

# **Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate**

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### **Cai's Late Night Expedition | Novel Pub**

#### **Chapter 257: Cai's Late Night Expedition**

The night after the Semifinal Matches ended...

A foot-tall boar sneakily made its way to the infirmary where Lux was currently resting. So far, it had evaded

the detection of the Clerics who were busy treating the other contestants that got injured during the tournament.

'I'm sure that it is around here somewhere...', Cai thought as it slowly wandered around the hallway. 'Oh, I guess I'll visit Little Swordy after I've paid My Daddy a visit.'

After their match, Keane was taken to the intensive care unit. His soul was a bit unstable to begin with, and his fight with Cai had caused what little internal energy he had left to disperse. Even so, his life was in no danger and the High-Cleric said that he would just need a week of rest before he regained his strength.

As the "Little Boar" made its way inside the infirmary, it came across an unusual creature standing in the middle of the hallway.

'What is this?' Cai thought as it approached the jelly-like creature that was looking back at it with an UwU expression on its face.

"Awwww! How adorable!" Cai said as it looked at the baby Slime who looked back up to it with a smile on its face. "Hello, little one."

"Hello!" Eiko returned Cai's greeting.

"What's your name?"

"Eiko!"

"That's a very cute name," Cai commented before lightly patting the baby Slime's head with its hoof, making the latter giggle.

Cai had seen many kinds of Slimes since it belonged to a Nomadic Tribe that migrated on a seasonal basis. At first look, Eiko looked like an ordinary blue slime, but Cai could tell that she wasn't like any of the Slimes it had met in the past.

"Um, do you happen to know where My Daddy's room is?" Cai asked.

"Pa?" Eiko tilted her head to the side.

"Not Pa. My Daddy."

"No." Eiko shook her head. "My Daddy!"

"Eh? We're not talking about Your Daddy," Cai replied. "We're talking about My Daddy."

"Pa!"

"Like I said, not Pa. My Daddy."

The Little Boar and the Baby Slime exchanged words for a bit, but after realizing that the conversation was going nowhere. Cai decided to check the room that Eiko seemed to be guarding.

Seeing that the Little Boar was planning to enter the room, Eiko moved to block its way with a disgruntled look on her face.

"No!" Eiko said as she stood between Cai and the door.

"Um, I'm just going to take a peek." Cai looked down on the baby Slime who seemed to be hell-bent to prevent anyone from entering the room.

"No."

"I'm just going to check who is resting inside. I told you didn't I? I'm looking for My Daddy."

"Not your Daddy!" Eiko stated. "My Daddy!"

"Right, I'm looking for My Daddy."

"No! My Daddy!"

"... Um, I believe we already had this discussion a while back," Cai said with a sigh as it looked at the unmoving baby Slime that was glaring at it. "Fine. I'll go check other rooms. See you later, Eiko."

"Bye bye," Eiko no longer glared at Cai as she watched it leave peacefully. She resumed her duty of guarding "Her Daddy's" room, preventing anyone from sneaking past her.

Inside the room, Iris and Vera were looking after the recovering Lux, who was in deep sleep. The side effects of the Black Lightning that held the power of the Abyss was no joking matter. Despite Lux's strong constitution, the damage he received during his fight with Nero had taken a toll on his body.

There was even a possibility that he wouldn't be able to wake up until a few days later, according to the High-Cleric's words.

"Grandma, tomorrow is the Final Match," Iris said as she caressed the side of Lux's face. "Will he wake up by then?"

Vera, who was looking at the door, didn't answer right away. She had sensed that someone had approached Eiko outside the door and was chatting with the baby Slime.

The room where they were at was a private room, and no one, other than the Clerics assigned to Lux, were allowed to enter this part of the Infirmary. After making sure that her great-granddaughter wasn't in any trouble, she shifted her attention back to the worried Iris, who was busy caressing the side of Lux's face.

"I don't know if he'll wake up tomorrow," Vera replied. "But, I'd like to believe that he will."

"Grandma, how about we turn Cai into pork stew? If we do it right now, no one will notice."

"Hahaha. That will be a bit troublesome. Aren't the two of you close friends? Besides, it will be too suspicious if the contestant that is going to fight in the Final Match suddenly disappears before the match starts."

Iris chuckled as she thought of the shameless Boar who had entered the Tournament without telling her.

In truth, the blue-haired beauty had a nagging feeling that Cai only joined the tournament because of the decree that her father had made. She had briefly mentioned this matter to Cai when she visited the Rowan Tribe to participate in their Annual Festival, where she danced one of their folk songs.

Clearly, the Boar wanted to help Iris and prevent her from getting married to someone she didn't like. This was why the Boar had traveled all the way from its Nomadic Tribe to Barbatos Academy to join the Lionheart Tournament.

"Now that I think about it, Gerhart might have been forced by Cai to join this tournament as well," Iris smiled because she knew what kind of attitude her close friend had.

Cai was the type of person who wouldn't hesitate to use foul means, whether it was bribery or blackmail to get what it wanted.

"The Rowan Tribe and the Elswyth Kingdom might have started a diplomatic dialogue with each other in regards to the incident in the tournament." Vera nodded her head in agreement. "I just hope they settled it peacefully in the end."

Iris sighed for the second time as she looked at her beloved step-brother who had gotten injured for her sake.

"Any news from Wildgarde Stronghold?" Iris asked after a few minutes had passed. "I'm sure that they are still reeling from the shock after discovering how strong Brother is."

This time, it was Vera's turn to chuckle.

After the tournament, Gilbert, Natasha, and Rainer came to find her to ask her what was going on. The only thing that Vera told them was that Lux was cured by a mysterious medicine man and had undergone physical therapy under his tutelage.

Although they were quite doubtful of her story, they didn't pry any further and just accepted the fact that the Half-Elf, who had repeatedly failed to enter Elysium for the past four years of his life, had now defeated Nero, who was the youngest prodigy that belonged to their faction.

"Go and rest, Iris," Vera said as she lightly brushed her granddaughter's hair. "I'll look after Lux to ensure that nothing will happen to him."

"...Un." Iris nodded before lowering her head to give Lux's left cheek a kiss.

A minute later, she left the room to rest. She knew that even if she were to stay, it wouldn't change anything, so, for the time being, she decided to follow her grandma's advice and rest.

"Ma!" Eiko greeted Iris as soon as the latter exited the door.

The young lady picked up the baby Slime and patted her head.

"Good Job in guarding your Papa's room," Iris said softly. "Did anyone suspicious appear?"

Eiko shook her head. For her, Cai wasn't someone suspicious because she had seen the Boar accompany her Papa throughout the duration of the tournament.

