over the horizon, a certain baby Slime opened her eyes.

She sleepily looked around and found herself in an unfamiliar place.

"Pa?" Eiko muttered before yawning.

It was at that moment when she heard the sound of footsteps inside the house, reminding her that she wasn't with her Papa right now.

Eiko hurriedly went inside a wooden mug in order to hide from whoever was walking in her direction. The baby Slime closed her eyes as she bit her lip to prevent herself from saying anything.

The cupboard opened and the shuffling noises from things being taken out were heard. Soon, the noise stopped, and the footsteps gradually faded, as if its owner was walking away from Eiko's current hiding spot.

After hearing the sound of a door being closed, the room once again descended into silence.

Eiko slowly peeked from the mug she was hiding at to ensure that the coast was clear. Although the encounter only lasted for a brief moment, she felt that whoever was in the room with her a while ago had a strength that was similar to the Draconic Kobold that attempted to kidnap her Papa in the past.

The baby slime remained stationary for an hour longer before deciding to make her move. Today was an important day, and she would need to play a part to ensure the success of her Papa's mission.

Outside the Dungeon...

"It has been three days already and they still haven't come out?" Nevreal asked the guard captain that was assigned to watch over the Dungeon's entrance.

"No," the Guard Captain replied. Just like Nevreal, he was quite confused about what was happening.

This was not the first time that the Dwarven Riders had challenged the Nightmare Mode of the Orc Dominion. However, most of their expeditions ended after two days.

A day in Elysium was equivalent to three days inside a Dungeon. This meant that Lux's group had already surpassed the number of days that the Riders of Norria had spent challenging the Dungeon.

"Are they perhaps playing hide and seek with the monsters?" Nevreal scratched his head in confusion.

Truth be told, he had thought of entering the Dungeon alongside the elites of the Stronghold in order to look for Lux and the Dwarf Children. However, since they would be taken to a different version of the Dungeon, looking for them was pointless.

"Commander Thoram sent his aide earlier to inquire whether or not they had exited the dungeon. Unfortunately...", the Guard Captain sighed as he looked back at Nevreal with a helpless expression.

"I bet Thoram is now regretting giving them permission to enter the Dungeon." Nevreal couldn't stop himself from smiling bitterly.

What was supposed to be a Normal Dungeon Raid had become a big issue after Lux accidentally chose the wrong difficulty to challenge. All of them thought that they would return after a day inside the Dungeon, but they never expected that the Half-Elf and his friends would still be inside the Dungeon after three days.

—

Inside Orobak's Residence...

The baby Slime looked left and right to check her surroundings to make sure that it was safe to continue her exploration. After making sure that there were no signs of the Orc Chieftain nearby, Eiko entered the room to check whatever was inside it.

There, she found a large bed that was big enough for a bear to lie on. There were several things that were scattered here and there, which confirmed Lux's suspicion that Eiko had arrived in the Orc Chieftain's room.

'Be careful, Eiko,' Lux said through telepathy. 'If you feel like your life is in danger, teleport to me right away.'

'Pa!'

Eiko rummaged inside the room looking for things of value. Since she had no idea what was important or not, she just listened to Lux's voice inside her head.

Most of the things that were inside the Orc Chieftain's room were amulets made from the bones and teeth of monsters, several beast pelts, and beast horns.

'Pa?'

'Let's just take all of them. Maybe they are valuable.'

'Pa!'

Eiko then opened her mouth and ate the amulets, animal bones, horns, beast pelts, and anything that looked useful inside Orobak's room.

Lux couldn't use the Elysium Compendium while looking through Eiko's eyes, so he couldn't determine whether the items they found had stats or not. Even so, he was already quite thankful that he was able to support the baby Slime as she performed this dangerous mission on her own.

After summoning a Skeleton to help her open the wooden chest inside the room, the baby Slime found a stack of scrolls, a few rough gems, a dagger, and an ornate wooden box. She didn't bother to check what was inside it because they were short on time.

Eiko then ate the entire wooden chest, leaving nothing behind. Since she had already taken a lot of things inside the room, it was obvious that Lux and the baby Slime didn't care if Orobak found out that someone had stolen his belongings.

The baby Slime looked around the room from atop of her Skeleton Fighter's head, to ensure that she didn't miss anything. After seeing that there was nothing more of value inside the room, she decided to leave the room to return to her main mission.

Lux had tasked her to go to the Orc Chieftain's residence to see if there were any valuable treasures inside it. The Half-Elf didn't know what would happen once the Orc Chieftain was defeated, so he decided to play it safe and start looting in advance in case they were instantly teleported out of the Dungeon as soon as Barca defeated Orobak.

An hour later, Eiko scanned her surroundings with a critical gaze.

She was currently on top of the highest point that could be found inside the stronghold, which allowed her to get a view of what was happening inside it. Due to her small size, she managed to slip past the Orcs that had been patrolling the surroundings.

The Orc Warriors that were manning the gates were currently feeling lethargic, and some were even dozing on and off while leaning against the walls. Almost all the Orcs inside the stronghold were in a similar state due to the sedative that Baronar had created while they were traveling.

'Fortunately, there was an option to spare Baronar's life,' Lux thought as he stared at the weakened Orcs inside the stronghold. 'I'm sure that things would have been a lot harder if he hadn't become our ally.'

As the Half-Elf continued to monitor the movement of the Orcs, he heard Orobak's loud roar of anger. He must've already realized that his forces had been drugged. The remaining Orc Warlord, Oreg, was right beside him and was seemingly unaffected by the drug that was placed on their food supplies.

The Orc Warmonger's elite units, the Orc Berserkers, were also unaffected by the sedative, and seemed to be acting normally. For them to be unaffected by the potion that the Orc Shaman had made to dull their senses, they were clearly trained to resist such drugs,.

'Well, I guess this is the dungeon's way of making things a bit more difficult for us. Eiko, it's time for us to start the operation.'

'Pa!'

The baby slime climbed down from her vantage point and headed towards the gate. The battle was about to start, and this would decide whether Barca would be able to realize his dream for dominion or not.

Chapter 110: This Is Madness!

"Raise the flags!" Barca ordered as he sat on top of his Warg.

The flags of the three Orc Warlords fluttered in the breeze, letting Orobak know that they had changed their allegiance.

All of them were eager to charge at the Stronghold and fight their way in.

"Stay close to me guys," Lux was positioned in front of the Dwarves, while sitting on top of his mount. "Don't leave my side no matter what."

Colette, Matty, and the others nodded their heads. All of them were riding their mounts as well, and were at the rear of the formation.

Not wanting to get in the way of Barca's charge, Lux decided to stay in the back. This would also allow them to prepare for any unexpected scenarios that Orobak and Oreg could throw at them.

"Charge!" Barca shouted as his mount lunged forward. "For the Blackrock Clan!"

""For the Blackrock Clan!""

Due to the effects of the sleeping potions that were mixed on their food, none of the soldiers under Orobak's command stirred from their slumber.

The Orc Chieftain could only roar in anger as he watched Barca's forces charging towards the Stronghold at full speed.

"Man the ramparts!" Orobak shouted. "Oreg, Come here!"

"Yes!" Oreg replied. "Man the ramparts! Don't let them breach the walls!"

The Orc Berserkers specialized in head-on clashes, and were not really suited to be defenders. Even so, since there was no one else available to man the walls but them, they could only follow the given order, gripping their war axes as they glared at their enemies with bloodshot eyes.

"Let's see if you can climb the walls under my watch!" Orobak sneered as his eyes locked on Barca who was at the forefront of the rebels that dared to defy his rule.

When the Mounted Riders were only a hundred meters away from the Stronghold, something unexpected happened.

The gates that were tightly shut slowly opened, as if to welcome the invaders with open arms.

Orobak, as well as Oreg, almost couldn't believe their eyes seeing the gates of their stronghold open right under their noses.

The Orc Chieftain immediately glanced in the direction where the gate's mechanism was located, and found several Skeletons working together to raise the steel gate, which barred anyone's entry.

"Damn you, foul Creatures!" Orobak shouted as he grabbed the War Axe from the nearest Orc Berserker and threw it in the direction where the Skeletons were currently at.

Two of the Skeletons that were managing the pulley were instantly shattered, slowing the pace of the gate's opening.

However, just before the Orc Chieftain could throw another War Axe to kill the remaining two Skeletons, the Skeletons that he had killed immediately respawned and resumed their duty.

As if to mock Orobak's attempt, two more Skeletons appeared, but they didn't assist their comrades in opening the gates. They merely looked at the Orc Chieftain and waved their hands in greeting, infuriating Orobak and making him roar in anger, taking the Skeletons' actions as mockery.

Eiko giggled mischievously while hiding in the distance. She was remotely controlling her Summons in order to open the gates according to her Papa's orders.

When the gates had been raised fully, Barca and the rest of the vanguard riders had already entered the Stronghold, wreaking havoc to their surroundings.

"To arms!" Oreg shouted. "Kill them!"

""Kill!""

Orobak shouted a battlecry which had an effect that was similar to Lux's ability. It raised the physical attack of his allies, which allowed them to deal more damage to their enemies.

Blood spilled like a river as the two forces clashed. Although Orobak's side was outnumbered, their ability to fight in close quarters was second to none.

The Mounted Warg Riders' specialty' effectivity was greatly diminished after entering the stronghold. With little to no room to maneuver, the Orcs were forced to abandon their mounts and engage the enemies in close combat.

Lux herded his friends to the corner of the battlefield where he summoned his minions to fight against the Orc Berserkers that were at the peak of Rank 3.

"They are truly Berserkers," Lux gritted his teeth as he used a Void arrow in an attempt to blind his target. All the skeletons that he had summoned shattered instantly with a single swipe of the Berserker's weapon. They were completely outclassed.

"Have no fear! Pazuzu is here!"

Pazuzu appeared and used a Shield Bash to send the Orc Berserker that was about to hack Colette in half. The latter was instantly sent flying to the opposite direction.

"Thank you, Pazuzu!" Colette shouted before smashing her mace into the leg of the Orc Berserker that was being ganged up on by Lux's Skeletal Fighters.

Matty didn't stray far from the little blonde Dwarf and used his two short swords to slash the Orc's Legs in order to limit its movements.

"They're too sturdy!" Matty complained. "My swords can't cut deep!"

"Fire Lance!"

"Hydro Ball!"

Andy and Axel fired their elemental spells at the Orc that Colette, Matty, and the Skeletons were fighting in order to help subdue it. However, their spells barely pushed it back, which proved how strong their opponent was.

"This is madness!" Andy gasped. "It's like we're fighting a boss."

"Yes, and there are over four hundred of these bosses," Axel commented as beads of sweat formed on his forehead.

Lux shared his friends' worries because he clearly felt the disparity in strength with just a few exchanges with their enemies. They were only dealing with two Orc Berserkers, and their forces were being decimated left and right.

If not for Diablo, Ishtar, and Pazuzu holding off one of the Orc Berserkers, they would have definitely found themselves in a precarious situation.

The main reason why they were having problems with the Orc Berserkers, was due to their ability "Rage". This was similar to the Berserk Skill which doubled the Orc Berserker's Stats for a period of time, making them extremely formidable.

An Orc Berserker under the effect of Rage was equivalent to a Rank 4 Monster, which put them on the same level as Boss Monsters in the eyes of Lux and the Dwarf children.

The Half-Elf couldn't help but glance in the direction where Barca and Orobak were duking it out with each other. From his vantage point, he could see the Barca was being pushed back by the Orc Chieftain, whose eyes had turned bloodshot from anger.

Lux also noticed that there were some kind of red mists that were flying in Orobak's direction that were coming from the blood of the corpses that were lying on the ground.

These red mists seemed to coat Orobak's Black Armor, as well as his sword, making them more durable, and deadly with each passing minute.

"Is that some kind of Skill?" Lux muttered as he observed the battle from afar. "Whatever that is, it doesn't bode well for us."

The Half-Elf's greatest fear was starting to come to light as Barca was blown away with one of Orobak's powerful Sword Slash.

With that single exchange alone, Lux fully understood that Orobak's current strength had broken through the initial stages of the Rank 5 Alpha Beast Rank, making him the strongest Orc inside the Stronghold, and an enemy that they would need to fight together in order to defeat.

Chapter 111: What The F*ck bro? U Mad?!

'Is this really a C-Ranked Dungeon?!' Lux cursed internally when he saw the changes in Orobak's strength.

A Rank 5 Monster in a C-Ranked Dungeon was unheard of. But, then again, he had unlocked the only Hidden Quest inside the Orc Dominion Dungeon, so he could somehow understand why the difficulty rating of the boss spiked this much.

Even though it was still weaker than the Draconic Kobold, Cadmus, the current Orobak was still no laughing matter. A Rank 5 Boss Monster as an enemy was something that they were not prepared to face at this point in time.

"Right now, I think he is as strong as the Field Boss, Forest Wolf King." Lux looked at Orobak, but he couldn't see the Boss Monster's stats. All he could see was the basic information. Even though the information he could see was limited, it was enough to confirm his suspicions.

< Orobak >

- Orc Chieftain
- Final Boss of Orc Dominion (Story Mode)
- Rank 5 Boss Monster (Initial Stages)

Health: 400,000 / 400,000

Mana: 80,000 / 80,000

Strength: ???

Intelligence: ???

Vitality: ???

Agility: ???

Dexterity: ???

Skills: ???

Title: One Who Holds Dominion

'This is bad. Barca will not be able to beat him alone.' Lux desperately tried to think of another way to help Barca since his own forces were tied up with the Two Orc Berserkers, which had no other purpose but to make their lives difficult. It was at this moment when he saw the other Orc Warlords who were dealing with their own enemies.

"Baronar! Help Barca! He won't be able to beat Orobak alone!" Lux shouted.

The Orc Shaman glanced at his direction and shook his head.

"We are Orcs. None of us will interfere in the duel for succession. This is part of the rules that our ancestors set long ago," Baronar replied. "However, none of you are bound by that rule."

The Orc Shaman no longer said anything as he hurled his Shamanic Magic at the Orc Berserkers that tried to overpower his Elite Spirit Summons. Although he didn't say it explicitly, his words meant that if Lux and his friends wanted to help Barca, they may do so because they were not Orcs.

Lux looked at his current forces who had just managed to defeat their opponents after almost pushing themselves to their limit.

His and Eiko's Mana was already halved due to their constant summoning of their Skeletal Forces, who would die after two to three slashes from the Orc Berserkers that they were trying to defeat.

Oreg, the last Orc Warlord, roared and charged in their direction.

"I will not allow any of you to interfere!" Oreg charged at Lux and the Dwarven Children, while sending everything in his path flying in every direction.

"Sh*t!" Lux immediately hurled three Void Arrows in Oreg's direction in an attempt to blind him, but the status effect didn't activate.

When the Orc Warmonger was only a few dozens of meters away from them, Lux had no choice but to order his tank to block his path.

"Pazuzu! Stop him!" Lux ordered.

Pazuzu raised his shield high and met Oreg's charge head on.

The result was Pazuzu being blown away by the initial clash due to the great difference in stats.

However, the Demonic Protector righted itself in the air and used its skill Shield Wall. When the giant blue tower shield appeared in front of Pazuzu, it used its trademark skill, Madlad Rush, wielding the shield to bash Oreg's Body, sending the latter skidding a few meters away.

The two fighters clashed against each other with Pazuzu losing ground every time. His Shield Wall could only last for a minute. After that, the Orc Monger would overpower him, breaking through his defenses.

Suddenly, an arrow hit the side of Oreg's body, pushing him sideways.

Ishtar had activated her Siege Stance and used her Knockback arrow in order to give Pazuzu some breathing time.

"Wench!" Oreg spat angrily. "I'll kill you!"

It was at that moment when Oreg felt a threat behind him, so he immediately turned around and used his War Axes to block the Fire Lances that Diablo's Nightmare had shot in his direction.

"Triple Slash!" Matty roared as he executed three full-powered slashes on Oreg's Leg while his attention was diverted elsewhere.

Unfortunately, even if he managed to get a direct hit, the damage he dished out was only enough to give Oreg some shallow cuts, which was nothing to the Orc Warmonger.

Oreg backhanded the Dwarf and sent him flying. Matty crashed on the ground several meters away and rolled a few times before coming to a complete stop.

He spat out a mouthful of blood, and tried to stand up, but his body was still recovering from the shock that it had received from Oreg's powerful blow.

Suddenly, an Orc Berserker who thought that this was a good opportunity to kill someone, lunged towards Matty with its Great Axe held high.

"Matty!" Colette shouted as she ran in her friend's direction with the intention to help him.

However, she was too far from him. And even if she arrived on time, there was nothing she could do. She didn't have the ability to deal with an Orc Berserker alone.

Just as the Orc Berserker was about to slash the young Dwarf, the Orc Raider, Tanabur, and his Warg, jumped over Matty's body and collided with the Orc Berserker in mid-air.

The clash made the Orc Berserker howl in pain as the Warg bit into its body. Simultaneously, Tanabur's War Axe cut off the arm that was holding its weapon.