"Good." Iris smiled. "Grandma is going to watch over your Papa for a while. We will go back to our room to sleep and watch him fight in the tournament tomorrow."

"Pa!" Eiko nodded.

In truth, Eiko wanted to fight alongside Lux during the tournament, but because Lux had to hide his identity, she was told to stay with Iris in order to prevent anyone from discovering who My Daddy really was.

Five minutes after Iris and Eiko left the room, Cai once again returned to the hallway. It had already checked all the rooms in the infirmary except for the one that Eiko was guarding.

Because of this, the Boar was confident that My Daddy was resting in the last room that she still hadn't checked.

It had even visited Little Swordy's room earlier to check on his condition. The Boar was even kind enough to cover the skinny teenager with a blanket, tucking him properly, to ensure that he had a comfortable sleep before leaving.

When the Boar saw that the baby Slime was no longer guarding the door, it breathed a sigh of relief before sneakily making its way towards it.

When it arrived at its destination, it placed its hoof on the door, and activated an unlocking spell that allowed it to enter any place even though it was locked using Physical and Magical means.

The moment Cai opened the door, it came face to face with an old lady who was looking down on it with a calm expression on her face.

Vera had her hands behind her back, as she stared at the late-night-visitor that had decided to pay her grandson a visit.

Just a glance was enough to tell Cai that the person in front of it was a Ranker, making its baby fats tremble.

"Um... sorry, wrong room," Cai said as it gave the old lady a forced smile before making a hasty retreat with its tail tucked between its legs.

The Boar had a feeling that if it stayed a second longer inside the room, the old lady would slice it to pieces, and add it to the infirmary's menu when morning came.

## **Chapter 258: Eriol's Condition**

"You've come so far, Lux. I am proud of your achievements. As expected of the person that Max chose for his Heaven's Gate Project."

"If you really feel that way, can you just treat the corruption of the Abyss inside me, so I can fight to my fullest tomorrow."

Eriol chuckled after hearing Lux's request. Right now, the two of them were talking in Eriol's God Domain.

When Lux opened his eyes, he found himself in what seems to be an elegant garden located on a floating island.

At the center of it was a small gazebo, where a young boy with short, dark-blue hair, and gray eyes, who seemed to be only around the age of ten, sat.

Lux naturally knew he was because it was the same person that had played a major role in allowing him to take that first step to realize his goal.

It was none other than the God of Games, Eriol.

"I can't do that, you know," Eriol said in a teasing tone as he moved a pawn forward. "As a God, I must be impartial."

"Impartial my foot," Lux grumpily replied as he moved the knight to make an offensive move. "I'm just asking for my Abyss Corruption to be treated. It's not like I'm asking you to help me win my match in the next few hours."

The two had been playing chess for several hours already, but out of the ten games they played, Lux hadn't even won once.

"I can't heal your injuries because that will be breaking the rules," Eriol stated as he moved his Queen right in front of Lux's King. "People think that Gods are omnipotent, but there are things that even we cannot do, like saving a dying world. Okay, checkmate."

Lux sighed as he looked at the chessboard looking for a way out. Seeing that there was none, he leaned back and scratched his head in frustration.

Eriol chuckled after seeing the frustrated look on the Half-Elf's face, making the latter glare at him hatefully.

"Let's put aside the Abyss Corruption talks for now," Eriol said. "Can you tell me what your short term goals are for the time being?"

"Short term goals?" Lux crossed his arms over his chest. "I've been too busy thinking about the tournament, that I shut out anything else from my mind. You can even say that my short term goal is winning the tournament. After that I will return to Elysium and continue my journey."

"I see..." Eriol smiled as he eyed the red-headed teenager in front of him that was quite different from the one he had met several months ago.

The Lux back then was on the verge of giving up, but now, he was filled with determination in winning the tournament and going to Elysium to continue his adventure.

"Say, Lux, after this tournament, Gilbert and the Elders of the Wildgarde Stronghold will definitely change their opinion about you," Eriol stated. "There is a chance that you will join the Storm Dragon Guild and become Nero's subordinate after the tournament ends."

Lux vehemently shook his head. "No way. I don't plan on becoming Nero's subordinate. The reason why I joined the tournament was to beat him and..."

"And you did it splendidly. But, this tournament is just a turning point in your life. After this, you will be placed in the spotlight and would be forced to take on some responsibilities, befitting of your achievements. That's not so bad, right?"

"Indeed. That ain't so bad."

Eriol smirked and gave Lux a knowing glance.

"However, the power of a single individual is not enough to save the world, Lux," Eriol commented. "If it were that easy, Max wouldn't have taken a gamble and founded the Heaven's Gate Project with me, alongside another God.

"The three of us formed the Trinity that bound Solais and Elysium together. Since Max is currently recuperating and out of the picture, only two Gods carry the sky over our shoulders and are preventing it from collapsing."

Eriol paused as he lifted the Pawn Chess Piece before looking at the Half-Elf in front of him.

"Because we are busy trying to ensure that Solais won't collapse in a short period of time, our hands are tied," Eriol explained. "This is why we need Pawns, like you, to become our foot soldiers in the fight to save Solais, by finding the solution in Elysium."

"Being called a pawn right in front of my face hurts a bit, you know?" Lux smiled bitterly. "Can't you sugarcoat it a bit to make it less depressing?"

"This is why we decided to choose a handsome, and dependable guy, like you, to help us save a dying world from destruction."

"That's much better."



Lux smiled as he nodded his head in satisfaction, making Eriol look at him in disdain.

"There is a question I've been meaning to ask you guys for a while now," Lux stared at the God of Games with a serious expression on his face. "Why don't you choose more people to participate in the Heaven's Gate Project? To be honest, I don't think I am able to handle this responsibility alone."

Eriol shook his head after hearing Lux's words. "It's not that we didn't want to add more people, it's because we can't. The more people we bring into this world, the faster its death progresses. Also, having more people doesn't necessarily mean that it will be better. If by chance, the people we summoned were to only complicate things, rather than fixing them, then they would just make things worse."

"Yes... just like the Hundred-Year-War. A war that was brought by the very same people whom we thought would save the world."

Lux's eyes widened in shock after hearing Eriol's words. If he were to interpret God's words correctly, it meant that they had already summoned people in the past, but they failed to meet the Gods' expectations.

"There are other people aside from me?" Lux asked. "Where are they now?"

"Dead is what I'd like to say, but in reality it's different," Eriol replied with a sigh. "When they first arrived, things were fine at the beginning. However, since they were given the so-called 'cheats', they abused their powers and started to make others submit to them. Those who refused would be subjugated by force, which had sparked the Hundred-Year-War in Solais.

"It also advanced the progress of the death of the world, which forced me to bind Elysium to it, in an attempt to slow the progress of its destruction."