A meter away from Matty's body, the War axe lay on the ground along the opposing Orc's arm that was still holding its weapon. This showed how strong the Orc Berserker's grip was on its weapon. Even after the arm was severed from its body, the hand and the weapon still hadn't separated.

After decapitating the Orc Berserker, Tanabur returned to Matty's side and grabbed the back of his light-weight armor. Without giving any warning, Tanabur tossed Matty in Lux's direction before looking for his next opponent.

Matty, who was thrown away, was caught by one of Lux's Skeletal Fighters, and brought to Helen to allow her to heal her friend.

"Eiko! Just use Void Arrows and Mana Drain on Oreg!" Lux ordered the baby slime that was currently on top of his head. "I don't believe we can't blind this bastard!"

"Pa!" Eiko obeyed Lux and joined her Papa as they rained Void Arrows at the Orc Warmonger with the intention of blinding him.

After two minutes, Eiko's Void Arrow finally blinded the Orc Warmonger, sending Oreg into a frenzy.

He blindly hacked around him in an attempt to deter his enemies. Unfortunately for him, Pazuzu and Diablo had no intention of fighting him in his current state and allowed their comrades to use their range attacks to whittle Oreg's health away.

Ishtar and the Skeleton Grand Archers turned Oreg into a porcupine while using their Skill Poison Arrows. Poison was the best way to kill an opponent with very high HP because the poison damage would always deal a percentage of their maximum HP.

The Poison in Oreg's body grew, until he entered a status known as Badly Poisoned state. Although it was not enough to kill him completely, it was more than enough to make his life miserable.

"Kill!" Lux ordered as he grabbed a fist sized rock from his storage ring. Activating his Power Shot Skill, he threw the rock at the blinded and poisoned Orc Warmonger.

The Skeleton Grand Archers used their Crippling Volley. Ishtar fired arrow after arrow, aiming for Oreg's Heart. The moment she succeeds, the power of her Heartstriker Bow would be activated.

Diablo fired his Bone Spears, while Eiko unleashed a barrage of elemental spells to rapidly bring Oreg's health down.

"Eat DPS Baby!" Lux shouted as he threw another rock at Oreg's motionless body that had taken a defensive stance.

Just as the Orc Warmonger's life was about to hit zero, a sonic boom reverberated in the air.

Lux could only look in shock at the two-meter long arrow embedded in Oreg's forehead, claiming the last hit, and ending the Orc Warmonger's life.

The Half-Elf turned around to look in the direction where the arrow came from and saw, Morgazar looking at him with a smug expression on his face. The Orc Hunter even gave Lux a thumbs up, while the red-headed teenager gave him the middle finger.

"You f*cking kill stealer!" Lux shouted. "What the f*ck bro? U mad?!"

The Orc Hunter didn't know what Lux meant with his words, and only thought that the Half-Elf was thanking him for his timely assistance.

"No need to thank me!" Morgazar shouted. "We are on the same team!"

"It wasn't a thank you, You F*cker!"

"Um, I don't know what you're saying, but, thank you?"

The Orc Hunter then shifted its attention back to the battlefield and rained arrows upon their enemies, leaving the Half-Elf very frustrated with how things turned out in the end.

The bodies of the Dwarves glowed, after Oreg was killed, which meant that all of them had gained a level after beating the Mini-Boss of the dungeon.

When Oreg's body turned into particles of light, he dropped a Rank 4 Beast Core, his two War Axes, as well as a necklace with a single jagged tooth in it.

Eiko didn't waste time and ate all of the items before hurrying back in Lux's direction. Now that one of the greatest obstacles blocking their way was dead. Only the Last Boss of the Dungeon remained.

Chapter 112: Weaklings Should Know Their Place

Barca spat a mouthful of blood after receiving Orobak's powerful blow, which almost broke his defensive stance.

"I see. So that is the armor that belonged to my Grandfather," Barca said as he looked at the black armor that covered Orobak's entire body. "The Blackrock Legacy Set."

"Indeed." Orobak sneered. "A fitting armor for me, isn't it?"

"The armor is good, but the one wearing it is trash," Barca replied. "If it could only talk, it would have already told you that you are garbage."

Orobak laughed. "A loser's last words. Have you had enough? It's time for you to die, Halfbreed."

"Bring it on, Trash!" Barca gritted his teeth as he held the handle of his weapon tightly. His short talk with his enemy had given him a brief period of rest in order to regain some of his strength. However, he knew that he was about to reach his limit.

The Blackrock Legacy Set was an armor that absorbed the power of blood and death from the battlefield. The more dead people there were, the stronger the wearer became. This was how the first Chieftain of the Blackrock Clan rose to greatness. With the power he got, he expanded his clan until it became one of the strongest in the Orc Empire.

"Die, Mongrel!" Orobak roared as he lunged at Barca with his greatsword held high.

The Half-Orc channeled all the strength he could gather from his body to meet his blow, but before he was able to unleash his own attack, a Tower Shield slammed at the side of Orobak's body, pushing him to the side.

"... It's you guys," Barca muttered when he saw Lux and his friends arrive at his side while riding on their Wargs.

"Sorry to gatecrash on your duel, but someone kill-stealed our Mini-Boss, so I'm still infuriated by it," Lux said as he dismounted from his Warg and summoned it back to his Soul Book.

Although he was tempted to fight Orobak while mounted on Jed, he didn't have the necessary Cavalry Skills to make it effective. If he forced it, Jed would definitely die after getting a direct hit from Orobak. This was something that Lux didn't want to happen.

He chose to just fight normally for this reason, instead of sacrificing his mount to a battle that left no room for error.

"An Orc Battle is sacred, and is not a place for outsiders to intervene," Barca said. "But, I'm fighting against trash, so it's allowed."

"Wow! Double standards much," Lux replied. "Can't you just say that you can't beat him and need our help."

"No. You're just overthinking things."

"Fine. Kill first, talk later."

"That's more like it!" Barca smirked as he looked at Orobak who had kicked Pazuzu away, turning the Demonic Defender into particles of light.

Pazuzu had been fighting non-stop and taking hits for the team. Its health was already low, but Lux still decided to let it do a suicide attack in order to save Barca, and allow them to reach his side.

"F*cker!" Eiko shouted as she looked at Orobak who had killed Pazuzu. She only heard Lux say these words after Morgazar killed Oreg. She didn't know what the word meant, but she felt that using it at that moment was appropriate.

Although the baby Slime had been scared of the Demonic Defender's hideous appearance ever since she first saw him, she still treated Pazuzu as someone that belonged to Lux and her family.

She held this same mentality for Diablo and Ishtar, both of which were her father's Named Creatures. In her eyes, they were not ordinary Summons. They were her Big Brothers and Sisters!

"Eiko, don't say bad words," Lux said as he held the magical staff, Harmony, in his hands. "Your Mama will give me an earful if she hears you cursing out loud."

"Pa!" Eiko nodded her head in understanding.

This was one of the rare weapons that he had obtained from the Gatcha Ticket that Eriol had given him before his adventures truly began.

< Harmony >

Rarity: Rare

(Magic Staff)

Requirement: Intelligence 10

- Magic Damage increase by 5%
- Able to use the skill Magic Missile

(Magic Missile)

- Fires five magical darts at the enemies.
- Damage is equivalent to the Intelligence Stat of the caster

Although Lux's Intelligence Stat was low, this was the only weapon he could use against Orobak. He didn't dare fight the Orc Chieftain at close range because he believed that he would die instantly if he was hit directly by the Greatsword in his hands.

He had also advised Colette and Matty to not approach the Boss Monster, but simply guard Andy, Axel, and Helen, who were capable of firing ranged magical attacks.

"Hah! Getting in the way of our duel means that you want to die, right?" Orobak glared at Lux and his friends with bloodshot eyes as the greatsword in his hands turned crimson.

"Rending Strike!" Orobak shouted as he slashed at the newcomers with a fury.

Five red crescent blades flew in their direction, while destroying the ground in front of it, creating five deep fissures as they headed towards their target.

"Dodge!" Lux shouted before jumping to the side.

The Dwarves also did the same. However, Helen was too slow to completely dodge it. In the end, she was forced to cast a barrier in front of her, which immediately shattered after the attack collided with it.

"Helen!" Lux shouted as the little Dwarf girl was sent flying away by Orobak's attack. Blood dyed her clothes as she crashed down on the ground.

Colette and the others rushed to Helen's side to check on her condition. Their party's Cleric was critically injured, and if it weren't for the defensive artifacts that she was wearing, she might have been instantly killed by the blow she received.

Lux, and the others immediately started pouring health Potions over her body, especially on the part where her clothes were dyed red with her blood.

Helen was still unconscious, and her face was pale, but her life was no longer in danger. However, it was clear that they could no longer count on her to join the battle against the last boss.

"One down," Orobak chuckled. "All of you are next!"

The Orc Chieftain casually raised his sword to block, an arrow that was aimed at his head. He then looked at the Skeleton Hunter, Ishtar, from afar with a smirk.

"Cheap shots won't work on me," Orobak declared. "Are you now all ready to die?"

The armor on Orobak's body glowed crimson as the blood of the slain orcs all flew in his direction, dyeing his weapon and armor in a sinister bloody color.

"Be careful! As long as there is blood and dead bodies in the surroundings, Orobak's strength will soar!" Barca shouted.

Now that all of the Orcs fighting for his side had died, the power he wielded intensified. This was all due to the ability of the Blackrock Legacy Armor he was wearing.

"Weaklings should know their place," Orobak spat before stomping his right foot on the ground.

That was the last thing he said before he charged forward, with the intention of hacking his enemies to pieces without mercy, with the aim to end this battle for dominion once and for all.

Chapter 113: Strength That Knew No Bounds

Orobak's Great Sword was only a meter away from chopping off Lux's neck when it came to a complete and abrupt stop.

The Orc Chieftain roared in anger as his body moved against his will, changing direction and heading towards Diablo, who was seated on top of his Nightmare.

'Run!'

Diablo's single word rang inside Lux's mind as he looked at his first Named Creature in disbelief. This was the first time that Diablo had said a word, and it told him to run.

That single word contained everything that his Named Creature was trying to convey. It made Lux's body move subconsciously just by how strong the emotions in that single word were.

"Everyone, run!" Lux shouted. "Tanabur, take Barca and run!"

The Half-Elf immediately summoned his Warg, Jed, and mounted it while carrying Helen in his arms. Colette and the others did the same, summoning their own mounts and following behind Lux, who was already running towards the entrance of the Stronghold.

When Diablo had used Duel [EX] against Orobak, the Skeleton Rider intended for itself to clash with the Orc Chieftain in order to buy some time for the others. This skill would force his target to exchange a blow with him once.

It had a range of three hundred meters and a cooldown of one minute, which was a very powerful skill for forced combat.

Tanabur grabbed Barca's arm and forcefully hoisted him on the back of his mount. Baronar and Morgazar also followed behind them and ordered their forces to retreat.

Only Lux's Skeletons, including Ishtar, remained behind as all the Orcs allied with Lux and Barca, rushed out of the stronghold to flee towards the forest.

Although it was a disgraceful behavior, the opponent was simply too strong for them to fight right now.

As Lux was fleeing, he heard Airon's pained neighs as he and Diablo were blown away by Orobak's powerful attack.

The Skeleton Rider's left arm, which was holding a shield, was shattered and his body was on the brink of collapse. Airon wasn't faring any better.

"I will not allow any of you to escape!" Orobak shouted. "All of you will die here!"

The Orc Chieftain ignored Diablo and sprinted towards the entrance of the Stronghold, where several skeletons were blocking his path.

Orobak didn't even need to attack them because the Skeletons shattered instantly after trying to stop his ferocious charge.

However, when he was only a dozen meters away from the entrance of the stronghold, a pained expression crossed his face as a Steel Bear Trap closed in on his right foot. Another trap sprung on his left, but that didn't deter the Orc Chieftain from continuing his charge.

He activated three more traps, totaling of five, which greatly slowed Orobak's movement.

Ishtar had placed all of her traps near the entrance of the Stronghold as a last ditch effort to stop Orobak from chasing after Lux and the others.

Ishtar had taken her Siege Stance and fired a Knockback Arrow, which forcefully forced Orobak to take a few steps back, canceling the momentum of his charge.

The Skeleton Hunter continued to fire arrow after arrow at the angered Orc Chieftain, while the Skeleton Grand Archers shot their Crippling Volley, in an effort to assist Ishtar in holding Orobak back.

Orobak's hateful shout reverberated inside the Stronghold as he threw one of the War Axes that was lying on the ground towards Ishtar.

The War Axe flew straight and true, instantly shattering the Skeleton Hunter's body, killing her completely.

Orobak's rage didn't stop there as he threw several more War Axes and decimated the Skeleton Grand Archers that were making his life difficult. When the last Skeleton Archer fell, the Orc Chieftain forcefully removed the steel traps from his feet and threw them aside.

However, before he could even step out of his stronghold, his body once again moved backwards and a hateful shout escaped his lips.

Diablo stood alone because he had already sent Airon back to Lux's Soul Book to prevent the hard earned Nightmare from dying.

The Skeleton Rider laughed as his jaws rattled, as if mocking the angered Orc Chieftain, who was rushing towards him with his greatsword ready to swing for the kill.

Diablo held his sword with his remaining right hand, as he prepared to parry Orobak's attack.

Both swords collided, and Diablo's remaining arm shattered due to the strong impact. However, it didn't back down and used his Leap Skill to jump over the Orc Chieftain's head before unleashing his last attack.

Using his leg as a weapon, Diablo descended towards Orobak's head and then activated his skill, Whirlwind Slash.

"Annoying insect!" Orobak shouted as he raised his greatsword and shattered Diablo's leg, canceling his attack. The skeletal Rider fell on the ground without either of its legs.

Orobak roared as he stomped on Diablo's body, shattering it completely and killing the Skeleton Rider once and for all.

He then gazed at the entrance of the Stronghold where his enemies had escaped. The Orc Chieftain knew that it was already too late to run after them, and decided to look at his surroundings.

All of the Orcs under his command were dead. Their blood still dyed the ground with their color, which was continuously turning into red mist and flying in his direction. It was at this moment when Orobak understood.

He might have won the battle, but he had lost the war. He was the reigning Orc Chieftain, but without Orcs to govern, it was only an empty title.

Just like his Stronghold that no longer held any living creature inside it.

Lux and the other Orcs stopped their retreat when they were two miles away from Orobak's Stronghold.

His Skeletons' sacrifice had given them enough time to escape the one-sided massacre from the second strongest monster that Lux had seen in Elysium.

"Let's make camp here," Lux said after glancing in the direction of Orobak's Stronghold for a minute. "He will not follow us here."

Baronar, Tanabur, and Morgazar nodded their heads. They then ordered their subordinates to make camp, so that all of them could rest.

After everyone had settled down, the three Orc Warlords came to find Lux to tell him about an important matter.

"Lux, from this point onwards, none of us will make a move to fight against Orobak," Baronar said with a firm expression on his face. "This is between Barca, you guys, and Orobak. Whoever won the final battle, would become our Orc Chieftain."

Tanabur, and Morgazar nodded their heads in agreement. They had already done their part, and the final effort must come from Lux's and Barca's side.

"I understand," Lux replied. "Thank you for everything."

After saying what they had to say, the three Orc Warlords left to give Lux some time to think about his next course of action.

During Diablo's final moments, Lux was able to see everything that was happening to his Named Creature. It made him understand just how strong Orobak was.

"In the face of absolute strength, all tricks are meaningless, right?" Lux muttered as he stared in the distance. "Well, we'll just have to see if he really does have absolute strength."

Lux narrowed his eyes as a plan formulated inside his head.

Although the Orc Warlords said that they would not participate in the battle against Orobak, the Half-Elf felt that he could use some loopholes in order to make them help him with a few things, giving them a chance to win against the Orc Chieftain, whose strength knew no bounds.

Chapter 114: Tilting The Favor To Their Side

Lux was still inside his tent even when the sun had slowly set in the horizon.

He had busied himself with drafting out a plan in order to win against Orobak with the least casualties possible. After he finished doing that, he then sorted through the items that Eiko had taken from Orobak's room. The Half-Elf was quite surprised by the goodies she managed to bring back with her. Some of them provided extra stats.

All the bone amulets, as well as the tooth amulets, that Eiko had taken with her had stats, which was an unexpected boon to Lux. However, there was just one big problem.

"Only Orcs can wear them?" Lux scratched his head for the umpteenth time due to the unreasonable requirements that the amulets had.

Most of them gave an additional +10 points to a certain stat, which made them quite valuable. Unfortunately, since only Orcs could wear them, Lux's plan to overgear himself was put on hold.

'I'll just let Barca wear them,' Lux thought. 'That way, he can increase his stats before the final confrontation. After that, I'll take them back with me, so I can transmute them all to make an overpowered accessory. I knew that my Skill Item Transmutation [EX] would come in handy.'

Lux understood the value of this skill, and was quite grateful to have it. The only reason he hadn't managed to abuse it was due to his lack of resources, as well as lack of equipment that had stats, or abilities that he could transfer.