Lux didn't interrupt Eriol's explanation and listened to it with full concentration. According to the God of Games, Solais was on the verge of becoming a dying world after the Hundred-Year-War took place, plunging the entire world into chaos.

Out of the twelve people that were summoned and were responsible for instigating the war, nine died, while three remained. These three tried to reverse the situation, but still failed in the end.

As a last resort, the world under Eriol's control, Elysium, bound itself to Solais, allowing the latter to get a breather.

The three people that remained had gone to Elysium in order to recuperate and regain their powers.

But, one of those three people had fallen prey to something that she had accidentally summoned to Elysium, and that was none other than the Abyssal Creatures.

They were the alien-like Monsters whose sole mission was to cause destruction to the world. Fortunately, after Solais and Elysium merged, the warriors of both worlds worked together to repel the Abyssal Armies, forcing them to return to the Abyss where they belonged.

However, since the pathway to the Abyss had already been opened, Abyssal Monsters would appear in Elysium from time to time, spreading havoc wherever they went.

"Although the Abyssal Corruption is a pain to deal with, most of the time, it doesn't lead to deaths when treated immediately,," Eriol stated. "But, those afflicted by it must rest for several days to fully recover. That is the only way to deal with the abyssal dregs that are still inside your body. So, just rest for now, okay?"

"You already know that I can't do that, right?" Lux shrugged. "If I don't fight in a few hours, Iris will be forced to marry someone she doesn't want to marry. I don't want that to happen, so I need to find a way to regain consciousness."

Eriol wagged his finger at Lux and gave him a mischievous smile. "If it's just regaining consciousness, I can do that. However, even if you regain your consciousness, the exhaustion your body feels will make you so drowsy that the moment you close your eyes, you will be off to Dreamland."

Lux blinked once then twice as he gazed at the God of Games, who had a playful smile on his face.

"Can you make me regain consciousness?" Lux asked.

"Of course, but I doubt that you will be able to stay awake for long," Eriol replied. "But, doing this feels like cheating. So, you'll have to do something for me when you return to Elysium."

"I knew it," Lux commented with a fed up look on his face. "There's no free lunch in this world."

"Exactly."

"So, what is it that you want me to do for you? As long as I am able to fight tomorrow's match, even for a brief moment, I will do as you say."

Eriol chuckled after hearing Lux's fed up statement.

"Since we already have an agreement I need you to do two things for me," Eriol said. "The first thing that you need to do is..."

## **Chapter 259: Without Both Of You, My World Is Just Filled With Darkness**

An hour before sunrise, Lux slowly opened his eyes. After finding himself in an unfamiliar room, his gaze landed on the old lady that was resting on a chair beside him.

"Grandma," Lux muttered.

Vera, who was half-asleep, and half-awake, opened her eyes to look at her Grandson.

"Good morning, Lux," Vera said before placing her hand over the Half-Elf's forehead, and neck. "It seems that you have developed the Abyss Fever. You should rest for a while longer."

Lux shook his head. "Grandma, if I close my eyes now to sleep, I will sleep for a long time. Please, help me stand up."

Vera frowned but after seeing Lux's determined gaze, she had no choice but to help him stand up.

"What are you planning to do?" Vera inquired. "In your current state, it will be hard for you to fight in the tournament."

"It's fine, Grandma," Lux answered. "I can do it. I will win for sure."

"Maybe Iris is right. I should have cooked pork stew last night."

"Pork stew? That sounds delicious. Let's eat it with Iris after I win the tournament."

Vera shook her head helplessly and gave her grandson a bitter smile. Seeing that the red-headed teenager had no intention of backing down, the old lady made a few hand seals, and summoned a wooden doll to carry Lux in a princess carry.

"This brings back memories, Grandma," Lux said softly as he allowed himself to be carried by the wooden doll. "Back then, Woody would pick me up whenever I fainted. It was like yesterday..."

Lux looked up at the wooden doll with nostalgia. He had many sad, yet fond memories, with the doll he had nicknamed Woody, who had been one of his guardians while he was growing up.

"Now, you're already so big and strong," Vera commented as she walked beside the wooden doll in the hallway of the infirmary. "Perhaps this will be the last time that Woody will carry you like this."

"I hope so," Lux chuckled. "It has been a while since I felt this helpless."

The two then walked in silence for several minutes until they reached the Coliseum. When the wooden doll stepped on the arena, it was still dark.

In truth, Lux was doing his best to fight off sleep because he knew that the moment he closed his eyes to rest for a bit, he would fall into deep sleep, unable to wake up for several days. By then, the tournament would be over, making him lose by default in the Final Match.

Eriol told him that if he didn't wake up now, he wouldn't be waking up anytime soon because his body was truly exhausted and needed to rest badly. However, since he made a deal with Lux, he had forcefully awakened his consciousness, to make him open his eyes a few hours before the match began.

"Thank you, Grandma."

"Mmm."

Vera stared at his grandson long and hard before sighing. She knew that the Half-Elf would not back down once he had made a decision, and as his grandma, she wanted to support him as well.

"At least, drink this," Vera said as he gave Lux a vial with a purple serum inside it. "This will help with the Abyss Fever. You need to drink it every four hours."

Lux obediently drank the Serum, which made him feel so comfortable that he almost fell asleep then and there. Fortunately, he managed to catch himself just in time and gave himself a pinch on the waist, waking him up instantly.

Seeing his antics, Vera couldn't help but chuckle. It reminded her of the days when Lux was still young and did silly things around the house.

"You've come so far, Lux," Vera stated. "Just hang on for a little while longer."

"I know, Grandma," Lux replied. "How many hours are left before the match begins?"

"Mmm... around three to five more hours."

"That long?"

Lux yawned before rubbing his eyes. He really wanted to sleep so badly, but doing so would just waste everything that he had accomplished.

"I wish morning would come faster," Lux complained. "Waiting will tire me out."

"That's just how it is." Vera patted her grandson's shoulders before summoning a blanket to cover his fever-infested body. "A dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world."

Lux allowed himself to be pampered by his Grandma because it had truly been a while since Vera had tucked him in for the night.

"Grandma, when was the last time we watched the sunrise together?" Lux inquired when Vera had finished wrapping him up with the blanket.

"More than a year ago if I remember correctly," Vera answered. "You were too busy with your training, and when you gained the opportunity to go to Elysium, you just stayed home for a few days before going back."

Lux remained silent because his grandma was right. After he gained access to Elysium, he would go back for only a few days before returning. He didn't have the opportunity to do things with his grandma, like watching the sunrise like they did more than a year ago.

"I'm sorry, Grandma," Lux said softly. "I have been too busy as of late. One of these days, let's take Eiko and Iris to have a picnic somewhere together."