"Now, time to open this wooden chest," Lux muttered as he opened the wooden chest that Eiko had taken with her as well. "I wonder what is inside."

The first thing that Lux took out from the wooden crate was a dagger. It looked very crude, and yet its simplicity held a certain charm of its own. Lux used the Elysium Compendium that had merged with his Soul Book to appraise it and his jaw almost dropped after reading its information.

< Beloved's Memento >

Rarity: Mythical

– This crude dagger once belonged to Barca's Mother. Due to her sacrifice, some of her stats were transferred to this dagger at the moment of her death.

Requirement: The effect of this dagger will only activate if it is equipped by the Half-Orc, Barca.

+50 to all Stats

"T-This!" Lux couldn't believe what he was seeing. A mythical dagger that could increase the wearer's stats by 50 points was something that you didn't see everyday. Unfortunately, this was a weapon that was exclusively for Barca, which made Lux's teeth ache.

Setting the dagger to the side, Lux then unfurled one of the scrolls inside the wooden crate.

"A single-use magic scroll," Lux muttered as he looked at the scroll in his hand. "Not bad. I can use this."

Single-use magic scrolls were scrolls that allowed anyone to activate the Spell that was inscribed on it. They could be thought of as hand grenades or other similar consumables that could be used to deal great damage to one's enemies.

Lux checked the scrolls one by one and was pleasantly surprised to see five Rank 3 Fire Blast Spells that could be used to deal great damage to an enemy.

After setting the scrolls aside, Lux then picked up one of the gems that was inside the crate. They were just ordinary gems, which could be sold for a decent price to merchants. After making sure that all of the gems had nothing special about them, Lux then opened the ornate wooden box that he had saved for last.

Inside it was a Medallion.

Upon closer inspection, Lux could tell that this item didn't belong to the Orcs. The Medallion was well-crafted making it impossible for the Orcs to produce such a thing.

After using appraisal, the Orc Medallion's origin came to light.

Avetia Kingdom's Elite Cavalry Medallion.

Rarity: Mythical

Requirement: Only for Professions that specialize in mounted combat.

– When wielding a spear, you will be able to use the skill Hero's Charge.

+20 to All Stats for any classes that allows you to fight while mounted on a beast.

+10% increase to mobility, and physical attack.

+100 to Physical Attack.

< Hero's Charge >

- A full powered charge attack that deals 300% of your overall physical damage to your target. Can only be used when mounted on a beast.
- If your enemy is bigger than you, it deals an additional 100% damage to your target. Can only be used when mounted on a beast.

'This one is better. At least, Diablo can use it,' Lux thought as he stared at the Medallion with a smile.

The Half-Elf immediately equipped the Medallion to Diablo, making his Named Creature stronger than it ever was before.

Now that everything had been sorted out, Lux left the tent and started looking for Tanabur's men. Since the sun was no longer up, it was now time to execute his plan.

Barca was still recovering from his injuries, and according to Baronar, it would still take him a day to fully recover. Lux thought that this was fine since he was still in the process of executing his plan.

After looking for the Orc Warlord, the latter looked at Lux weirdly before reluctantly nodding his head.

Half an hour later, Lux, alongside a hundred Orc Riders, rode towards the Stronghold where the Orc Chieftain was. Their plan was not to fight him, but to create a battlefield that would tilt the favor to their side.

Although Lux didn't know whether his plan would work or not, it was still better than doing nothing at all.

They only had one enemy remaining before he and his friends could clear the dungeon and go home. Since that was the case, he needed to put a lot of effort in order to make sure that all of them would be able to clear the dungeon, while making sure that their heads would remain attached to their bodies after fighting the Orc Chieftain one last time.

Chapter 115.1: I Will Now Teach You How Weaklings Fight! [Part 1]

It was already past midnight, and the surroundings were dark. There were neither stars nor moon in the sky to give light to the land. The torches that burned around the Stronghold were the only light source inside the Orc Encampment.

Orobak stood in the center of the stronghold. The bodies of his warriors still lay on the ground around him.

Since Lux and his partymates weren't the ones that had fought them, their bodies didn't disappear and turn into particles of light. This gave Orobak the opportunity to use their corpses to strengthen himself, and get an edge over Barca.

Lux knew that Orobak wouldn't leave the Stronghold because the Orc chieftain couldn't lose his advantage. Since that was the case, the Half-Elf had no other choice but to... annoy the sh*t out of the Orc Chieftain!

Arrows rained from the sky from outside of the Stronghold, which forced the Orc Chieftain to use his weapons to block it.

It was at this moment when the whistling sound of the wind reached Orobak's ears, and he immediately turned around to use his great sword to block the arrow that was aimed at his side. The force of the arrow made the Orc Chieftain take a few steps back, which made him frown.

"It's you again," Orobak glared at Ishtar, who was currently riding standing on top of Pazuzu's Tower Shield, while the latter hovered in the air.

The Skeleton Hunter had taken her shield stance and was firing arrow after arrow. Poison Arrow, Piercing Arrows, Knockback Arrows, Frostfire Arrows, Stun Arrows—all kinds of arrows in Ishtar's arsenal were all fired in the Orc Chieftain's direction without fail.

Aside from Ishtar, the Skeleton Grand Archers were also firing arrows, but they didn't care whether they hit Orobak or not because they couldn't see him.

The Orc Archers were doing the same. Lux had ordered them to just "shoot their arrows inside the Stronghold, without caring if they hit anything or not. Although the order was weird, the Orc Archers obeyed Lux.

When Morgazar first heard of it, he even scratched his head, confused with the plan that Lux had thought up. Since he specifically told the Half-Elf that they would not assist him in fighting against Orobak, the latter only told them that he didn't need their help to attack the Orc Chieftain.

What Lux ordered them to do was this. Just shoot inside the stronghold. It didn't matter where the arrows landed, all they had to do was make sure it landed inside the Orc Stronghold.

It was a weird order, but since they weren't directly attacking Orobak, Morgazar thought that the order was valid.

And so, a rain of arrows that didn't seem to have any designated target fell randomly inside the Stronghold, making it look like it was under siege.

While Orobak was dealing with Ishtar's and the rain of arrows that were falling above his head, he noticed several Skeleton Fighters, as well as the Skeleton Rider he fought a few hours ago, stabbing the bodies of the Orcs that had fallen.

Lux had tasked his minions to steal any Beast Cores that they could find, while Orobak was under siege by his enemies.

Eiko had also sneakily infiltrated the Orc Stronghold from the rear when the siege started.

She then summoned her Skeleton Fighters, and Skeleton Grand Archers, and gave them specific roles.

The Skeleton Fighters were to gather Beast Cores, while the Skeleton Grand Archers were to aim at Orobak using their poison arrows in order to whittle away his health.

Naturally, the Orc Chieftain didn't stand idly and threw any weapon that he could find at the Skeleton Grand Archers that were aiming at him from a distance, killing them instantly.

"Ei! Ei! Ei!" Eiko continuously re-summoned the Skeletons that were destroyed, until her mana was almost depleted.

Orobak was annoyed by the hit and run tactics that were being used against him, and roared in anger. He had finally understood that Ishtar, and the rain of arrows that were falling above his head were merely distractions.

However, he realized it a bit late.

Diablo and his subordinates had already collected dozens of Beast Cores from the corpses along the outskirts of the Stronghold. Surprisingly, each time they took a Beast Core from the bodies of the Orcs, they would turn into particles of light, their bodies, along with their blood, disappearing completely.

This was an unexpected discovery that made Lux extremely happy.

'Perhaps this is a loophole in the dungeon that would help the challengers cope with Orobak's unreasonable advantage.'

That was what Lux thought after the first Orc Warrior disappeared after the Beast Core was taken out of its body.

After finding out that the opposing side's main goal was to only make him passively defend from ranged attacks, Orobak roared in anger and charged towards Diablo and the Skeleton Fighters.

Naturally, Diablo and the others made a run for it, while Eiko's Skeleton Fighters, who were in the rear, sped up their Beast Core collection, while the Orc was chasing their comrades.

This was a pincer attack that Lux had devised in order to steal power right out from under Orobak's nose.

Now that Orobak had changed his strategy, Ishtar was able to land a few hits on the Orc's body since he had decided to just focus on killing the thieving Skeletons first, instead of worrying about the Orc Hunter that was shooting at him from the sky.

The game of cat and mouse continued until more than half of the orcs inside the stronghold had vanished completely, making Orobak unable to think of what to do next.

"Weaklings!" Orobak shouted when he exited the Stronghold and saw Lux, as well as Barca, standing hundreds of meters away from him, surrounded by torch lights.

It was as if they were making sure that the Orc Chieftain spotted them no matter what, and their plan had worked just as they envisioned.

"Do you dare to fight me in a duel?!" Orobak roared in challenge.

"Hell no!" Lux shouted in reply. "If you want to fight, come here!"

"I'll kill you!"

"Come at me, bro!"

Lux spread his arms wide and taunted Orobak, who was glaring in his direction.

The Orc Chieftain took out a small throwing knife and hurled it towards the Half-Elf with all the strength it could muster. Unfortunately, Barca just casually deflected it to the side, and sneered at his adversary.

Although Orobak was currently stronger than him, a throwing axe didn't pose a threat to him.

"Barca, you coward!" Orobak roared. "Fight me!"

"If you want to fight, come!" Barca pointed his greatsword at his opponent. "I am here! Fight me!"

Orobak fought an internal struggle inside his head. If he fought Barca outside the Stronghold, his advantage would diminish making his strength almost at par with him. Even though he knew that he was stronger than the Half-Orc, he was now alone without any warriors under his command.

'I just need to defeat him, and the other Orcs will once again swear their allegiance to me,' Orobak thought as he looked back inside the stronghold where the Skeleton Fighters were still busy looting the bodies of his subordinates, making them fade into particles of light.

'The effect of the armor lasts for half an hour. If I can kill him before then, it is my win!' Orobak no longer hesitated as he ran towards Barca who had readied himself in a fighting stance.

Orobak's eyes turned bloodshot as he thought about all of his subordinates who had died due to the Half-Orc's Rebellion. He had no intention of sparing Barca's life, and would do the same to the Half-Elf who was in cahoots with him.

However, when he was only a dozen meters away from the duo, the ground under his feet gave way and Orobak found himself falling into a muddy pit that Lux had prepared for him beforehand.

"You call us weaklings, right?" Lux asked with a sneer. "Well, sorry for being a weakling. I will now teach you how weaklings fight."

Chapter 116.2: I Will Now Teach You How Weaklings Fight! [Part 2]

"Y-You!" Orobak could only glare at the Half-Elf even after he realized that he had fallen into a trap. "You tricked me!"

Due to his single-minded aim of killing Barca and the Half-Elf in front of him and the dim surroundings, he didn't pay too much attention to the ground nor did he notice what was happening around him.

When he fell in the muddy hole, only then did he understand that this was the real goal his enemies were aiming for.

"Dirty Half-Breeds!" Orobak shouted in anger as he felt his body slowly sinking into the ground. "Do you think that this can stop me?!"

Right now, the Orc Chieftain's body was buried only up to his knees. Although he was caught by surprise, the situation wasn't unsalvageable. Orobak planned to use his superior strength to propel himself up from the quicksand, using a skill similar to Diablo's leap.

However, before he could even do that, an arrow pierced the top of his head, canceling his attempt, and pushing him further down into the quicksand.

Lux sneered. The quicksand trap was something he had prepared with the help of his Trap Specialist, Ishtar, who made sure it was almost flawless, and the Orc Riders, who spent the majority of the night digging the swimming-pool-sized pit that he had designed for the Orc Chieftain.

As someone who specializes in placing traps, Ishtar taught Lux how to calculate the right mixture of soil and water in order to create a quicksand that was strong enough to hold someone like Orobak.

After his failed attempt, Orobak's body was now waist-deep inside the quicksand. The stupid Orc continued to struggle, which only made the quicksand that was holding his body in place more potent.

Lux chuckled as he summoned Diablo in front of him.

The Skeletal Rider's burning, golden eyes looked at the Orc Chieftain as he gave a rattling laughter, as if to mock Orobak for his arrogance.

Suddenly, Diablo jumped into the quicksand as well, allowing the sand to slowly pull him into its deathly embrace.

In desperation, Orobak was about to use a last ditch effort to use everything he had to break free from the quicksand that bound his body. However, just as he was about to enact his plan, his body instantly froze as he looked at the Skeleton Rider that had joined him in the muddy, and deadly, prison that had entrapped him.

With one hand pointing at Orobak, Diablo activated his skill, Duel [EX], which forced the Orc Chieftain to exchange a single blow with him.

A frustrated roar of anger escaped Orobak's lips as his body started to reach out to Diablo regardless of his will. Diablo's body was now chest-deep inside the quicksand, but since he was already dead, he had nothing to fear.

The Skeleton Rider gave Orobak the middle finger as it slowly sank without resistance into the quicksand.

Ishtar, who was right above Orobak's head, shot another knockback arrow, hitting Orobak's head, like a nail getting hit by a hammer. The Orc Chieftain's body was once again pushed down until it was chest-deep in the quicksand.

"I regret not killing you when you were a child!" Orobak shouted. "You are no Orc! You're just a filthy Half-Blood!"

Barca didn't reply because he, too, knew that what was happening right now wasn't the warrior's way. It wasn't how Orcs did battle.

The Orc Warlords, as well as their subordinates gathered around the quicksand and looked at their former Orc Chieftain with complicated expressions on their faces. For them, the battle for Dominion was supposed to be a battle between two strong warriors.

Only the strongest among them would be recognized as their leader. That was the way of the Orcs. Even now, they hadn't fully recognized Barca as their Chieftain. They only became his subordinates because he had bested them in battle.

However, that was that, and this was this.

A battle between the Orc Chieftain and his challenger should have been the highlight of this battle, but what did they see?

Their strongest Warrior, dying because of a trick!

As Barca, the Orc Warlords, and the other Orcs felt these complicated feelings in their heart, they heard Lux's voice that brought them out of their daze.

"Who is stronger?" Lux asked. "A Human or an Orc?"

"An Orc!" Orobak shouted. "Orcs are the strongest! We fight with honor! And through battle, we show our mettle! We are the strongest!"

Now that he could no longer find a way to escape his fate, he wanted to make the Orcs understand that Barca wasn't the leader that they were looking for. He wasn't suitable to become the next Orc Chieftain!

The Orcs also shouted their war cries because they completely agreed with their former Chieftain. Some of them were even eyeing Lux and Barca with hateful gazes. A hate that was slowly taking hold of their allegiance.

"It is true, Orcs are stronger than humans," Lux replied.

His reply was unexpected and the Half-Orc who was standing beside him closed his eyes because he, too, understood this as the truth.

"But, what of it?" Lux chuckled. "Orcs are stronger than Humans, but which side prevailed over the years? Who was it that populated this world and held

vast swaths of fertile lands? Was it Orcs? Of course not. It is because strength alone is not enough for Dominion."

Lux's mocking words grated every Orc's ears, making them want to shout and refute him. But before they could say anything, the Half-Elf's next words made them shut up.

"Humans are weak, this is true, but because of this weakness, they learned to adapt," Lux stated. "Humans are weaker than Orcs, who can crush rocks with their bare hands, but Humans don't need to crush rocks. They used it as their weapon instead. Stone spears, stone axes, stone clubs, anything that they could use to survive, Humans used it all."

"Whenever they fight strong opponents, they don't fight them alone. They fight them in numbers. If numbers don't work, they retreat, and fight again another day. Over the years, mankind has evolved. Since they live short lives, they made their lives meaningful by passing their knowledge to the next generation, so that they in turn could continue to develop and strengthen themselves."

"The fact that Human Empires and Kingdoms exist to this day is proof of Humanity's strength. Tell me, Orcs of the Blackrock Clan, if Humans are as weak as you proclaim them to be then why is your former chieftain dying right now?"

Lux's question was filled with ridicule that stung the Orcs' ears, making them answer him with hatred.

"Because you used dirty tricks!" one of the Orc Archers shouted. "If you fought in battle, you are the one who would have been dead by now."

"All is fair in love and war," Lux replied. "The problem with you Orcs, is that your race is all brawns and no brains. Didn't you learn anything from this battle? Didn't you learn anything from him?"

Lux pointed at Orobak, whose head was the only thing that remained above the muddy waters.

"That will be your Clan's fate when you fight against Humans," Lux stated. "I am only Half-Human and I am already this devious. How much more devious could I be if I were fully Human? Wouldn't he have died without knowing how he died?"

Lux gave the Orcs an arrogant gaze that made them gnash their teeth in anger.

"All of you are lucky." Lux snorted as he patted the Half-Orc beside him. "Here is a Half-Orc. He has both brains and brawn. A Chieftain who is not only strong, but is smart as well."

"You are the one that devised this plan. You are the smart one," Barca replied.

"No. You are smart," Lux commented. "The fact that you asked me to help you gain Dominion is proof of how smart you are. If you didn't ask for my help, none of this would have happened."

Lux made a gesture and waved his hand to encompass all the Orc Warriors that had fought for their side.

"A good ruler must choose a good general to fight for him," Lux said. "I fought for you, and this is the result. This is now your Dominion."

Orobak glared hatefully at the Half-Elf until his body was completely swallowed up by the quicksand.

To kill a Rank 5 Alpha Monster using this method would not work every time. Lux just used the terrain of the Dungeon to his advantage, as well as Orobak's desire to kill Barca, which led him to disregard the possibility that he was being led to a trap.

Since ancient times, Humanity used similar methods in order to fight and kill the stronger beasts that threatened their lives. What Lux did was simply one of the many tried and true methods that ensured his and his friends' survival.

Lux could see through his Elysium Compendium that Orobak's health was starting to decrease at a rapid pace. Soon, the Final Boss' health went down to zero, signaling that he had died.

As if waiting for that moment, Colette, Matty, Andy, Axel, and Helen's body all glowed brightly like stars in the night sky.

They had all leveled up a consecutive number of times after getting the massive experience points that the Final Boss had given them.

Although they didn't fight Orobak, Lux was part of their party. Since the Half-Elf's Summon fought in his place, they gained the experience points that were also meant for him.

Chapter 117: So, Are You Ready To Rumble?

Lux thought that after the Orc Chieftain was dead, the Hidden Quest would be finally completed. However, contrary to his expectations, the quest wasn't over yet.

Hidden Quest: I Wish For Dominion

Bonus Rewards will be calculated depending on the choices you make in this mission.

< Kill the Four Orc Warlords >

+500 Riders of Norria Reputation Points

– Gain one random Pseudo-Mythical weapon, armor, or artifact, that belonged to each of the Warlords that you have slain.

– Gain the Orc Slayer Title

(Orc Slayer Title)

– Increase damage to all Orcs by 20%

– Orcs will feel threatened by your presence

< Negotiate with the Orc Warlords > (Completed)

+1000 Riders of Norria Reputation Points

+200 Kingdom of Gweliven Reputation Points (Exclusive to Kingdom of Gweliven)

+200 Gold Coins

– Gain Negotiator Title

(Negotiator Title)

– When dealing with Nobles or Royalty, your chances of closing a successful deal is increased by 10%

< Final Mission >

Make the Blackrock Clan recognize Barca as their new Orc Chieftain!

– The Orcs are dissatisfied with the outcome of the battle. Because of this, they do not approve of Barca as their new leader.

– Find a way to convince the Orcs to recognize Barca as their new leader!

Rewards: ???

'This might be a bit troublesome,' Lux thought as he looked at the final mission that he needed to clear in order to complete the mission.

He could see the dissatisfaction in the eyes of the Orcs. Even Tanabur looked at Lux and Barca with a dissatisfied look. Only Baronar and Morgazar remained unfazed with the result of the battle.

"Who among you do not approve of the method I used to kill your Orc Chieftain?" Lux asked. "Raise your hands!"

More than a third of the Orcs raised their hands, including Tanabur who made his stance known.

"So, you wish for an honorable battle, is that it?" Lux inquired.

""Yes!""

Lux knew that there was nothing else he could do but go with the flow. Since it was a duel they wanted, a duel they would get.

"Very well, I will accept your challenge," Lux said in an arrogant manner. "Since Barca defeated the Orc Warlords in a duel, this meant that all of you approve of his strength, right?"

"Yes," Baronar replied.

"It was Ishstar who defeated me, but since you are her Master, I approve of you as the victor of our duel," Morgazar replied.

"I recognize Barca, but I don't recognize you," Tanabur replied.

"Okay, since all of you already recognize Barca and had fought with him, it is time for the subordinates to fight," Lux declared. "Anyone who wishes to challenge me, with the exception of Barca, and the Orc Warlords, feel free to step forward. I will fight you with everything I have, one-on-one!"

Some of the orcs were itching to accept the challenge. In fact, some of them were already about to declare their intent to fight.

"I will fight you!" an Orc Rider shouted and his mount stepped forward before growling at Lux.

"Fine," Lux replied.

The Half-Elf then summoned all of his minions. Eiko also summoned her skeletons as well.

Since she was Lux's daughter, and Beast Companion, her summons were also part of Lux's strength. Even Baronar, who also had spirit summons, had to cover his face out of embarrassment due to the Half-Elf's shamelessness.

The corner of the lips of the Orcs twitched after seeing Lux's shameful display of power.

"Bro, what happened to the one-on-one battle you promised?" The Orc Rider felt his courage failed him after seeing the lineup that he was about to fight. "This is not one-on-one."

"I am a Necromancer. This is how I fight," Lux scoffed in disdain. "If you have someone to blame, blame yourself for being weak."

Pazuzu and Ishtar also landed on the ground and stood by his side. The Skeleton Hunter drew her bow, while the Demonic Defender tapped his Tower Shield with his mace, making known his intent to fight.

One Overpowered Baby Slime

One Skeletal Rider

One Skeleton Hunter

One Demonic Defender

Fourteen Skeleton Fighters

Sixteen Skeleton Grand Archers

This was the lineup on Lux's disposal, which made the Orcs who saw this feel their liver itch.

With just a glance, any Orc, even if they weren't smart, could understand that this was not a battle that they could win.

'Fools! Aside from Barca, and the Orc Warlords, none of you are my match!' Lux laughed in his heart. "So, are you ready to rumble?"

Lux gave the Orc Warrior a devilish smile as he stepped forward.

Eiko, who was on top of Lux's head, was also pumped up for a battle. As a battle junky, and with great numbers on her side, the baby Slime was fearless, knowing that they were at a great advantage.

If only Iris knew that her baby daughter was becoming as shameless as her Papa, she would definitely take her back to the Barbatos Academy and raise her herself.

"I-I concede," the Orc Rider had no choice but to concede over the hopeless fight that was waiting for him.

Lux nodded his head. "Anyone else?!"

None of the Orcs dared to step forward because they knew that it was impossible to win against Lux and his minions.

"Fight me!" Tanabur shouted. He was greatly dissatisfied with what was happening so he made his voice known. "If you win, I will convince everyone to recognize Barca as our new Chieftain! What do you say?"

"Okay," Lux answered in a heartbeat. "You're very brave, Tanabur. Because of your bravery, I will only designate Diablo and Pazuzu as my representatives. If you beat them then I will no longer interfere with the affairs of the Blackrock Clan. You are free to choose among yourselves who will be the next Orc Chieftain."

Tanabur, who had already prepared himself to fight Lux and all of his summons in a battle, looked at the Half-Elf suspiciously.

As a Rank 4 Alpha Monster, he knew that all he needed to do was defeat Lux, and all of his summons would be rendered useless. However, instead of fighting him, the Half-Elf designated two representatives to fight in his stead.

"Are you sure about this?" Tanabur asked with suspicion. "If I defeat them, you will no longer meddle in our affairs?"

"Correct," Lux answered. "This will be a no-holds barred battle. Anything is allowed. You can even fight with your mount. Everyone can use any method in order to win. Do you accept these conditions?"

"I accept!" Tanabur declared. "I, Tanabur, accept this challenge! All of you bear witness to this battle. Any method is allowed. Only the result is important!"

The Orcs raised their weapons and shouted their war cries.

Baronar and Morgazar covered their faces with the palm of their hands. Both of them were few of the smarter ones among the Orcs, and they already understood what the Half-Elf was planning to do.

"This fool was led by the nose," Baronar muttered in embarrassment.

Morgazar nodded his head in agreement. "Maybe we really do need a bit of humanity to overcome the stupidity of our race."

Barca also realized what Lux was planning to do and shook his head helplessly. He vowed that after this duel ended, he would ensure that the Orcs

learned some strategies from Humans so they would not be hoodwinked by words and other types of provocation.

"Are you ready?" Lux asked.

"I was born ready!" Tanabur replied.

Diablo and Pazuzu had already taken a fighting stance, and Tanabur and his Warg did the same.

"At the count of three!" Lux shouted. "One, Two, Three, Fight!"

Tanabur's Warg lunged forward in order to attack the two monsters in front of him. He was quite confident of his strength, and didn't think much of Lux's two Summons who were two ranks below him.

The moment Lux gave the signal to fight, Diablo who was mounted on his Nightmare turned around and ran away from Tanabur and his Warg.

Pazuzu activated his Shield Wall and used his Madlad Rush to slam his shield against the Orc Rider's body, sending him skidding on the ground.

"Petty tricks!" Tanabur shouted as he exerted his Rank 4 Alpha Monster strength to slowly push back the Demonic Protector that was keeping him at bay.

Due to the big, blue, Tower Shield that was blocking his vision, he was unaware of what was happening in front of him.

Suddenly, Tanabur activated his Cavalry Skill, Wild Charge, and pushed Pazuzu back.

The Demonic Defender held on for as long as he could, but his enemy was simply too strong for him even if he had already used his two trump cards. Even so, Pazuzu didn't back down and continued to hold his ground.

Only when his Shield Wall was about to end did the Demonic Defender fly high up, allowing Tanabur and his Warg to continue charging forward.

However, when the Orc Raider saw what was waiting for him, his face immediately became pale as Diablo's middle finger pointed in his direction.

Duel [EX]

The Orc Raider, and his Warg looked on in horror as both of them were forced to run in the direction of the QuickSand that had killed their former Orc Chieftain, Orobak.

"This isn't part of the deal!" Tanabur's horrified shout spread across the battlefield as his mount neared the deadly pit that would definitely claim their lives.

"This is an anything goes battle," Lux replied. "Any method is allowed. Only the result is important."

"Damn you, Half-Elf!"

Those were the last words that Tanabur shouted before he, and his Warg, fell into the deadly QuickSand that sealed their fate.

Chapter 118: Orc Dominion Hidden Mode Cleared!

Tanabur sat while hugging his knees while he stared off in the distance.

He had just been saved by his men, who tried to pull him out of the quicksand, due to his incessant shouting of "I don't want to die!"

Lux didn't make a move to stop them and simply chuckled at the scene. When the Orc Warlord had been saved, Lux then addressed the other Orcs and gave them a speech.

"Strength alone doesn't win battles," he said. "You shouldn't always rely on strength, but strategy as well. This is why having Barca as your next chieftain will allow the Blackrock Clan to grow because he is a Half-Orc. He had the strength of an Orc and the scheming mind of a Human."

Barca, who was standing beside Lux, had a calm expression on his face, while he endured the b*llsh*t that the Half-Elf was saying. He knew that the red-headed teenager was doing his best to convince the Orcs to make him their Chieftain even though he was only a Half-Orc.

Lux, who was like a salesman who was trying to sell a product to the Orcs, told them the importance of having a flexible leader to supervise their clan.

In the end, he heard a series of notifications inside his head, confirming that he had succeeded in the mission.

Once again, the bodies of the Dwarves glowed, as their levels increased once again, making Colette and the others very happy.

All of them had now become Apostles, and had finally graduated from the Beginner's Zone. However, after realizing this fact, the happiness they were feeling disappeared as they stared at the Half-Elf that was looking at them with a smile.

"B-Big Brother....," Colette said with teary eyes.

Lux didn't answer and simply patted her head. "Silly girl. Don't think of anything else. After we return to the Leaf Village, let's all perform your graduation ceremony. You still haven't beaten the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, nor have you replaced your sister's name in the Bronze Crypt. There are still plenty of things to do before you move out of Leaf Village."

"... Un." Colette nodded her head as she hugged Lux's body.

Soon, the Half-Elf found himself being hugged by all the Dwarf children, with the exception of Matty, who was just standing a meter away from Colette.

He was looking at Lux with a complicated look on her face before raising his fist at him. A tsundere through and through.

Lux smiled because he understood the gesture. The Half-Elf raised his own fist and bumped it against the Simp Dwarf's fist since the boy refused to give him a hug.

While everyone was having a group hug, Barca had finished his talk with the Orc Warlords and went to seek out Lux to talk to him about his rewards.

"Please, follow me inside the Stronghold," Barca said. "I will now give you the rewards for helping me in my quest."

"Rewards?" Lux blinked. He had received several rewards after completing the mission, and thought that he would no longer get anything from the dungeon. However, Barca's words piqued his interest.

"Okay," Lux replied as he, and the Dwarf children followed the Half-Orc back inside the stronghold.

After walking for several minutes, they stopped beside what seemed to be an Altar that was used to worship the Orc God, who gave blessings to the Orcs.

"Go to the altar one by one," Barca stated. "Your rewards will appear based on the contributions that you have made for the sake of our clan."

Lux nodded as he lightly tapped Colette's shoulders. "You go first. I intend to go last."

Colette nodded her head as she climbed the short stairs leading to the altar. When she arrived at the place where the offerings were placed, a golden light descended from the Heavens and hit the altar.

A moment later, a golden treasure chest appeared on top of it.

Colette looked at it with a determined gaze before opening it with both hands. Inside the treasure box, a mace and a shield could be seen.

Although she didn't have Lux's ability to appraise items, Colette's instincts were telling her that both of the items were Mythical Equipment, which made her eyes widen in shock.

The Dwarf girl happily took the items and ran back to show her Big Brother, and her friends the item that she received from the treasure box.

All of them were surprised, and even Lux couldn't help but whistle after seeing the items that Colette received as her reward.

"Mythical Items," Lux said softly. "The rewards sure are generous."

Matty was the second one to go to the altar, and he received a pair of Mythical Shortswords.

Helen, Andy, and Axel, all received Mythical Staffs that corresponded to their elemental affinities, which made them extremely happy.

When it was Lux's turn to stand in front of the Altar, two golden chests appeared in front of him. One big, one small.

The Half-Elf tried to open the small golden chest first, but its lid didn't budge. Eiko got curious and decided to give it a try. As soon as the baby slime jumped over the lid of the box, it slowly opened, and a golden mist flew out of it and merged with Eiko's body.

At first, Lux panicked because he thought that it was something harmful. However, after seeing the series of text that appeared in front of him, his worry disappeared and was replaced by a look of disbelief.

< Eiko's Reward >

– Three Rank Up

This baby Slime performed exceptionally during this mission and the reward fitting for her is a Rank Up. However, a single one was not enough, so she will receive three Rank Ups instead.

"Unbelievable," Lux said softly as a wide grin appeared on his face. "You did well, Eiko."

The Half-Elf lightly patted Eiko's head as he praised her for doing a good job.

"Pa!" The baby Slime giggled before crawling up Lux's arm, until she was back on top of his head with a smile on her face.

Eiko's Monster Rating was E, and the resources needed to increase her rank gave Lux a headache. However, this unexpected reward would immediately raise her rank to D+, saving the Half-Elf the trouble of collecting a scary amount of Beast Cores to make Eiko stronger.

After calming his heart, he then placed both of his hands on the big treasure chest in front of him. The chest was bigger than the others, which proved that Lux had played a crucial role in the completion of the mission.

After opening the treasure chest, Lux's eyes widened in shock when he saw something that was very familiar to him.

Blackrock Legacy Armor (Set)

Rating: Pseudo Legendary

Requirements: 100 to all stats

The Legendary Armor of the Blackrock Clan's first Orc Chieftain.

+50 to all stats

+400 to Defense

30% decrease in physical and magical damage

– This Armor is bound to Lux Von Ainsworth

– Any creature under Lux's Von Ainsworth's command is capable of equipping this armor.

Active Skills: Warlord's War Cry

Passive Skills: Warlord's Presence, Bloody Fervor, Auto-Fit, Indestructible.

< Warlord's Warcry >

– Increase the Physical and Magical Damage of all allied creatures by 200 Points.

< Warlord's Presence >

Your presence in the battlefield inspires your allies and makes them do well in battle.

– 10% Increase to Physical and Magical attack to the Warlord and its allies.

< Bloody Fervor >

Your physical and defensive abilities increase with each slain creature in the battlefield.

– For every slain creature in the battlefield, your attack and defense points will increase by five.

'Oh... my... Goddess!' Lux almost roared in laughter after seeing the stats of the Pseudo-Legendary Armor in his possession.

A few hours ago, he had cursed at how unreasonable Orobak's armor was. However, that same armor was now in his possession!

How could Lux not be happy with this sudden turn of events?

In truth, Lux was already very satisfied with the amazing rewards that he had received from the completion of the hidden quest. but the Blackrock Legacy Armor set was simply so amazing that he couldn't stop smiling.

Nevreal and the Dwarves guarding the entrance of the Dungeon were getting anxious. There was not a single news about Lux and his friends. They had already waited several days, but they still hadn't returned.

Suddenly, a notification was heard all over the Stronghold of Norria, as well as its surrounding territories.

Norria Territory Announcement: The Orc Dominion Hidden Mode has been cleared!

Six Brave Heroes have cleared the Quest of Dominion!

– Success Rate of Blacksmithing within the territory of Norria will be increased by 10% for two years!

– Success Rate of Alchemy within the territory of Norria will be increased by 10% for two years!

– Success Rate of Crafting within the territory of Norria will be increased by 10% for two years!

– All Riders of Norria will receive a temporary buff of 30% increase to attack and defense when protecting their territory for two years!

– All Village Guards and Defenders will receive a temporary buff of 30% increase to attack and defense when protecting their village for two years!