"Sounds good," Vera commented. "It has been a while since we went to a picnic together."

Lux gazed at the sky which was still dark. Vera, on the other hand, waved her hand, from time to time, sending a silvery string across the opposing ends of the Coliseum. This continued for a few minutes before Woody suddenly started to walk towards the old lady who seemed to have finished her preparations.

A moment later, she, along with the wooden doll carrying Lux, slowly floated towards the sky. At least, this was what those who were observing the two would think.

Lux, on the other hand, knew what was going on. Vera's ability was similar to Vall, whom he had fought. Both of them had the ability to conjure and manipulate strings.

A minute later, the two hovered above the Coliseum, while looking at the East, where the sky was slowly brightening.

"Lux, I don't really care even if we don't view the sunrise together like we did when you were younger," Vera said firmly. "What I care about is that you keep yourself safe and return to me on a regular basis. For me, you and Iris are the sun in my life. Without both of you, my world is just filled with darkness, never hoping to see a sunrise ever again."

Lux smiled before nodding his head in understanding.

"I understand, Grandma," Lux replied. "I will do my best to survive both in Elysium and Solais."

"You do that," Vera said as she continued to gaze at the East. "We can only appreciate the miracle of a sunrise if we have waited in the darkness."

As soon as Vera finished talking, the first rays of the sun peeked beyond the horizon, bathing the world with the promise of a new day.

Lux sighed as he pulled the blankets closer to him. A new day has finally begun, and the Final Match that would decide his step-sister's fate, was only a few hours away.

He just hoped that, when it was time for the match to officially start, he would still be awake, so he could fulfill the promise he made in his heart.

This would allow the beautiful blue-haired lady, who was hailed as the Princess of Barbatos Academy, to regain her freedom, and live her life the way she wanted to live it, without being used as a political tool by her father.

## **Chapter 260: I Too Have Someone I Have To Protect!**

"Oh, isn't that... My Daddy?"

"It is, My Daddy."

"Is he too excited to fight that he's already here before the Coliseum has already opened?"

"Well, it doesn't matter. We know that this Final Match is just for formalities. There is no way that Cai will be able to defeat him."

"Yes. That Boar just got lucky he was able to enter the Final Match."

"Luck? That may be true, but since Cai already got this far by luck, wouldn't it be lucky this time around as well?"

"Hahaha. That's impossible, right?"

As the people entered the Coliseum to watch the Final Match of the Lionheart Tournament, Lux leaned on Orion's chest, while sitting on his left hand.

His Grandma Vera had just left a few minutes before the gates of the Coliseum were opened to allow the people to enter. Although she was very

worried about Lux, there was nothing more she could do because this battle was not hers, but her grandson's.

"We've come this far, Orion," Lux said softly while he used the Kaizer Breathing Technique that Vera had taught him long ago to keep himself awake. "Just one more fight and we can rest for a few days."

"Mmm." Orion nodded as he held Lux as if he was a precious object that would shatter at the faintest touch.

Lux sighed. "It's fine for me to go all out, right?"

"Yes," Orion replied.

"I wish they would just hurry up with the preparations," Lux complained. "Staying awake really hurts."

Lux could no longer feel his legs, and arms as if they had become numb. Every minute that passed brought him closer to falling into a deep sleep, and only his undying determination barely kept him awake.

A few minutes later, Judge Dredd walked up to the arena and headed towards Lux to do some small talk.

"I thought that you would not be here today," Judge Dredd said with a solemn look on his face. "Thank you for coming."

He could tell that Lux was barely hanging on, and admired his tenacity. Any injury regarding an Abyssal Power would require a few days of rest to fully recover. However, Judge Dredd knew that Lux knew what was at stake, so he refused to just close his eyes and let it end in this manner.

"Judge Dredd, I have a question in regards to the rules of the tournament," Lux stated. "Is it possible to continue the match even if..."

Judge Dredd listened to Lux's words with a serious expression. A moment later, he gave him the answer he was looking for.

"It's in the gray area," Judge Dredd replied. "But, since I am the Judge of this tournament, I will allow it."

"Thank you," Lux sighed in relief.



For a brief moment, he almost fell asleep then and there due to the relief he felt. Pinching himself would no longer do any good because he could no longer move his hands. Also, even if he did, the numbness in his body would prevent any feeling of pain.

"When will the match start?"

"It will start in less than an hour. Will you be able to hold on until then?"

"I will."

Lux didn't even mention the word, I will try, because he didn't want to try. He would do it no matter what it took.

Every second that passed felt like hours...

Every minute that passed felt like days...

Finally, when the Coliseum was filled to the brim, and the guests of honors had all arrived, Bruno raised his hand to signal Judge Dredd that the Final Match could start.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, today is the day when history will be made," Judge Dredd announced. "Today, two warriors among tens of thousands will stand here before you to fight in the Final Match of the Lionheart Tournament!"

The crowds cheered as Judge Dredd hyped the Final Match that would bring an end to the tournament.

Gilmore Faisal, one of the Four Kings that remained to watch the rest of the tournament, stood on the viewing platform reserved for the contestants with his arms crossed over his chest. His gaze was locked on the Half-Elf whose head was bobbing up and down, as he desperately tried to stay awake.

A moment later, he heard the sound of wheels rolling behind him, but he didn't turn his head to look. There was no need to do it because there was only one person who would dare to approach him in the spot where he stood.

"I thought you'll be sleeping for a while longer," Gilmore said without even looking at the brown-haired teenager who was sitting in a wooden wheelchair.

"How can I possibly sleep at this point in time?" Nero answered. "I want to see the ending of this tournament with my own eyes."

Nero had asked one of the Clerics in the infirmary to bring him to the Coliseum to watch the final match. Although the Cleric was reluctant, he still agreed to Nero's request and took him to the viewing platform to watch the final battle unfold.

"Who do you think will win?" Gilbert asked.

"You and I both know the answer to that question." Nero snorted. "He will win even if it's the last thing he did."

Gilbert nodded. "True."

The two then stopped talking and just focused their attention on the arena. They knew that the Half-Elf would try to end this battle as quickly as he could due to his condition.

"Let me introduce the contestants for the final match!" Judge Dredd shouted. "On the right corner and sitting on his Rock Golem is none other than the one, and only, My Daddy!"

"Hey... It's Lux," Lux grumbled. "Get it right, Old Man."

The crowd gave a thunderous applause and chanted Lux's alias, which made him feel helpless.

""My Daddy!""

""My Daddy!""

""My Daddy!""

""My Daddy!""

It seemed that regardless of what he said, the People would always refer to him as "My Daddy" from this point onwards, which made the Half-Elf think that his future prospects were dim.