—

The Dwarves guarding the gate felt a refreshing breeze wash over their bodies, followed by a surge of strength which made them gasp in shock.

"T-This is like a buff I received from the Oracle back in the Kingdom's Capital when I was assigned to be one of her guards!" The Guard Captain looked at his hands in surprise because it was the same feeling that he felt back then, while he guarded one of the VIP's of their Kingdom.

Nevreal was about to ask the Guard Captain if he was feeling anything else, when a flash of light appeared behind him.

All the Dwarves turned their heads to look at the Half-Elf and his friends, who appeared in the spawning area for those that had just left the Dungeon.

"Finally, we're back," Lux said as he stretched his arms. "Let's all get something to eat first."

""Okay!""

The Dwarf children happily agreed to Lux's proposal because they hadn't enjoyed any good food for the past few days due to the constant traveling they had done inside the dungeon.

"Y-You guys!" the Guard Captain pointed at Lux and his friends with a shaky finger. "What in the world did you do inside the dungeon?!"

Chapter 119: VIP Treatment

Lux and the Dwarf children were immediately taken to the Commander's Office.

The Territory-Wide Announcement caught everyone by surprise. Especially the Riders of Norria and their Commander, Thoram.

Because of this, they wanted to ask Lux and his friends how they were able to unlock the hidden quest. Ever since the dungeon was discovered, none of them had even heard about a hidden quest. All of them looked at Lux and the Dwarf children as if they were angels that had fallen down from the sky to make their lives easier.

Lux told Thoram and Nevreal with a straight face that he didn't know what triggered the activation of the Hidden Quest. However, he told them about his suspicions, which made everyone inside the conference room listen to him with serious expressions on their faces.

"When we killed one of the Orcs inside the dungeon, instead of dropping a Beast Core, it dropped a treasure map," Lux stated. "After following the instructions in the map, we came across a hidden cave. Inside it was an Old Orc, who told us about the Hidden Quest.

"The quest was about taking the Old Orc to the Orc Stronghold, and let him retrieve a memento that was left behind by the first Orc Chieftain. It was a very hard mission and we had to stay inside the Dungeon for several days to wait for the perfect opportunity."

"Fortunately, an opportunity arrived and we were able to secure the artifact that the Old Orc wanted. After we completed the mission, we were all teleported back here."

Lux had no intention of telling anyone about the details of the Hidden Mission in case it encouraged the other Dwarves to be more wary of possible hidden missions inside the Dungeons that were scattered within the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Telling them that the trigger of the quest came from a monster drop would make them think that it all depended on luck.

Colette and the others all had calm expressions on their faces because Lux had already told them that this was the story he'd tell the others before they left the dungeon. The dwarven children understood what Lux was trying to tell them, so they promised that they would keep the details of the quest a secret.

"A monster drop..." Thoram sighed before nodding his head in understanding.

What Lux had told him was something that had already happened in the past. There was a Dwarf adventurer that had discovered a treasure map after opening a chest inside a Dungeon. However, instead of clearing it alone, he asked for the help of the Kingdom to help clear it.

After completing the Hidden Mission, they discovered a Legendary Artifact, which the adventurer had donated to the Royal Family, making the Dwarf King very happy. Because of this, he was given the title of Viscount and fertile lands ideal for planting crops.

Nevreal also knew of this story, so he believed Lux's explanation. Also, he had been paying close attention to the Dwarf children, and none of them were showing any sign that there was anything suspicious about the Half-Elf's tale.

"On behalf of the Riders of Norria, I would like to thank you for clearing the mission," Thoram gave Lux as well as the Dwarves a deep bow of gratitude. "I swear on my name that if you ever need the help of the Riders of Norria, we will come to your aid without fail."

He knew that Lux may not understand the significance of the rewards that his territory had received, but Thoram knew very well how amazing they were. Because of the temporary buffs the territory received, it would definitely help in its growth and development.

Also, the increased boost in strength of those who defended the territory ensured that they would be able to handle the threats that might arise at any moment like Dungeon and Monster outbreaks.

An hour later, Lux and the children were escorted to the best tavern in the Stronghold to enjoy good food and meat.

They were treated like VIP Guests, which made the Dwarf children giddy with happiness. Lux, on the other hand, took things in stride, but the smile on his face remained until he entered one of the VIP rooms that were reserved for them.

"Tomorrow, we return to Leaf Village, Eiko," Lux yawned as he removed his boots.

The baby Slime had already jumped on the bed because she also felt exhausted from the things that happened over the past few days. The moment Lux laid on the bed, Eiko jumped on his chest and yawned.

"Goodnight, Eiko," Lux said as he lightly patted the sleepy baby's head.

"Pa...", Eiko sleepily replied before closing her eyes to sleep.

Soon, the baby Slime was fast asleep, leaving Lux to look at the big harvest that he received after clearing the Hidden Quest of the Orc Dominion Dungeon.

Hidden Quest: Orc Dominion

< I Wish For Dominion (Completed!) >

Rewards

– Potion of Vitality

This potion adds +50 permanent Vitality Points to the one who consumes it. You can only consume one Potion of Vitality in your lifetime.

– Rank 3 Skill Book of your choice.

You will be able to choose any Skill that is Rank 3 and below from the treasury of the Orc Empire.

+1000 Riders of Norria Reputation Points

+200 Kingdom of Gweliven Reputation Points (Exclusive to Kingdom of Gweliven)

+200 Gold Coins

– Gain Negotiator Title

When dealing with Nobles or Royalty, your chances of closing a successful deal is increased by 10%

< Bonus Rewards >

+1000 Riders of Norria Reputation Points

+3000 Blackrock Clan Reputation Points

+100 Kingdom of Gweliven Reputation Points

+3 to Summon Skeleton Fighters

+3 to Summon Skeleton Grand Archers

+100 Gold Coins

– Rank 5 Beast Core

Lux was quite happy with the rewards, especially the additional Summons that he received from the reward. This effectively raised the number of Skeletons that he could summon, making his force more formidable.

But, what perplexed him the most was the Blackrock Clan Reputation Points. Since it was added in the rewards, it could only mean one thing.

"The Blackrock Clan exists somewhere in Elysium...", Lux muttered as he thought of Barca, as well as the Orc Warlords whom he had fought alongside.

In truth, Lux was wondering how the original Barca would have dealt with Orobak and the issue for succession. He already knew that Barca was a cunning Half-Orc, so he was sure that if the story he witnessed inside the dungeon was real then the possibility of the Half-Orc succeeding was high.

The Half-Elf yawned a second time before he closed his Soul Book. Since the Hidden Quest was already over, it was about time to let go of the theories that he had made up inside his head.

'I'll just sleep for now,' Lux thought as he closed his eyes. 'I still have many things to do tomorrow.'

Lux still hadn't upgraded Eiko's Rank because he planned to do it after he rested, and cleared his head. That way, he wouldn't make a mistake when he needed to choose skills or abilities that would be helpful to his baby Slime.

As the Half-Elf and his friends slept, word of their deed was already making its way to the Capital via messenger birds.

As to how the Royal Family would react to the achievements they made, only time would tell.

Chapter 120: Beating The Impossible

Colette woke up feeling revitalized after their long dungeon expedition.

After spending several days inside the dungeon, she had finally reached the Apostle Grade, and even gained two pieces of Mythical Equipment that matched her profession. Not only that, she had also gained a Warg Mount of her own, as well as several Rank 2 and Rank 3 Beast Cores, which was the share she got from the expedition.

She was quite happy with how things turned out, but also felt sad because after ten days, she would have to leave Leaf Village and her Big Brother behind.

Lux had already told her that he didn't have any plans of leaving the Beginner's Zone for the time being. When Colette asked why, the Half-Elf only told her that he made a promise to himself, and before he fulfilled that promise, he would continue to stay in Leaf Village.

The red-headed teenager didn't tell Colette what his goal was, but the latter knew that it must be important for Lux to insist on staying.

'I really need Big Brother to marry my Big Sister,' Colette thought. 'That way, he will become part of our family.'

The adorable blonde Dwarf had already labeled Lux as her dependable Big Brother. A person that would always be there to ensure their safety when things got too dangerous for them to handle.

After taking a bath, Colette went to check if Helen was already awake. As the only two girls in their party, she couldn't help but care for her like a sister would.

"Helen, it's me," Colette said as she knocked on the door. "Are you awake? Let's have breakfast together"

"Yes." Helen's reply was heard through the door. "Can you give me a few minutes? I am almost done. Just combing my hair a bit."

Colette smiled. "Okay. I'll just go and check if Big Brother is already awake. You can find me in his room."

"Okay," Helen replied. "I'll be there in a bit."

The adorable Dwarf then walked towards Lux's room and knocked on it.

"Big Brother, it's me, Colette," Colette said. "Are you awake? Let's have breakfast together."

Colette waited, but no reply came. Just as she was about to knock for the second time, the door opened and the first thing she saw was a Skeleton, which almost made her jump back in fright.

"Sis!" Eiko, who was perched on top of the Skeleton's head greeted Colette, which made the latter pat her chest in order to regain her calm.

"Good morning, Eiko."

"Sis!"

"Is your Papa awake?" Colette asked as she peered at the bed. There, she saw Lux still sleeping peacefully, while snoring lightly. "I guess not."

"Pa!" Eiko replied as she used the Skeleton's arm to jump into Colette's arms, which made the adorable Dwarf giggle.

She then walked towards the sleeping Half-Elf, while holding the baby Slime in her hands. This was the first time that she had seen Lux's sleeping face, and a playful feeling blossomed in her heart.

"Big Brother, wake up," Colette said as she poked Lux's cheeks. "Let's have breakfast together."

The Half-Elf didn't reply, and was still fast asleep, which prompted Colette to look at his pointed ears.

She had long wanted to touch them and see what they were like. But, since Lux was taller than her, she never had the opportunity to do so. After a brief internal struggle, Colette reached out to touch Lux's ears gently.

"It feels like a normal ear," Colette muttered as she lightly played with the Half-Elf's ear with her fingers. Just as she was having fun, Lux's eyes abruptly opened and stared at her with a sleepy gaze.

"Colette?" Lux asked while looking at the adorable Dwarf who was still holding his ear in her hand.

"Good Morning, Big Brother," Colette hastily pulled back her hand as if she had been electrocuted. "Nice day we are having today."

"Pa!" Eiko jumped on the bed and crawled towards his pillow. After coming close to Lux's face, the baby Slime lightly pecked his cheek with a kiss.

"Good morning to you, too, Eiko," Lux said before kissing the cheek of the baby Slime, making Eiko giggle.

The Half-Elf covered his lips in order to suppress a yawn before standing up from the bed.

"What time is it?" Lux asked as he went to the sink to wash his face.

"It's just around seven in the morning, Big Brother," Colette answered. "Do you want to have breakfast together with us?"

"Breakfast? Sounds good," Lux replied after drying his face.

As if waiting for that moment, a knock was heard on the door.

"Colette, Big Brother, it's me, Helen. Can I come in?"

Colette hurried to the door and opened it for her friend.

Lux was now fully awake. After combing his hair for a bit to fix his bed hair, Eiko jumped on his head so they could go have breakfast with the two girls.

When the three arrived at the dining area of the inn, they saw Matty, Andy, and Axel seated at the table and waiting for their breakfast.

"Over here," Matty waved his hands to Colette as soon as the adorable Dwarf appeared in his sight.

Andy and Axel also waved their hands at their friends who were now headed in their direction. As soon as the three people sat, the Dwarf manning the counter personally came over to them to get their orders.

A few minutes later, Matty's, Axel's, and Andy's orders arrived, but the three of them didn't eat right away. Instead, they chatted with Lux and the girls, waiting until all their orders arrived.

"Big Brother, what are your plans after we return to Leaf Village?" Andy asked. "You're not coming with us to the Intermediate towns, right?"

"Correct," Lux answered. "When we return, we will do your graduation ceremony of course. Beat the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, as well as... beat Colette's Big Sister's record in the Bronze Crypt."

"Huh?!" Colette, who was patting Eiko's head, looked at the Half-Elf seated beside her in surprise. "Beat my sister's record? That's impossible!"

"Impossible?" Lux chuckled. "You are one of the six people that cleared the Hidden Mission in the Orc Dominion Dungeon. According to Thoram, all of you will be given a Medal of Honor just like the one I received from his Majesty. In short, all five of you will become Honorary Knights. Did your sister accomplish that during her stay in Leaf Village?"

"N-No, but...!" Colette tried to argue, but Lux raised his hand to stop her.

"Colette, nothing is impossible," Lux said with a smile. "You've already accomplished something that your sister didn't manage to do. The Hidden Quest will not be repeated, and the Riders of Norria will forever be indebted to all of you."

Colette pouted. "But, Big Brother, the only reason we managed to clear that quest was because of you. In the end, we did very little to help you clear the mission."

"You're so silly, Colette," Lux patted the adorable Dwarf's head, which made Matty glare at him with envy. "We are a team, so it's only natural that I was able to clear it because all of you were there. When we got attacked by the Orc Berserkers, I might have died if you guys hadn't moved to fight on the frontlines."

"Don't belittle yourself too much. All of you had fought alongside me. I was also very surprised to see how brave Matty was. Even though he was outclassed, he still took the enemy head-on."

Matty didn't expect Lux to praise him, so he just looked at the Half-Elf in a daze for half a minute before averting his gaze.

Lux smiled as he scanned the faces of his friends who were all looking at him.

"You guys still have ten days left," Lux said. "Let's make sure that the Dwarves who enter Leaf Village later will look up to your names as the new role models that they need to surpass. Isn't that exciting?"

The Dwarves exchanged glances with each other before nodding their heads. For some reason, the desire of surpassing her sister's achievements started to burn inside Colette's heart. Although she wasn't confident that she could do it alone, there was hope within her knowing that she had her friends and Big Brother to help her.

He believed that as long as they were together, the five of them could beat the impossible.

Chapter 121: Faunus Battle Regalia

"Um, you don't have to do this, you know?" Lux said to the Dwarf Captain that was escorting them back to Leaf Village.

"It's fine," the Dwarf Captain replied. "It's the Commander's orders. This is to ensure that you won't get ambushed by Kobolds again."

Lux could only reluctantly nod his head as he allowed his Mount, Jed, to travel at the center of the hundred-men escort that was prepared for him and his friends by the Commander of Norria, Thoram.

The Dwarves who were chosen to be the Half-Elf's escort would glance in his direction from time to time. Admiration and respect could be seen in their faces. Clearly, they only had goodwill towards the man that had given them a great boon in their strength, as well as helped improve the growth of their territory.

Lux endured the stares that the Riders of Norria were giving him.

'Is this the effect of having high reputation points?' Lux thought as he looked at the reputation points that he had for the Riders of Norria.

Riders of Norria Reputation Points: 2,500

Relationship Status: Benefactor

- Gives you the privilege to enter the Stronghold of Norria and explore the services available there.
- You will get up to a 50% discount on all services inside the Stronghold.
- You will be able to gain their assistance if you wish for it. Every time you ask for their help, your reputation points will be decreased by 500 Points.

Points will not be deducted when you ask for their help, as long as the task will benefit the Territory of Norria as a whole.

'Benefactor...,' Lux mused as he looked at the current relationship he had with the Riders of Norria. 'I guess this is a good thing.'

The Stronghold of Norria was the main army that was stationed in the territory of Norria. Several villages, similar to the Leaf Village, were under their protection. In short, they were the strongest Faction within the Beginner Zone, so having them as an ally was a good thing.

When they arrived at the village, the residents were surprised to see so many Riders of Norria all at once.

"Did a big shot arrive?"

"Maybe Commander Thoram is doing an inspection?"

"Are we under attack? Is there some kind of outbreak headed our way?"

The residents talked among themselves as the Riders of Norria continued to ride into the Plaza.

Boreas, the Rider Captain that was currently stationed in Leaf Village, gave his comrades a salute before looking at the Half-Elf with a big smile on his face.

"Lux, my boy, you've done well, Lad," Boreas said as he walked towards the Half-Elf who had just dismounted from his Warg.

"How about you share your story with me in the tavern later, will that be fine?" Boreas asked.

"Of course," Lux replied.

Boreas laughed as he patted Lux's leg before returning to his duties. Thoram had already sent a messenger bird to Boreas, his message informing the latter that if Lux ever needed any kind of help while he was still in Leaf Village, they would do their best to accommodate him.

"So, it was you!" Cedwyn looked at Lux in disbelief after Boreas had reported everything to the Village Head of Leaf Village.

"Hahaha! That's my boy!" Randolph said with a smug expression on his face. "The moment I laid my eyes on him, I knew that becoming my Disciple would make him an amazing person."

Grandma Annie snorted after hearing the Blacksmith's words. The Elders of Leaf Village had gathered together to talk to Lux and his friends about what had happened in the Stronghold of Norria.

It was not only the Stronghold that gained great benefits from Lux's completion of the Hidden Quest. All the villages within the territory also received the temporary buffs that increased their production rates.

Randolph had bragged to Lux that his chances of creating Unique and Mythical Weapons had greatly increased thanks to the 10% success buff that had fallen upon his head.

Grandma Annie, who was also an alchemist, was also quite thankful to Lux because her experiments had also benefited from his success. Aside from creating candies, the old Dwarf was also known to create potions that the defenders of Leaf Village used during emergencies.

"As a reward for all of your hard work, we decided to bestow upon you the 'Leaf Village Equipment Set (Mythical),' " Cedwyn declared. "This is the least we can do for your help."

Lux's eyes widened in shock because he didn't expect that he would be the one to receive one of the rewards from the Mythical Quest that could only be obtained inside Leaf Village.

What most foreigners (Solaians) didn't know was that each Beginner's Village had a Mythical Quest. Leaf Village had a quest that was almost impossible to clear because of the strict requirements that needed to be met before the quest was cleared.

< Mythical Quest >

(Birth of a Legend)

– Defeat the Alpha Monster of the Aspiration Plains.

Carbuncle (1/1)

– Defeat the Alpha Monster of the Leaf Village Cemetery

Ghoul Beast (0/1)

– Defeat the Alpha Monster of Figaro Garden

Red-Eyed Terror Mantis (1/1)

– Defeat the Field Boss of Heartwood Forest

Forest Wolf King (0/1)

< Rewards >

– 500 Skill Points

– 50 Body Constitution Points

- 50 Stats Points
- Leaf Village Equipment Set (Mythical)
- One random Mythical Item exclusive to the Leaf Village

Note: The Mythical Item reward will depend on your overall performance. So you better do your best!

In order to complete the Mythical Quest of Leaf Village, all the Alpha Beasts, in addition to the Field Bosses, must be killed.

A team of Apostles could defeat the Carbuncle, Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, as well as the Ghoulish Beast that appeared at midnight in the graveyard area of Leaf Village. The real challenge was fighting against the Field Boss, Forest Wolf King.

Orobak was weaker than that Field Boss, but he was already hard to kill. Any party who had just stepped into the Rank of Apostle would find it impossible to defeat the Orc Chieftain, let alone the Forest Wolf King, who was Final Boss of Leaf Village.

This was why no one had cleared the Hidden Mythical Quest of Leaf Village because they would always fall short of their final goal.

However, Cedwyn had just said that he would bestow upon them the Mythical Armor Set that could only be obtained after clearing the Quest that Lux had once thought to be impossible.

"Wait!" Randolph immediately stood up from his chair and pointed at Cedwyn with a reddened face. "You bastard! You didn't tell me anything about this!"

"I just did."

"Fool! Do you think crafting Mythical Armor is easy?!" Randolph's spittle flew in every direction as he glared at the Village Chief who had given him extra work. "Right now, we only have 3 sets of the Faunus Battle Regalia! Do you think I can craft them all before these kids leave the village?! Even with the blacksmithing buffs, at most, I can craft one armor set in ten days!"

"Ah, don't worry," Boreas replied. "The Riders of Norria will personally deliver them to these kids. As long as they are within the Kingdom of Gweliven, we can easily send them the armor once it is done."

Randolph snorted, but no longer said anything. He didn't mind crafting the Battle Regalia of Leaf Village for Lux and his friends. He just didn't have enough time before the kids left the village.

Just like everyone else inside the room, he could sense the power of Apostles radiating from Colette and her friends. This meant that they had already crossed the threshold and would be leaving soon.

"Let them have the first batch," Lux said with a smile. "I'll be staying here in Leaf Village for a little while longer, so you can prioritize them first."

Cedwyn nodded his head. "Since there is no problem with the delivery, all of you can rest assured that you will receive the best equipment that we can offer. Isn't that right, Randolph."

"Yeah, yeah, I heard you, Old Fart," Randolph waved his hand dismissively before leaving the room. Knowing that he needed to finish crafting the Faunus Regalia, he decided to start working on it before the kids left the village.

Lux patted Colette's and Matty's shoulders before glancing in Cedwyn's direction. "Give them two of the three sets you have in your possession. We will be going to the Figaro Gardens later to challenge the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis."

Cedwyn nodded his head. "Of course. The two of you, please, come with me."

The Village Head led the children to the treasury of the village, while Lux decided to stay behind. Since they would be challenging the Alpha Monster of the Figaro Gardens, he needed to upgrade Eiko to make her stronger.

He also still needed to choose which Rank 3 Skill Book he wanted from the Orcs' treasury in order to give himself an edge against one of the strongest Alpha Beasts in the Beginner's Zone.

Chapter 122: Eiko's Upgrade

Lux took out his Soul Book and opened Eiko's Page, so that he could upgrade her before their battle against the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis.

Even after so long, the Half-Elf still couldn't believe that the Monster he got from the egg was a Blue Slime. At first, he was disappointed because he was expecting a Dragon, or any other legendary creature. However, after spending time with Eiko, Lux found the baby Slime quite loveable, and no longer wished for something else.

< Eiko >

- Named Slime Monster
- Rating: E
- Progress (20 / 2000) - [Ready to Upgrade 3x]

Health: 3,850 / 3,850

Mana: 7,500 / 7,500

Strength: 17

Intelligence: 150

Vitality: 77

Agility: 17

Dexterity: 17

Special Abilities: Mimicry [EX], Regeneration [EX], Family Bond [EX], Speech [EX]

Active Skill: Water Bullet, Hydro Ball. Fire Bullet, Fire Bolt, Wind Bullet, Aero Ball, Stone Bullet, Stone Spike, Shadow Bullet, Shadow Ball, Blink, Teleport, Cure, Cure-All.

Passive Skill: Uncanny Dodge, Very Tough

Title: Mama's and Papa's Girl

Note: This baby slime will someday rule the world.

'As expected, Eiko surpassed all of my summons' abilities by an incredible margin,' Lux thought. 'Although her rank is still low, her growth potential is scary to say the least.'

Lux no longer hesitated and clicked the upgrade button near her progression bar. Immediately, several rows of text appeared, giving Lux several options to choose from.

< Select two options from the list to bestow upon Eiko. >

- Health +2000
- Intelligence +100
- Underwater Breathing
- Lava Walking
- Dig
- Summon Metal Slime
- Summon Fire Slime
- Summon Water Slime
- Summon Rock Slime
- Summon Aero Slime
- Summon Saber Slime
- Summon Berserker Slime
- Summon Hunter Slime
- Summon Shadow Slime

– Summon Devil Slime

– Summon Angel Slime

Lux chose the second option to add +100 to Eiko's intelligence and the Dig Ability in order to make her stronger, as well as give her the ability to escape underground if need be.

Eiko, who was currently perched on top of Lux's head, smiled after she felt herself grow stronger.

You have chosen the skill Dig.

Eiko activated the skill Mimicry [EX]!

– Target Lux Von Kaizer.

– Successfully copied Skill Evolution [EX]!

< Skill Evolution [EX] detected a new Skill. >

< Since the Skill is Dig not learned from a Beast Core, evolution requirements will be waived. >

– Dig has successfully been upgraded to Dig [EX]!

< Dig [EX] >

– Allows Eiko to dig a hole and move underground. This skill consumes twenty Mana Points every thirty seconds.

– This skill has no cooldown and can be used as long as Eiko has mana.

– Eiko will be able to dig even through the hardest of rocks, metals, and crystals. There is nothing that this baby Slime cannot Dig!

"Oh, this is unexpected," Lux muttered as he looked at Eiko's current stats.

< Eiko >

– Named Slime Monster

– Rating: E+

– Progress (20 / 4000) - [Ready to Upgrade 2x]

Health: 4,600 / 4,600

Mana: 12,500 / 12,500

Strength: 32

Intelligence: 250

Vitality: 92

Agility: 32

Dexterity: 32

Lux clicked Upgrade once more and was given the same choices as before. He chose the second option once again, which added +100 to Eiko's intelligence. However, for the second option, he decided to choose the Devil Slime as Eiko's summon.

The Devil Slime was a monster that had a shadow property. All of its Skills were of the Shadow Element, which was useful when doing missions that required stealth. Just like the mission in which Eiko infiltrated the Orc Stronghold to drug their food supply.

—
You have chosen the skill Summon Devil Slime

—
Eiko activated the skill Mimicry [EX]!

- Target Lux Von Kaizer.
- Successfully copied Skill Evolution [EX]!

—
< Skill Evolution [EX] detected a new Skill. >

< Since the Skill is Summon Devil Slime is not learned from a Beast Core, evolution requirements will be waived. >

- Choose one among the three options available to you.

Option 1: Summon two Devil Slimes instead of one.

Option 2: Upgrade Devil Slime, to Arch Devil Slime.

Option 3: Give Eiko's first Devil Slime a name. Named creatures will be stronger and more intelligent than normal ones. Eiko's named creature will always be one rank higher than her.

—
"Oh? This is quite interesting," Lux rubbed his chin as he read the third option.

Unlike Diablo and the rest of his Summons, which he needed to manually upgrade, Eiko's Summons would automatically upgrade themselves every time she ranked up. For Lux, this was a wonderful thing. This feature allowed him to save on a huge amount of Beast Cores that he could've needed to upgrade Eiko's minions.

"Eiko, you will have a new subordinate," Lux said. "Um, this Slime is a male, so give him a guy's name."

Eiko glanced at Lux's Soul Book and saw the Devil Slime's picture in it. It didn't even take her ten seconds to give her Devil Slime a name.

"Blackie!" Eiko said.

Lux chuckled, thinking that Eiko's naming sense was quite simple. Since the Devil Slime was black, she just called him Blackie to make things easier.

As soon as Eiko gave the Devil Slime a name, it glowed briefly in Lux's Soul Book, proving that it had successfully been named.

< Eiko >

– Named Slime Monster

– Rating: D

– Progress (20 / 6000) - [Ready to Upgrade 1x]

Health: 5,350 / 5,350

Mana: 17,500 / 17,500

Strength: 47

Intelligence: 350

Vitality: 107

Agility: 47

Dexterity: 47

Lux shuddered upon seeing the number of points required for Eiko's next Upgrade. Fortunately, he received three Upgrades for free, or else he would not have had a chance to upgrade his baby slime until he reached the Apostle Grade.

"One last time, let's do this!" Lux clicked the last upgrade and chose to add another +100 points to Eiko's intelligence, as well as another Summon for her. This time, he chose the Angel Slime to complement the Devil Slime. They made a great pair that would protect Eiko at all times.

The same three options appeared, and just like Lux expected, Eiko named her Angel Slime, Whitey, making Lux chuckle.

"It's like naming a pet dog or cat." Lux could only shake his head as Eiko's new Summon, Whitey, glowed briefly in his Soul Book.

< Eiko >

– Named Slime Monster

– Rating: D+

– Progress (20 / 8,000)

Health: 6,100 / 6,100

Mana: 22,500 / 22,500

Strength: 62

Intelligence: 450

Vitality: 122

Agility: 62

Dexterity: 62

Special Abilities: Mimicry [EX], Regeneration [EX], Family Bond [EX], Speech [EX], Dig [EX]

Summon Skills: Summon Blackie, Summon Whitey

Active Skill: Water Bullet, Hydro Ball. Fire Bullet, Fire Bolt, Wind Bullet, Aero Ball, Stone Bullet, Stone Spike, Shadow Bullet, Shadow Ball, Blink, Teleport, Cure, Cure-All.

Passive Skill: Uncanny Dodge, Very Tough

Title: Mama's and Papa's Girl

Note: Prepare for trouble! And Make it Double!

—

Lux pinched the bridge of his nose after he saw the required points that Eiko needed in order for her to reach Rank C. It was a staggering 8,000 points, which made his head ache.

"Iris must be incredibly rich for her to upgrade four Mythical Creatures at the same time," Lux muttered. "If I remember correctly, Hanz (White Tiger), Astra (Unicorn A.K.A Eiko's enemy), and the others were all Rank B+."

Lux didn't know if Iris' Beast Companions were as powerful as Eiko. But, he felt that Eiko would give them a surprise, once she reached their rank.

'I almost feel sorry for Astra,' Lux thought as he remembered the Unicorn, who was also Eiko's rival for Iris' attention. 'I'm sure that Eiko will ask for a rematch the next time we visit Barbatos Academy.'

The Half-Elf lightly patted the baby Slime who had moved to his hand asking to be spoiled.

"Eiko, let's give Iris a surprise when we return to the academy, okay?" Lux said with a smile.

"Pa!" Eiko replied with a bigger smile on her face.

Soon the Half-Elf and the baby slime chuckled together. Now that Eiko's upgrade was finished, it was now time for Lux to choose a Rank 3 Skill, which was one of the rewards he had received when he completed the hidden mission inside Orc Dominion.

Chapter 123: Birth Of An Apex Beast

Lux activated the Rank 3 Skill ticket he stored in his Soul Book, which allowed him to choose one skill from. among the many skills that were exclusive to the Orc Race.

Rending Strike - (A cleaving Strike that Orobak used)

Berserk

Primal Slash

Last Stand

Thick Skin

Primal Instinct

Close Combat Mastery

Might over Magic

....

....

....

Warrior's Luck

....

....

....

There were over a hundred skills available, ranging from Rank 1 skills up to Rank 3 skills.

Lux didn't ignore the Rank 1 and 2 skills, and read all of their descriptions. For him, as long as the skill was useful to him, it didn't matter even if the skill had

a lower rank. Since he had the ability, Skill Evolution [EX], he could easily get a stronger version of his chosen skill, once it was upgraded.

After pondering for several minutes, Lux was left with two choices which were the two passive skills Might over Magic and Warrior's Luck.

Lux could have chosen an active skill that could deal damage to his enemies, but he was someone who had the end game in mind. Since these two skills gave a bonus to him, his allies, as well as all of his summoned creatures, they were more useful than a powerful attack that he could only use for himself.

As the name suggested, Might over Magic gave Lux, as well as his summons, increased magical resistance, reducing the damage of spells that were used against them.

This was quite a balanced skill and would still be effective even when he and his summons had achieved a higher rank. Also, most armors had features that decreased both physical and magical attack damage, which could be stacked with this ability, making them more resistant to magic attacks.

The second skill, Warrior's Luck, was an interesting skill because it focused on increasing the chance of the activation of certain effects during battle. For example, Lux's Void Arrow that could blind opponent doesn't always trigger the blind effect. If he had the passive skill, Warrior's Luck, the chances of blinding enemies would be higher.

This was also a good addition to his summons' special abilities, like Pazuzu's normal attacks, which had a chance of inflicting Fear on his foes, making them run away. Ishtar's normal attacks also had the chance to slow down and freeze her opponents when her attacks hit them.

This was why Warrior's Luck was quite appealing to Lux. It made any ability that relied on Chance and Luck more likely to activate.

After a long internal struggle, Lux decided to choose the Rank 2 Skill, Warrior's Luck.

You have chosen the skill Warrior's Luck.

—

< Skill Evolution [EX] detected a new Skill. >

< Since the Skill, Warrior's Luck, is not learned from a Beast Core, evolution requirements will be waived. >

– Warrior's Luck has successfully been upgraded to Warrior's Luck [EX]!

< Warrior's Luck [EX] >

– Greatly increases the chance of activating abilities that rely on Luck and Chance.

Lux smiled in satisfaction after seeing the information of his newly upgraded Skill. Although he didn't know how much the chances had increased, he still felt that it was a worthwhile skill to have because it was an all-rounder.

"Big Brother!"

Colette's shout made the Half-Elf, as well as the baby Slime, look in her direction.

Right now, Colette, Matty, and Helen were wearing light-weight, dark-green armor, with golden platings along the edges. Just a single glance was enough to tell him that this was Leaf Village's exclusive Mythical Armor that was called the Faunus Battle Regalia.

"Welcome back," Lux said as he patted the adorable Dwarf, who had run to hug him with a big smile on her face, on the head.

"Sis!" Eiko also crawled on Colette's shoulder and gave her a kiss on the cheek as a greeting.

"How do I look?" Colette asked as she puffed up her chest proudly with her hands on her waist.

Lux chuckled before giving her his answer. "It looks good on you. With this, I'm sure the chances of beating the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, as well as your sister's record in the Bronze Crypt is assured."

Lux was unable to use his appraisal skill on races and creatures that possessed Soul Books. Because of this, he was unable to see the stats of the Mythical Armor that had been bestowed on his friends by Cedwyn, who was the Village Head of Leaf Village.

Colette blushed after Lux praised her, which made Matty grab the adorable Dwarf's hand and pull her away from Lux.

"Let's go to the Figaro Garden," Matty said as he tried to come up with a good reason for dragging Colette away. "We only have ten days to remain in the Beginner's Zone. Every moment counts."

Colette didn't find anything wrong with what Matty said because she was feeling the same way. She felt that now that she had become an Apostle, time was something precious to her because she only had ten days to spend with her Big Brother, before she left him behind.

"Big Brother, let's go!" Colette shouted. "What will we do if someone is already fighting the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis? We will have to wait for a week before it respawns again!"

"Alright, I'm coming." Lux smiled as he followed behind Colette and the others.

He didn't intend to summon all of his minions to fight against the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis because it would defeat the purpose of the graduation ceremony.