"And now, our next finalist is someone that you, me, and everyone else didn't expect to be here!" Judge Dredd shouted. "I don't want to say that he reached this point in the tournament due to Luck, because Luck is also part of someone's strength."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome, the one and only... Cai!"

The spotlights all focused on a Boar who walked towards the arena with arrogance. Although they wouldn't admit it, everyone had become fond of the Boar whom they treated as the mascot of the tournament.

The shouts, cheers, and applause given to Cai was louder compared to the one given to Lux.

""Cai!""

""Cai!""

""Cai!""

""Cai!""

""Cai!""

After Cai stepped on the arena it eyed Lux with all the smugness that it could muster.

"I applaud you for coming this far, My Daddy," Cai said. "I didn't make a mistake when I invited you to join my secret organization which is called the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. I expect great things from you. Um, I still have many things to say, so let me just take out this scroll I prepared beforehand..."

Cai unrolled a scroll that rolled up to the edge of the arena. Every part of it had words written on it which made the corner of Judge Dredd's lips twitch, and Lux almost coughing a mouthful of blood.

The Half-Elf knew that if he allowed Cai to read the scroll he had prepared, he would definitely fall asleep half-way through it so he decided to take drastic measures.

"Judge Dredd, let's start this battle," Lux pleaded.

"Okay," Judge Dredd replied. There was simply no way he would allow Cai to finish reading such a long speech and immediately raised his hand to catch everyone's attention.

"Since both fighters are now ready, I, the referee of this match..."

"Oi! I'm still not finished with my speeeeeeeeeeech!"

"Hereby declare the start of this battle. Battle Start!"

As soon as the signal to start the battle was given, Orion rushed towards Cai and smashed his fist towards the boar in order to end the match as soon as possible.

"First Gear, Immovable Mountain."

A resounding clap reverberated in the surroundings as Orion's fist, met with Cai's tusk, stopping the Rock Golem's blow completely.

Cai's hooves crushed the ground underneath its feet, but it was mostly unharmed as its size increased to four meters tall.

"I know that everyone doesn't have a high opinion of me," Cai said as it raised its tusk to repel the Rock Golem's fist. "They think that I will lose as soon as the fight starts."

Cai then eyed the Half-Elf that was sitting on the Rock Golem's left hand with determination.

"But, just like everyone else who joined this tournament, I too have a goal," Cai declared. "I too have someone I have to protect! Even if I face an opponent stronger than me, I will not yield! I will fight, and stand my ground! My Dad... no. Lux Von Kaizer, even if you are a member of my secret organization I will not show you any mercy."

The color of the Boar's fur suddenly changed from light-brown to black, with golden streaks forming lightning patterns on both sides of its body. Several sharp spikes protruded on its back making it look more fearsome and intimidating.

"Second Gear," Cai said as steam oozed out of its nose. "Hildisvíni!"

Judge Dredd who was standing not far away from the two gazed at Cai that had undergone a transformation.

"Rank 4 Mutated Field Boss, Hildivisni," Judge Dredd muttered. "Looks like this Final Match will not end the way everyone thought it was supposed to end."

A mighty roar spread across the arena as Cai finished its transformation.

"Come, Lux," Cai stated. "Let's rumble!"

## Chapter 261.1: Souls That Burned Brightly [Part 1]

"Wow! What an unexpected turn!" a lady commentator who went by the name, Violet, said with excitement.

She had been personally invited by Bruno to become the commentator for the final match, but due to the fact that they feared the battle would be over in an instant, she was placed on standby.

Now that something unexpected happened, Bruno had given her the signal to do her job and hype the crowd that was watching the Final Match of the Lionheart Tournament.

"All of us thought that this will be an instant victory for Lux... I mean, My Daddy, but lo and behold, Cai has given us an unexpected surprise! Now, let's see what My Daddy will do to counter this change in the flow of battle!"

Lux stared at the four-meter tall Boar, who had taken an entirely different form from the one he was used to seeing.

Cai now looked more ferocious and intimidating like never before and the presence it radiated was that of a Rank 4 Field Monster that was capable of annihilating an entire adventurer party composed of Grade A Apostles if they were not careful with their approach.

"I know that you're still suffering from the backlash against your fight against Nero, but I will not show you any mercy," Cai declared. "Surrender now or face my might!"

Instead of answering, Lux summoned another Rock Golem by his side.

Orion, who was holding Lux, gently passed the Half-Elf to the other Rock Golem so he could fight against Cai with all of its strength.

When it came to individual strength, Orion was the strongest unit under Lux's command, if we were talking about pure raw power.

However, even the rock golem's strength was not enough to contend against a Mutated Rank 4 Field Monster alone.

With a resounding roar, Orion charged towards the Spiked Boar, who just snorted and charged at the Golem who dared to challenge its might.

Once again, Orion's hard fist collided with Cai's tusk, but this time, Orion was pushed back after exchanging blows with Cai.

It was clear for everyone to see that the Boar had surpassed the Golem in strength, and used it to its advantage.

"Giga Slam!" Cai roared as he smashed his tusk into Orion's body, sending the Rock Golem skidding a few meters away.

In response, Orion smashed the ground, creating Earth Spikes to jut off the ground, but Cai held his ground.

The Earth Spikes tried to pierce through Cai's tough fur, but it was of no use.

The form that Cai had taken was the Field Boss, Hildisvíni.

It was a monster that had a tough exterior, allowing it to shrug off most attacks below the Initiate Rank. Since the Rock Golem wasn't of the Initiate Rank, and neither was Lux, Cai was confident that it could beat them even if Lux were to summon two more Orions to fight it.

"Did you see that?!" Violet exclaimed. "I've fought against Hildisvini once back when I was still starting in Elysium, and I can tell you that even two parties of Rank A Apostles wouldn't be able to beat it easily.

"When our guild fought against it, we needed at least a hundred-men party to fight the Field Monster before we managed to bring it down. However, during that battle, more than half of us were grievously injured, which proved just how strong this Boar-Type monster is!"

Cai roared as it once again charged, only this time, it ignored Orion and headed straight for the Half-Elf, who was currently being protected by the second Rock Golem under his command.

However, before he could even arrive a dozen meters away from its target, Cai's body swerved all of a sudden as its charge changed direction. Instead of

the Half-Elf, it was now headed towards Orion whose rocky hands were faintly glowing.

"Gaia Smash!" Orion used his strongest skill in order to blow the Boar, who tried to attack its Master, away and give it a good beating.

Unfortunately for him, Cai was not a pushover that everyone originally thought it would be.

"You're so annoying!" Cai roared as it also used one of its strongest skills in order to teach the Rock Golem a lesson. "Giga Impact!"

A resounding clap spread across the arena as the two attacks met. A moment later, Orion's arm exploded into rocky bits as Cai's attack continued its trajectory, smashing into the Rock Golem's chest.

With a triumphant Roar, Cai smashed the rock golem in half. But it didn't stop there.

"Grand Slam!" Cai raised both of its hooves at the same time and slammed it towards Orion's upper body, smashing it into pieces.

Everyone who was watching the battle cheered for they never expected Cai to be this strong. Even Judge Dredd, Bruno, and to a certain extent, Violet, couldn't believe that the Boar had hidden this Trump Card for so long.

"It's over," Gilbert, who was watching from the contestants platform, said. "Lux is going to lose."

His words carried a tone of finality, which even Nero couldn't refute.

The brown-haired boy, who hated Lux with vengeance, simply stared at the Half-Elf who had lost its subordinate and was left with no choice but to face Cai alone.

"Mumumumu!" Eiko, who was perched on Iris' head, gritted her teeth. In truth, she badly wanted to enter the arena to help Lux fight his opponent, but Vera had told her not to do it.

Eiko was Lux's Beast Companion, so by rights, she had the qualifications to aid Lux in battle. However, the Half-Elf had told the baby Slime that under no

circumstances must she interfere with his battle because this was something he wanted to do on his own.

"I'll tell you one last time. Surrender!" Cai shouted as it glared at the Half-Elf who was being protected by the Rock Golem.

"No," Lux replied. "If you want to win then you have to beat me thoroughly first."

"So be it," Cai commented. "I gave you plenty of chances to surrender. Let's end this!"

Cai stomped its foot on the ground and charged towards Lux with steam coming out of its body.

"Grand Charge!"

The Rock Golem pulled its arm back then smashed its fist towards the Boar who was only a few meters away from it. However, before doing so, it tossed Lux to the air, to prevent him from getting hurt from the collision.

A loud sound of a boulder being smashed to pieces spread in the arena, as Cai completely obliterated the Rock Golem with a single strike.

It then looked up at the Half-Elf who was falling from the sky, and prepared to swat him away like a bug to end the battle.

The Sorcerer, Garric, who was charged with preventing anyone from dying in the tournament, was paying very close attention to the falling Half-Elf. If he deemed that Lux's life was in danger, he would not hesitate to teleport him away, even if the red-headed teenager would hate him for life.

When the Half-Elf was only dozens of meters away from the ground, a pair of strong, and chubby arms caught him mid-air, preventing him from falling.

Pazuzu, Lux's Demonic Defender had made his appearance to answer his Master's call to fight.

"W-What is happening?!" Violet stuttered after seeing the Demonic Defender's face, who was scary enough to make children cry if they saw him. "Did someone suddenly interfere with the match?"

Bruno, who was seated beside her, shook his head.



"That is a summon," Bruno stated. "It is a creature Lux summoned just now to aid him in battle."

Cai snorted before it crouched down, aiming its spikes towards the flying Demonic Defender who was holding the person that it wanted to defeat.

"Fury Attack!"

A barrage of sharp spikes flew towards the direction of the Demonic Defender with the intention of blowing holes on its body. Cai knew that this was its opponent's last hurrah, so it decided to end the battle without holding back.

Before the sharp spikes were to even touch Pazuzu's body, a blue Tower Shield appeared in front of it, and blocked the incoming projectiles that were about to hit his body.

Several seconds later, the Blue Tower shield started to crack, which showed just how powerful Cai's attack was.

Fortunately, only after the last sharp spike collided with his shield did the blue Tower Shield shatter completely.

Cai smirked because it could already smell its victory. But just as it was about to attack again, a ringing sound similar to two metal weapons clashing against each other reverberated in the arena.

"Huh?" Cai glanced to its side and saw several Skeleton Fighters, who were wearing armor attacking the side of its body.

A moment later, several arrows descended from the sky, creating clinking sounds, as they bounced off Cai's tough exterior.

"T-This..." Violet's eyes widened in shock when she saw another unexpected scene inside the arena.

Thirty five Skeleton Fighters, thirty Skeleton Grand Archers, and a Skeletal Rider, who was riding on top of a Nightmare made its appearance in the arena.

Lux had finally decided to use his full powers to fight his opponent, which made everyone, who was fooled into thinking that he was a Summoner, finally realize what his true profession was.

"Necromancer," the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy, Alexander, muttered as he looked at the skeletons that Lux had summoned to fight for him.

He then shifted his gaze towards his mother, who was seated beside Iris. Alexander had paid close attention to Lux for the past sixteen years of his life, and never once did he find out that his mother's adoptive grandson was hiding this kind of secret.

Sensing his gaze, Vera gazed back at him with a mischievous smile. Although she knew that Lux's opponent was very strong, her faith never wavered.

In her eyes, her grandson was the best, and she looked forward to how the Half-Elf, who was barely able to keep his eyes open, would fight against his opponent whose strength far surpassed the creatures under his command.

## **Chapter 262.2: Souls That Burned Brightly [Part 2]**

"A Necromancer?" Cai narrowed its eyes as it gazed at the group of Skeleton Fighters that were attacking its tough hide with their steel swords.

Due to its tough fur, the Skeleton fighters' attacks were at most tickling Cai's body, making the Boar snort in contempt. With a simple swipe of its tusks, the skeletons around him were sent flying, losing a third of their lives in the process.

"Is this all you got?" Cai asked. "I can do this all day."

Lux didn't answer Cai's taunt and simply used his skills to buff his Skeleton fighters.

"Improved Jade Body."

"Barbed Bones."

"Undying Fervor."

"Decaying Touch."

—

When Lux upgraded his body constitution, the Immortal Dragon Conqueror Legacy, he gained several powerful skills alongside Dragon Scale and Dragon Heart, which were Undying Fervor, Corpse Explosion, and Decaying Touch.

---

### Undying Fervor [EX]

- Increase the Physical and Magical Damage of any Undying Creature under your command by 100%
- Increase the Physical and Magical Defense of any Undying Creature under your command by 100%
- Increase Health and Mana regeneration of any Undying Creature under your command by 100%

---

### Decaying Touch [EX]

- Has a 20% chance to inflict Decay on your target with every strike.
- Has a 10% chance to inflict Weakness on your target with every strike.
- Has a 10% chance to inflict Disease on your target with every strike.

Decay – Deals 100 True Damage every 3 seconds for 12 seconds.

Weakness - reduce your target's Physical and Magical defense by 20%.

Disease - decrease your target's attack speed, movement speed, mana regeneration, health regeneration, and evasion by 20%

- If Disease skill is active, increase Decay's True Damage by 200 every 3 seconds for 15 seconds.