'I'll just summon Pazuzu, and Ishtar,' Lux thought. 'They should be enough to provide support as they fight against that Alpha Beast.'

Figaro Gardens...

A five-meter tall Mantis let out a deafening shriek as soon as it appeared inside the Figaro Gardens.

Its entire body was crimson in color, with golden platings near the edges, giving it a formidable and deadly appearance.

Its golden eyes glowed faintly as it scanned its surroundings to look for its prey. It had just respawned inside its Domain, and it was feeling incredibly hungry.

A wandering Ant glanced in the Red Mantis' direction before hurrying away in a mad sprint. However, before it could get away, a crimson slash, made from condensed magical energy, split its body in half.

As the Ant's life force faded away, its eyes gazed at the approaching Crimson Mantis in front of it. The five-meter tall monster was very different from the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis that was considered to be the Apex Beast of the Figaro Gardens.

Several creatures who saw the scene also madly escaped, in fear of being the next victim of the Red Mantis that they were seeing for the first time in their lives.

Chapter 124: Search For The Mutated Monster

Lux and his friends headed to the Figaro Garden in high spirits. Their goal was to defeat the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis as a graduation ceremony for Colette and the others for reaching the Apostle Rank.

However, just as they entered the Garden, over a hundred dwarves could be seen near the Garden's entrance.

There were some Dwarves with injuries, a few of them already passed out. A grim expression was across their faces as they discussed with each other. All of them were Solaians and, from what Lux could tell, something major had happened. Otherwise, there was no reason for all of them to gather near the entrance instead of exploring the garden and hunting for monsters.

"Did something happen?" Colette asked one of the Cleric Dwarves that was tending the injured.

The Dwarf nodded and told her about the appearance of a mutated beast that they had never seen before.

Lux's and the other's expressions immediately changed after hearing this news. They had encountered a Mutated Carbuncle in the past, and it was quite troublesome.

"A five-meter tall red mantis now wanders around the Figaro Gardens," the Cleric explained. "A party that had just recently reached the Apostle Rank discovered it first. However, they didn't dare fight it because it was the mutated version of the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis. According to their estimate it was a peak Rank 3 Alpha Monster."

Colette frowned when she heard this news. The Red-Eyed Terror Mantis was only a peak Rank 2 Monster, and yet, it was powerful enough to threaten newly ascended Apostles. In fact, the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis' threat would explode exponentially when it entered a Berserk Mode.

During this state, all of its stats would increase by 50%, making it a very deadly monster to fight against.

Most parties would focus on defense when the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis entered this phase. As long as they survived its onslaught, it would soon revert to a weakened state, making it an easier opponent to defeat.

However, a Rank 3 Peak Alpha Monster was simply bad news for anyone in the Beginner's Zone. If that Monster activated its Berserk Skill, it would immediately jump to the Mid-stages of a Rank 4 Alpha Beast, making it a threat that was almost impossible to defeat for all Solaians inside Leaf Village.

"Where was it last seen?" Lux asked. "Do you know?"

The Dwarf Cleric shook his head. "When the Apostle Grade party discovered the beast, they immediately warned the other Dwarfs inside the Figaro Garden to escape to the entrance. Even now, they are out there looking for the others who are still in the garden."

Lux was quite surprised at how amazing the Apostle Party was. Not only did they decide to immediately warn others of the new threat that appeared in the gardens, they even went as far as to find every Dwarf that was currently inside the Garden in order to prevent them from encountering the Alpha Monster by accident.

"Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, Come!" Lux ordered as he summoned his Named Creatures. "Scour the Garden and find the Mutated Mantis. Do not engage it. Once you find it, tell us its location immediately."

The three Named Creatures nodded as they headed in different directions.

Diablo and his Mount, Airon, headed towards the North, Pazuzu flew towards the West, and Ishtar ran to the East.

Lux knew that the Garden was a big place, so he also summoned the rest of his Skeleton Minions and asked them to scatter in different directions.

Eiko, on the other hand, summoned her Devil Slime, Blackie, and her Angel Slime, Whitey.

"Blackie! Whitey!" Eiko shouted. "Go!"

The Devil Slime flapped its wings and flew to the North East, while the Angel Slime flew towards the North West.

Lux wanted to go to the nearest Ant Nest to ask them if they knew where the Red Mantis was located, but he couldn't leave his friends unprotected.

For now, he just crossed his arms over his chest and closed his eyes. He was able to see and hear what his Named Creatures could see and hear, so he decided to observe the surroundings with Pazuzu who was currently in the sky.

Twenty minutes later, the Demonic Protector noticed several giant flowers falling to the ground in the distance. Lux urged Pazuzu to investigate it and the latter flew towards the place where the commotion was happening.

A few minutes later, Lux was able to see a Red Mantis fighting against a couple of Dwarves, who were desperately trying to protect three Dwarf children behind them, who were seriously injured.

Just as the Dwarves found their situation more and more desperate, a blue tower shield descended from the sky and slammed into the body of the Red Mantis, sending it rolling across the ground.

"Run!" Pazuzu shouted as he faced off against the Alpha Monster, using his Shield Wall ability.

The Dwarves broke out of their daze and immediately supported the three younger Dwarves and ran away as fast as they could, while the Demonic Defender held the Red Mantis at bay.

A minute later, the Blue Tower Shield shattered and Pazuzu was blown away by the Red Mantis' powerful slash. In anger, the Mantis fired several red blades made of condensed energy towards the Demonic Defender who faced them head-on with his shield.

Due to his extremely high defense, Pazuzu was able to endure the blows. However, the other party's attacks were coming too fast, so he could do nothing else aside from defending.

Several minutes passed as Pazuzu entangled himself with the Mutated Alpha Monster. His health was almost depleted, but he stood firm.

Suddenly, two fire lances landed on the Red Mantis' body, pushing it to the side. The Alpha Monster glanced in the direction where the attack came from and saw a Black Knight riding on top of a flaming black horse.

Just as it was about to attack, several ice arrows landed on its body, making it take a defensive stance.

"Shadow Ball!"

"Holy Blast!"

Two balls of light collided with the Red Mantis body, making it take a step back.

Ishtar, Blackie, and Whitey arrived at the scene and encircled the Alpha Monster.

The Angel Slime used its healing ability to replenish Pazuzu's health, raising it back to half. Although they outnumbered their enemy, they knew that they would not be able to defeat it with just the five of them.

The Red Mantis shrieked at its enemies showing its anger. It was about to engage them in a battle when it heard the sound of several four-legged beasts in the distance.

Two minutes later, Lux, Colette, and her friends arrived at the scene while riding their Warg Mounts.

They then looked at the monster in front of them with a burning determination in their eyes. This was their graduation ceremony, and for them to graduate, they needed to beat the Mutated Alpha Monster in front of them.

"Battle Formation!" Colette ordered as she and Matty took the vanguard, while Andy, Axel, and Helen positioned themselves on the rear. "Clover, assist me!"

The baby mutated Carbuncle appeared beside Colette and moved towards the back. It was a supporting monster, so its combat abilities weren't the best.

"Arise!" Eiko shouted as she used her ability to copy her Papa's Skills and summoned several Skeleton Warriors and Skeleton Grand Archers.

Lux did the same as he summoned all of his minions to fight against the monster in front of them.

To their surprise, the Apostle Party also returned. The injured Dwarves had been rescued by the Dwarves who had followed Lux's group when they headed towards the Red Mantis.

Now that they no longer had anything to worry about, they decided to join Lux and his friends to fight against the Red Mantis, as part of the tradition of the Dwarf Solaians, who had ascended to the Apostle Rank.

Chapter 125: Double Trouble

The Red Mantis narrowed its eyes as it scanned the crowd of weaklings that had the intention to fight it.

Ten Skeleton Fighters and eleven Skeleton Grand Archers. That was the number of Lux's Summons aside from his Named Creatures. Since Eiko was around, that number doubled, making it a force that could threaten ordinary monsters in the Beginner's Area.

Unfortunately, they were dealing with a Mutated Monster that was known for its powerful attacks that could slice monsters in half.

Lux then activated the Elysium Compendium which had merged with his Soul Book to check what kind of monster they were facing. Half a minute later, a frown appeared on his face after reading its information.

< Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis >

– Figaro Garden Apex Creature

– Mutated Monster

– Rank 3 Alpha Monster

Health: 84,000 / 84,000

Mana: 30,000 / 30,000

Strength: 200

Intelligence: 50

Vitality: 140

Agility: 200

Dexterity: 200

Skills: Crimson Slash, Double Fury Slash, Berserk, Air Steps, Quick Assault, Hunter's Mark, Doppelganger, Coup de Grace.

Passive Skills: Intimidate, Razor Wind.

'Sh*t!' Lux thought. 'Those skills are bad news, especially Doppelganger and Coup the Grace.'

< Doppelganger >

– Create an almost perfect clone of the target (Self).

– The Doppelganger will be able to use any of the target's skills freely. It will also have 50% of the target's overall stats, and will last for thirty minutes, or until they are destroyed.

Cooldown: 30 minutes.

< Coup De Grace >

– Deals 500% additional damage to any target that is in a helpless or incapacitated condition.

- Targets who are knocked unconscious, paralyzed, petrified, poisoned, or in a crippled state, would be dealt with greater damage from this attack.
- Any target under a negative status buff will also receive additional damage from this attack.

Example: Fear from Intimidation.

"Colette, Helen, please help restore Pazuzu's health," Lux said. "We need him in full health. This is one troublesome enemy and we need him to tank it."

"Understood, Big Brother."

"Okay."

Lux then informed everyone, including the Apostle Party that had come to help them deal with the Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis, about its skills and abilities.

Just like he expected, they also had grim expressions on their faces when they heard the effect of the skills that their foe possessed.

"Here is the plan, my Demonic Defender and Skeleton Rider will take turns in taking its aggro," Lux stated. "Once it enters its berserk state, all of us will run away. I repeat, all of us will run away and wait until its Berserk Phase ends. A single slash from that monster can cut all of us in half, so unless any of you want to die, it will be best to let it enter a weakened state before we go in for the kill."

After hearing the strategy everyone nodded their heads in agreement.

"Go, Pazuzu!" Lux ordered.

The Demonic Protector, who had recovered his health, used Shield Charge to engage the Crimson Mantis in close combat.

After dealing the first blow, all range attackers bombarded the Alpha Monster from a distance. Lux's and Eiko's Skeleton Fighters took a defensive stance, ready to protect everyone from any surprise attacks from the Crimson Mantis.

Lux didn't dare underestimate it since it had the Skill Quick Assault, allowing it to increase its movement speed as it attacked its designated target.

After receiving the bombardment from the different range attackers, the Mantis was enraged and slashed Pazuzu, knocking him aside before unleashing a barrage of Crimson Blades at the Dwarves, who were attacking it from a distance.

The Skeleton Fighters immediately positioned themselves to block the attack with their shields. Their defensive stance succeeded at the cost of the Skeletal Fighters collapsing into a pile of bones after blocking a single attack.

The Crimson Mantis' passive skill, Razor Wind, infused its attacks with the Wind Element, making its attacks extra sharp. This allowed it to overcome defensive equipment like armor and shields and cut deeper into its target, thereby dealing lethal damage.

Lux and Eiko didn't bat an eye as they resummoned the Skeletal Fighters that died in battle. The Half-Elf could feel his liver ache due to the damage that was done to the equipment that his Skeletons were wearing.

The shields that were used to block the Mantis' attack were now dented, proving just how problematic the Alpha Monster's attack was. Fortunately, Lux could ask his master, Randolph, to repair his minions' equipment for a discount because he was his Disciple.

'I just hope that the loot is worth it,' Lux thought as he ordered his Skeletons to take a defensive stance.

Eiko's Summons were different from Lux's because they weren't wearing any equipment. This made them significantly weaker to her Papa's summons, but they were still decent enough to act as meat shields when things got out of hand.

It was at this moment when something unexpected happened. The Crimson Mantis entered a Berserked State even though it still had 80% of its health remaining. But, that was the least of their worries.

Right after activating its Berserk Skill, raising its stats to the middle stages of Rank 4, it activated its skill, Doppelganger, creating a copy that was half as strong as its berserked state.

"Run!" Lux immediately ordered when he felt the intimidation aura of the two Monsters stacked together, making Colette and the other dwarves stiffen due to how scary the two Monsters were.

"Diablo! Pazuzu! Hold them back!" Lux ordered as he grabbed hold of Colette's and Matty's hands, forcefully dragging them away from the frontlines.

Blackie and Whitey had been affected by the Monster's intimidation, making them unable to react as several Crimson Slashes flew in their direction.

Both slimes were instantly annihilated, making Eiko shout in anger. However she also knew that she couldn't fight against the Crimson Mantis in its current state, especially without her Papa's help, so she remained perched on top of Lux's head while firing several elemental spells at the two monsters as they moved further and further away from the battlefield.

Some of the Skeleton Grand Archers carried the members of the Apostle Party who had also been affected by the Intimidation Skill of the Crimson Mantis, and ran alongside their Master, Lux.

Although they had already run a good distance away, the explosions still shook the battlefield, so Lux opted to summon his Warg, Jed, and ordered his friends to do the same.

The members of the Apostle Party also rode the Wargs with gratitude as the distance between them and the Alpha Monsters increased.

At least, that was what they thought until they heard the buzzing of wings that was slowly getting stronger with each passing second.

Lux didn't want to believe it, but he knew that what they were hearing wasn't a delusion.

A single glance at the map function of the Elysium Compendium was enough to confirm his suspicion. The Alpha Monster, as well as its Doppelganger were right behind their backs, and shortening the gap at an incredible pace.

Clearly, it had decided to leave the group of Skeletons that didn't have an ounce of flesh or blood on them, and run after the Half-Elf and the Dwarves that would serve as its nutrition, in addition to it getting payback because they had gotten in the way of its meal.

Chapter 126: Dwarves Are Scary

"Everyone, scatter!" Lux ordered as he rode his mount forward.

Colette and the others headed in different directions in order to decrease the number of targets that the two Alpha Monsters were aiming at.

A few seconds later, Lux wasn't able to stop himself from cursing because the two Crimson Mantis were hot on his heels.

"Jed, go to the right, now!" Lux ordered as he urged his mount to make a sharp turn, to evade two Crimson Blades that flew in the location he was a few seconds ago.

The Half-Elf used the plants as a natural barrier against his pursuers, but it was of no use. The two Alpha Beasts only unleashed another barrage of Crimson Blades and cut off everything that stood in their path.

Lux knew that Pazuzu and Diablo wouldn't allow the two beasts to escape them that easily, so there was only one reason why they weren't here. Both of them had already used their taunting skill, which was Duel [EX], yet the monster still chose to ignore them and run after Lux's group in order to kill them.

As for why the two Crimson Mantis' were targeting Lux, the answer was really simple. It was because he had red hair.

The Crimson Mantis was attracted to the color red, and the Half-Elf's hair stood out from the rest, making him a suitable target. Although it sounded absurd, it was the reality that Lux wasn't aware of. He just thought that since he was bigger than the Dwarves, he was a more delectable target to feast on in the eyes of the Crimson Mantises.

Knowing that he couldn't keep running forever, Lux decided to take a gamble and urged Jed to another location. A minute later, he arrived at a place where an underground hole was located. The Half-Elf then ordered Jed to dive at the hole without batting an eye.

The two Mantises were almost upon him, and he barely managed to escape a slash that took a few strands of his hair.

The two Mantises flew past him, but immediately turned around to follow him inside the hole.

Suddenly, several Horned Army Ants (Rank 1) appeared in his vision, the tight group that was blocking the way made a narrow path that would allow Lux to pass through if he dismounted.

Understanding the Ants' intention, Lux unsummoned his Mount and hurriedly slipped through the blockade that was meant to defend the Ant Nest from the invaders.

The Ants were a pacifist race inside the Figaro Gardens, but that didn't mean that they didn't know how to fight back. As soon as the two Mantis appeared in their visions, they hurriedly unleashed a barrage of Formic Acid at the two Mantises that didn't even decrease their running speed.

Since the underground passage was too narrow to fly, the Crimson Mantises crawled down the passageway just to hunt Lux down, which meant that they had already marked him as their prey, using their Hunter's Mark skill.

This meant that no matter where Lux went, they would follow him without fail.

The exoskeleton of the Crimson Mantis was thrice as hard as the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis', who was considered to be the Apex Creature of the Figaro Garden. Although the two Mantises' bodies were covered in Acid, the Acid posed no threat to them whatsoever.

They bulldozed through the blockade, leaving only sliced up ant bodies behind, as they pursued Lux deeper into the Ant Colony.

The Rank 2 Defenders of the Ant Colonies known as the Armored Jaws also joined the battle. They had powerful mandibles and their bodies were as hard as steel.

Although they managed to deal significant damage to the Mantises, they were simply no match for Rank 4 Alpha Monsters whose claws could cut through steel.

Lux knew that he could no longer trouble the Ants when it came to dealing with the two Alpha Monsters so he decided to head to the nearest exit in order to bring the two Monsters to the surface.