---

After receiving Lux's buffs, the Skeleton units under his command turned incredibly menacing.

The Skeletons grew barbed spikes on their bodies made up of bones. These spikes dealt 10 Piercing True Damage to anyone that attacked them.

Although 10 damage seemed like an insignificant number, the amount would still stack up every time any of them got hit, making them very thorny opponents.

Also, their attacks were infused with Decaying Touch, which allowed their blows to ignore defense and deal true damage once it activated.

Just as Cai was feeling the pricklyness of its opponents, several ice arrows landed on its body, making it feel a chilling cold.

Ishtar, Lux's Skeleton Hunter, had finally arrived on the scene. Her appearance made the Boar's life extremely more difficult because. As a Skeleton Hunter, her abilities were perfect for hunting. Slowing the prey down before going in for the kill.

"Dammit!" Cai, who was being attacked on all sides, was starting to get angry. Although the damage that was being dealt to it was small, it didn't change the fact that the Skeletons were quite aggressive in their attacks, targeting the Boar in places that made it infuriated, like its eyes, ears, and nostrils.

"You won't beat me even with this much!" Cai shouted as it trampled, smashed, bashed, stomped, and bit the Skeletons that were attacking it on all sides, making them shatter into a pile of bones.

However, before the Boar could feel better about its accomplishments, Lux resummoned his minions again, causing Cai to roar in anger.

Summoning his ordinary minions didn't have any cooldown time, so it was fairly easy for Lux to continuously revive the ones that had been killed.

As for his Named Creatures, all of them had a five-minute cooldown, but this cooldown would start the moment they were summoned. Meaning, if Diablo were to be killed after his skill finished its cooldown, the Skeleton Rider could be resummoned again for a second time without any problems.

Seeing that there was no end to the Skeleton's madness, Cai decided to ignore them and just focused on attacking Lux.

The problem was that Lux was in the air, and aside from the Fury Attack, it only had one more ability that could hit targets that were out of reach. The only drawback was that this attack had a five minute cooldown time.

Cai was reluctant to use it because the possibility of Lux evading it was high, making its Trump Card useless.

"If you've got guts come down here and fight me!" Cai roared in a challenging tone.

Lux only smiled as if he found Cai's words funny.

Necromancers didn't usually engage in close combat. They would usually hide behind their Skeleton Armies and let the Skeletons do the fighting for them. The Half-Elf was an exception since he had been trained as a warrior long before he became a Necromancer, making him proficient in close combat and group warfare.

As if ridiculing Cai's attempt to force him to go down on the ground, two clones appeared on Pazuzu's shoulders and sat there.

A second later, the number of Skeletons that Cai was fighting at the same time tripled, but this time around, three more Rock Golems joined the fray, making the Boar almost spit blood in frustration.

"Damn it all!" Cai shouted when the Skeleton army charged at its body and hacked it with all of their might. A small hill made up of bones could be seen at the center of the arena, as the Skeleton Fighters covered the Boar's body, while repeatedly stabbing it with their swords.

"Don't underestimate me!"

A shockwave blasted away all the skeletons that had piled on top of the Boar whose body had turned completely red.

"Hyper Blast!"

A silver beam of magical energy shot out of Cai's mouth and flew towards Pazuzu, who was hovering above the arena. The Boar had waited for the perfect opportunity to strike, while it was being gangbanged by the Skeletons that totaled to almost two hundred.

Seeing the beam of light approaching him, Pazuzu didn't even bother to use his shield to block. Instead, he used his skill, Madlad Rush, to fly as fast as he could to evade Cai's attack that was filled with its hate and frustration.

The beam passed a meter away from the Demonic Defender and easily destroyed the barrier that was set up in the arena.

Fortunately, the beam was shot upwards, so there was no danger of the audience getting hit.

After the attack ended, the boar was once again covered by countless Skeletons that relentlessly hacked it without fear of dying.

The glowing embers in their eyes grew in intensity, as if they were souls that burned brightly, which made Cai, who looked down on them earlier, start feeling intimidated by their dauntless attacks. Was it because they didn't fear death?

The clones that sat on Pazuzu's shoulders weren't being idle either. They used their range spells, Void Arrows, as well as Spinning Blades to make Cai's life more difficult.

Only the boar's angry squealing reverberated in the arena as its strength, health, will, and determination slowly deteriorated.

Nero, who was watching this battle, clenched his fist in anger. He had thought that Lux had fought against him using his full power, but the scene reflected in his eyes proved otherwise.

Even Gilbert, who thought that the battle was as good as over, sucked in a cold breath as the Skeletons relentless attacks overwhelmed the Rank 4 Field Monster, who could only be defeated by a hundred-men team that specialized in taking down Boss Monsters.

"I don't know about any of you, but I certainly don't want to be in the same arena as those Skeletons," Violet commented as Cai's desperate squealing reached everyone's ears. "I really hate fighting the Undead. Sometimes, it takes more than killing them to kill them permanently."

Gilbert, Natasha, Rainer, as well as the other Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold, who had come to watch the tournament in Barbatos Academy, all had solemn expressions on their faces.

In their eyes, Lux was similar to a Raid Team that could take down high level Dungeons in order to gain resources, as well as kill the Boss Monsters—whose materials were sought after by merchants, blacksmiths, and even collectors, who would then buy them at a high price.

They didn't dare to think about what Lux could become if he became a Ranker in Elysium.

A Necromancer that had become a Ranker was a terrible opponent because they could summon hundreds, and even thousands, of Undead in battle.

The scary part was that those who died fighting them, would suddenly rise up from the dead and attack their former comrades, repeating the process over and over again.

There were still a few famous Necromancers in Elysium, and all of them held vast swaths of territories.

No one dared to fight them because they understood that before they could reach the Necromancer, they would have to face their Skeleton Summons, whose ferocity was far greater than the ferocity that Lux's skeletons were exuding right now.

## **Chapter 263: Glory He So Rightfully Deserved**

Cai annoyance had long surpassed its limit. If in the past, it only felt tickled when it was being hacked by the Skeletons or pelted by their arrows, now, it was suffering for real.

The buffs Lux activated had turned his Skeletons into very thorny and nasty opponents, inflicting true damage, decay, and other status debuffs to the Boar, who was now losing its health points at a rapid pace.

The two enemies it was most wary of were none other than Diablo and Ishtar, two among Lux's Named Creatures whose strength had far surpassed those of his ordinary Summons. They had come to answer their Master's call and fight for his and his step-sister's happiness.

Diablo's attacks ignored defense, giving the Boar a world of pain each time the Skeleton Rider slashed his body. All of his attacks were infused with the Ethereal Element, making it ignore any kind of defenses.