When the two Mantises exited the Ant Nest they found themselves being bombarded by arrows, bone spears, and fire lances.

Perhaps due to its already low health, or perhaps the skill's duration had ended, the Doppelganger of the Crimson Mantis disappeared, which made everyone shift their attacks to the enemy that remained in front of them.

It was also at this moment when Lux's Demonic Defender descended from the sky, and smashed its Tower Shield against the Mantis' head, making it cry out in pain.

However, due to the rage Pazuzu felt for failing to hold back the Alpha Monster, it swung its mace and gave the Crimson Mantis an uppercut. Although his strength stat was low, and the damage he could dish out was very little, his passive ability triggered, making the Mantis enter a state of Fear.

"Coup!" Eiko shouted as she copied one of the Monster's skills and fired a Crimson Blade at its head, making it shriek in frustration due to the increased damage it received.

But, just like Pazuzu, the Baby Slime wasn't finished just yet.

"Doppel!" Eiko created a clone of herself, which jumped down onto Lux's shoulder.

"Blackie! Whitey!"

The Devil Slime and the Angel Slime appeared, but this time, they were not alone. Another pair of Devil and Angel Slimes appeared, which immediately bombarded the two Mantises with their Dark and Holy Magic.

Eiko's dopple also summoned its own Skeleton Minions, bringing Lux's Skeleton Army to over sixty in number.

"Attack!" Lux ordered the Skeleton Fighters, who had taken a defensive position earlier, to charge at Alpha Monster and hack it with all of their might.

Naturally, they didn't last long because a single sweep of the Mantis Claws killed three to four Skeletons at once.

"Hydro Ball!"

"Fire Lance!"

"Divine Zap!"

Three spells flew out of nowhere and collided with the Mantis' head making it stagger.

"Big Brother, we are here!" Colette shouted as she charged at the Alpha Monster, while riding on her Warg.

Colette swung her Mythical Mace fearlessly. At the same time her Warg Jumped towards the monster's head, in order to help its Master deliver a crushing blow to their enemy.

A metallic ring reverberated in the surroundings as Colette gave the Alpha Monster a mace uppercut, powered by her Smite Skill, which added additional Holy Damage to her attacks. Unlike Lux, Paladins were capable of mounted combat, so fighting with her Warg wasn't a big deal to Colette.

"Cross Slash!" Matty sent a cross-like slash towards the Mantis' head, drawing crimson blood.

"Charge!" The leader of the Apostle Grade Party threw caution to the wind and charged at the Monster with his shield raised high. He was a Shield Warrior and his role was to always be at the front of his party, protecting his allies from the enemy's attack.

The Dwarf smashed his shield on the Crimson Mantis' front leg, breaking its defensive stance.

Just like wild monkeys that were off to a gang war, the Dwarves attacked the Alpha Monster simultaneously, like a gang beating up a single individual.

Naturally, the Alpha Monster wasn't a punching bag, so it also counter-attacked the Dwarves. However, due to Pazuzu's and the Shield Warrior's tenacity, they were able to block its attacks, and keep the Dwarves and their allies safe.

The Skeleton Fighters also used their shields as an extra wall, to prevent casualties from happening.

Although the Dwarves received injuries during the battle, including Colette whose left cheek was bleeding after getting grazed by the Mantis' Claws, as well as Matty who received a deep cut on his left arm, after exchanging a blow with their enemy, none of them faltered.

"Dwarves are scary," Lux muttered as he continued to use his Mana Drain to siphon the Alpha Monster's mana, preventing it from using its skills in battle, Eiko and her Doppelganger did the same, which left the Crimson Mantis helpless.

After several minutes of intense combat, the Mantis' movement became dull, and the glow in its eyes diminished by a good margin.

"Its Berserk Phase is over!" Lux shouted. "Smash it with everything you got!"

If the Dwarves were fearlessly attacking the Crimson Mantis before, now their attacks increased in ferocity as if they had all been injected by chicken blood. The Crimson Mantis was pushed into a corner as it received blow, after blow, after blow, each coming from a different direction.

Without any Mana remaining, and its Berserk Skill spent, it was now subjected to a devastating beating by infuriated Dwarves, Skeletons, Slimes, as well as the Ants, who had come out of their Ant Nest to get revenge on the bastard that dared to invade their territory.

The Armored Jaw Ants bit on the Alpha Monster's legs and pulled hard, with the intention of cutting them completely off its body. Over thirty of these ants emerged from the Ant Nest and pinned the Crimson Mantis in place, allowing Colette and Matty to repeatedly hack its head without mercy until the Mantis' eyes were smashed to a pulp.

"Pa!" Eiko who was about to jump in and fight at close range was held firmly by her Papa who could only shake his head at the one-sided beating that was happening in front of him. Not one part of the Crimson Mantis was spared as the Dwarves hacked, smashed, and slashed its body.

Even Andy, Axel, and Helen were using their staffs to whack the Alpha Monster's body with angry expressions on their faces.

Clearly, they had been infected by the battle lust that permeated the air that was also affecting the baby Slime who struggled to get out of Lux's hands in order to give the Crimson Mantis a piece of her mind.

"Settle down, Eiko," Lux said. "It's already dead, see?"

"Pa?" Eiko tilted her head as she stopped struggling.

Just like Lux said, the Crimson Mantis had stopped its struggle and remained motionless. A few seconds later, its body turned into particles of light, leaving four pairs of Crimson Claws—that were as long as a spear, a red exoskeleton, and a Rank 3 Beast Core behind.

The Armored Jaw Ants returned to their nest after the enemy was eliminated, leaving the Dwarves and the Half-Elf to share the spoils of war.

"Please, take this pair of claws with you," Lux said to the leader of the Apostle Grade Party as he pointed at two of the four claws that were lying on the ground. "All of you fought well. That was an incredible graduation ceremony, don't you think so?"

"Thank you," the Dwarf replied with a smile. Although he felt that Lux and the others should receive everything, he still appreciated the gesture and took the two Crimson Claws that he believed were enough to be crafted into a mythical weapon.

"If you guys don't mind, I'll take the Beast Core," Lux said as he negotiated with Colette and her friends. "You can take everything else."

"Okay, Big Brother!" Colette replied with a big smile on her face.

Lux knew that if he didn't take anything from the loot, Colette and the others would force him to take it all. Since he didn't want this to happen, he settled for the Beast Core that held great value to him.

In truth, after the Mantis died, he received a series of notifications, which were similar to the ones he got after defeating the Mutated Carbuncle. But, since he couldn't tell this to the others, he could only smile as he watched his friends celebrate their successful graduation ceremony.

Chapter 127: Your Journey In Elysium Has Just Begun, Right?

< Special Quest >

– Encounter with a Mutated Monster

Mission Rating: A

Status: Completed!

< Quest Objective >

– Kill the Mutated Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis

< Rewards >

– 100 Free Stat Points

– 100 Skill Points

– 100 Body Constitution Points

– Mutated Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis Claws (2 pcs)

– Mutated Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis Claws Exoskeleton

– Rank 3 Alpha Beast Core (Mutated Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis)

< Bonus Reward >

– Choose One of the Mutated Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis Skills

– Any skill that you learned from this reward cannot be duplicated, and will not be part of the random skill that you will obtain after using the Beast Core of the Mutated Golden Eyed Crimson Mantis.

< Skills that can be chosen >

Skills: Crimson Slash, Double Fury Slash, Berserk, Air Steps, Quick Assault, Hunter's Mark, Doppelganger, Coup de Grace.

Passive Skills: Intimidate, Razor Wind.

'Jackpot!'

Lux couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the Bonus Reward that he had obtained from the Special Quest after the Mutated Monster had been slain.

In truth, the Half-Elf wanted to acquire the skill Doppelganger so badly that he stared at the Beast Core in his hand with a very serious expression on his face. He thought that since he had two Beast Cores in hand, he had a two out of ten chances of getting it.

Since he could now freely choose a skill that belonged to the Golden-Eyed Crimson Mantis, he was determined to choose Doppelganger as his reward.

You have acquired the skill, Doppelganger.

< Skill Evolution [EX] detected a new Skill. >

– Since the skill, Doppelganger, is not learned from a Beast Core, it will automatically be upgraded to Doppelganger [EX]

< Doppelganger [EX] >

– Create two almost perfect clones of the target (Self).

– The Doppelgangers will be able to use any of the target's Skills freely, with the exception of Named Creatures. They will also have 50% of the target's overall stats, and will last for thirty minutes, or until they are destroyed.

Cooldown: 1 hour.

Lux did a fist pump out of happiness when he saw the evolved form of the skill Doppelganger. He had seen how Eiko copied the Alpha Monster's Doppelganger skill and created a clone of her own, which also summoned Undead Skeletons and two slimes to fight for her side.

'It's quite unfortunate that my Doppelgangers can't summon Diablo and the others.' Lux chuckled internally at the thought of having three Diablos, three Pazuzus and three Ishtars. 'I can somewhat understand why the

Doppelganger can't allow such a thing. The Skill would just be too OP if even Named Creatures can be replicated that easily.'

The Half-Elf was in a very good mood as he and his friends returned to the entrance of the Figaro Gardens. The hundreds of Dwarves that had evacuated in that area all cheered after hearing that the Mutated Monster had been killed.

All of them looked at Lux, Colette, and her friends, as well as the Apostle Grade Party who fought tooth and nail to defeat the Monster that terrorized the Figaro Garden after it had spawned.

Colette and her friends weren't used to the looks of admiration from the Dwarves who cheered for their victory.

"It's nice, isn't it?" Lux said as he patted Colette's head. "Although your sister is indeed good, never belittle yourself. Your journey in Elysium has just begun, right?"

"Un!" Colette nodded her head happily as they headed back towards Leaf Village with smiles on their faces.

They didn't expect their graduation ceremony to be that intense. In truth, all of them were happy to overcome such a hurdle without having any casualties on their side.

When they entered the village, they headed straight to the Plaza, so that they could return to Solais. Colette told Lux that she wanted to tell her parents that she was now an Apostle.

Of course, this wasn't her only purpose. This would also allow her Big Sister to make preparations for their reunion in Elysium when they meet up in the Intermediate Town later on.

Matty, Andy, Axel, and Helen also had the same thoughts, so they bid their goodbyes to Lux and told him that they would return in two days time after meeting their families and sharing the good news with them.

Lux waited for the Dwarf children to leave before lightly tapping the Arondight Ring on his finger. Since his friends would be staying with their parents for a day, he thought that this was also a good opportunity for him to go back home and spend some time with his Grandma.

"Let's go home, Eiko."

"Pa!"

As soon as Lux appeared in the training room, he immediately heard the sound of hurried footsteps coming in his direction.

A moment later, the door opened and a young lady with light-blue hair jumped into his arms while shouting, "Welcome back, Big Brother!".

"I-Iris?" Lux stuttered after taking a good look at the beautiful lady in his arms. "What are you doing here? Where is Grandma?"

Iris raised her head and gave Lux a look filled with injustice.

"Why? Am I not allowed to visit?" Iris replied with a pout.

Lux chuckled as he lightly patted his step-sister's head, which immediately put a smile on her face.

"Of course you can," Lux commented. "It's just that, I wasn't expecting you to be here."

Just as the Half-Elf was about to say more, Eiko happily jumped over to Iris' head, and crawled down to the side of her face, giving her a kiss on the cheek.

"Ma!"

"Eiko! I missed you."

"Ma!"

The mother and daughter pair rubbed their cheeks against each other's, while Lux could only look at them with a smile.

"Welcome back, Lux," Vera said as she walked towards her grandson and gave him a hug.

Lux felt the warmth and security of his Grandma's embrace and smiled. "I'm back, Grandma."

Vera pulled back and cupped Lux's face. "Are you hungry? You came at the right time. Iris and I were just about to eat. Let's have dinner together."

"Okay." Lux nodded.

Iris then held onto Lux's arm and stuck to him like glue, as they followed behind Vera.

Although he didn't know why Iris came for a visit, he was still happy to see her. There were some questions that he wanted to ask her in regards to Beast Companions, and he was hoping that his brocon-step-sister would be able to answer the questions that were bugging him back in Elysium.

Chapter 128: My Brother Is The Strongest!

"Eiko, say aah..."

"Aah..."

Lux watched as Iris fed Eiko some rice porridge that Vera had prepared.

The red-headed teenager wanted to eat something light, and since Vera spoiled him silly, she cooked some rice porridge just for him.

However, since Eiko liked to eat what her Papa liked to eat, she went to him and asked to be fed.

When Iris saw this, she immediately took a bowl of rice porridge and started to spoon feed the baby Slime who had a big smile on her face.

As the family of four ate together, Vera updated Lux about the things that had happened in Wildgarde Stronghold while he was away. According to her, Lux's childhood friends were now close to becoming Grade A Apostles.

Grade A Apostle was the rank before the Initiate Rank. Although it would take a few years for the children to reach the next rank, they were still greatly praised by their faction because they were the seeds that would strengthen their foundations.

"Who is the one that is the closest to reaching the final stages of a Grade A Apostle?" Lux asked out of curiosity.

Vera eyed Lux for a short while before answering his question.

"Nero," Vera replied. "Among the members of the young generation, he is the closest to reaching the peak stage of a Grade A Apostle."

Lux frowned after hearing the name of the boy who had a bad history with him.

Nero was not one of the children that lived in the Wildgarde Stronghold. He was one of the children with high potential that was discovered among the villages that were under the Stronghold's protection. Because of this, he was allowed to use the Stronghold's Gate that connected to Elysium, without paying any fees whatsoever.

Perhaps due to his background, Nero disdained the children of Wildgarde Stronghold who took things for granted. For him, they weren't like the children in the villages who had to do their best in order to impress the Stronghold's Elders, so that they could get sponsored and allowed passage to Elysium.

Among other things, Nero hated Lux with a loathing.

The brown-haired teenager hated Lux's good luck of being adopted by Vera, in addition to being cared for by the people inside the Stronghold despite his weak constitution. There had been more than one occasion when Nero openly ridiculed Lux for being useless, and they were usually whenever he returned to the Stronghold in order to report on the progress of the younger generation that belonged to their faction in Elysium.

Iris arched an eyebrow after hearing Nero's name as well. Nero had treated her nicely and even mentioned in passing that he would like to serve as one of Iris' personal guards in Elysium.

Barbatos Academy's Faction belonged to the empire that bordered the kingdom where the Faction of Wildgarde Stronghold was located. Both rulers had good ties with each other and were allies.

Because of this, collaboration between the elites of Barbatos Academy and those of Wildgarde Stronghold in Elysium were very common. This was how Nero met Iris.

Although he tried hard to hide it, he liked the young prodigy very much. Nero liked Iris not only for her beauty, but because of her background. She was Vera's granddaughter, and the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy's only daughter.

With such a solid backing behind her, it was impossible for someone with great ambition like Nero to ignore the beautiful girl, who was being treated like a princess by the countless students of Barbatos Academy.

Unfortunately, Iris was a brocon who only had eyes for Lux.

This made Nero hate Lux even more and, at some point, explicitly told the latter that aside from his handsome face, the Half-Elf had nothing to offer to the girl that Nero wanted as his lover.

"I met him in Elysium the other day and that bastard even had the audacity to tell me that he would win the tournament in order to become my fiance," Iris gnashed her teeth in anger. "I hate to admit it, but among the young generation, his chances of succeeding are very high. But, don't worry, Big Brother. Even if he wins, I will not marry him! Grandma, help me elope with Big Brother when that time comes, okay?"

"Rest assured, I'll tie him up really well, so that he can't escape even if he becomes a High-Ranker," Vera replied with a smile.

The two ladies shared a knowing glance at each other and smiled.

'Peak Stage of the Apostle Grade...', Lux thought with a serious expression on his face. 'Looks like I need to work harder when I get back.'

Right now, aside from Iris and Vera, no one else knew that Lux could now go to Elysium. They kept this a secret from everyone, especially to Iris' father, Alexander, who didn't think much of Lux.

In truth, Alexander had a higher chance of choosing Nero as Iris' fiance than Lux, whom he deemed to be a weakling in his eyes.

Vera and Iris wanted to give the stubborn man a surprise during the tournament that would be held in Barbatos Academy, where they would force Lux to participate.

"Don't worry about him, Iris," Lux said with a smile. "I will not let him marry you."

The blue-haired beauty's hand froze mid-air as she was about to feed Eiko.

The baby Slime, who already had her mouth wide open, looked at her mama in confusion. Since Iris wasn't moving, Eiko thought that they were playing a game, so she decided to jump and eat the porridge that was hanging a few inches above her head.

As the baby slime happily chewed the porridge in her mouth, Iris looked at Lux with sparkling eyes.

"Un!" Iris nodded. "My brother is the strongest! Only he has the right to marry me!"

Vera nodded her head in agreement. This was her long-cherished wish, so she was giving Iris her full support. She was already looking forward to the grandchildren that she would hold a few years from now.

Lux could only scratch his head due to Iris' and Vera's reaction. Although he knew that both ladies were just teasing him, he vowed to himself that he would not allow anyone to force his step sister into marrying someone she didn't like.