Ishtar, on the other hand, would rain arrow after arrow to slow Cai's movements with the power of ice. The constant barrage was making it difficult for the Boar to have any breathing space, while it was being hacked, and shot at from all sides.

"Get off me, you damned Skeletons!" Cai shouted as it used its entire body to blow away the skeletons that were swarming it.

Some of them shattered, and some of them stood back up and continued to fight. With every Skeleton that died, Lux would summon another, making Cai feel as if it was facing a hopeless situation.

The worse matter that made it weep bitter tears was that with each Skeleton's death, it could feel Diablo's attacks getting stronger.

Diablo was wearing the Blackrock Legacy Set Armor, which gave him and his allies a massive boost in their overall offensive power. Cai had become hard-pressed enduring their attacks, which were now starting to take a toll on its body.

---

< 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.

---

Warlord's Warcy, Warlord's Presence, and Bloody Fervor.

These three abilities that came along with the prided armor of the Blackrock Clan truly shone on the battlefield.

Diablo, who commanded the Undead Army, faced Cai head-on from time to time whenever it would use a powerful attack.

His Duel [EX] Skill kept interrupting the Boar from casting its hard-hitting spells, further infuriating it.

Even Iris, who wanted her step-brother to win, found Cai's current situation truly pitiful.

The Boar's curses, shouts, and squeals of pain were the only consistent things in the arena, as well as the one-sided beating that the Skeletons were giving it.

Five minutes later, Cai's misery intensified when Lux had once again summoned Orion, who was out for vengeance.

The Rock Golem was a Revenger. Once he was killed by an enemy, the next time he appeared, he would gain a massive boost in his stats, making those who killed him regret their decision.

---

< Revenger >

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

– All attacks made by Orion will deal extra damage as his health decreases.

100% Health = Normal Damage

80% Health = Increase damage by 25%

60% Health = Increase Damage by 50%

40% Health = Increase Damage by 75%

20% Health - Increase Damage by 200%

– When Orion is killed by an enemy, he will add the name of that creature to his Revenge List. The next time he faces the same enemy, all of his stats will increase by 200%

– The Revenger ability will apply to all types of monster. For example, if he was killed by a Red Dragon, the next time he faces a Red Dragon, his overall stats would increase by 200% upon meeting the creature on his revenge list.

– If Orion is killed by the same creature again, he would gain an additional 10% stacking bonus to the overall increase of his Stat Points, whenever he faces the same enemy.

Note: Vengeance is always an option!

---

Cai's massive body skidded several meters away when the Rock Golem charged at it and gave it a mighty kick.

The Boar cried out of pain, as it was helplessly swarmed once more by the Skeletons who were like Soldier Ants, storming the prey that they had targeted.

"You forced me!" Cai roared as it used its tusk to blow away the Skeletons that were swarming it.

Suddenly, a powerful gust of wind enveloped its body, preventing any skeletons from approaching it.

"Third Gea—."

Before Cai could use its ultimate Trump Card, it felt its body surged forward. Orion had engaged it in a duel.

The Rock Golem clearly felt the threat that Cai was about to unleash, so before it could do anything, he decided to cancel the Boar's third

transformation, preventing it from becoming more formidable than it already was.

At the same time, the two clones that were sitting on top of Pazuzu's shoulders opened their mouths as two orbs of magical energy appeared in front of it.

""Dragon's Breath!""

"Gaia Smash!"

"Bone Spear!"

"Tempest Arrow!"

Lux's clones, as well as his Named Creatures unleashed their attacks at the same time, converging on the Boar's body as it helplessly charged towards its doom.

A powerful explosion shook the entire arena, as Cai's body was blown away from the impact of the combined assault of Lux's Summons.

The blow was so strong that the Boar's entire body smashed through the barriers until it fell out of the arena, rolling a few times on the ground before coming to a complete stop.

The giant boar's body was smoking, as the Clerics immediately went to its rescue.

The crowd all stood up and cheered, as they gave the Half-Elf a thunderous applause that seemed loud enough to make the entire Coliseum tremble.

"The Champion of the Lionheart Tournament is none other than Lux Von Kaizer!" Judge Dredd shouted as he pointed at the Half-Elf that was being carried by the Demonic Defender in the air.

Lux's gaze never wavered as he stared in the distance. However, those who were paying close attention to him already knew that he had lost consciousness some time ago, long before the battle had ended.

Summoning Orion was the last thing he did before he finally succumbed to the effect of the Abyss Corruption inside his body.

His sheer determination to see the battle through to the end kept his eyes open, despite the fact that he could no longer see anything.

As the crowd cheered his name, the Half-Elf remained motionless, unmoved by anything and everything around him.

Iris had tears in her eyes as she looked at the red-headed teenager, whom she had loved since she was young, as her grandmother wrapped her arms around her in a gentle and warm embrace.

Eiko, who was perched on top of Iris' head, looked at her Papa with pride. She had always believed in him, even though the hearts of others wavered after seeing the near-hopeless situation the Half-Elf found himself in.

High above the stands, Gilbert and Nero clenched their fists with burning determination. Right now, the only thing in their minds was to surpass the Half-Elf, who was currently basking in everyone's cheers and adoration.

They hoped that someday, they would stand in the same place as him.

High above the Coliseum, Alexander stood with his arms crossed behind his back. He gazed at his unconscious step-son with a calm expression on his face.

Alicia, who was standing beside him, didn't know what the Headmaster was thinking, but deep inside, she was happy that the Half-Elf had proven himself in front of Iris' father. The latter cared for the young man in his own way, despite the harsh facade he wore whenever the two of them met in the academy.

With the light shining upon him, Pazuzu gently raised one of Lux's hands high up in the air. Although his Master couldn't hear the thunderous cheers around him, he felt like this was the appropriate thing to do.

Seeing this gesture, the cheers and the applause became louder. Everyone who had come to watch the Lionheart Tournament and witnessed Lux's undying determination, paid their tribute to the Champion and showered him with the glory he so rightfully deserved.

## **Chapter 264: Cai's Plan**

A week has passed since the Lionheart Tournament finished, and countless members of the young generation, who had witnessed and participated in the tournament, brought the news of the exciting matches that they had seen throughout the duration of their stay home.

The funny thing was that the Champion's real name was set aside, and his alias, My Daddy, was spread far and wide. From the highest slope of the northern regions, to the farthest desert of the West, My Daddy's name resounded as it was sung by the bards, who wanted to share his story and achievement to the world.

Instead of a handsome red-headed Half-Elf, the Barbs told the tale of a chubby teenager with hair as black as the night, and light-brown eyes that could captivate those who stared into them.

The chubby people who heard this felt proud, thinking that one of them took one for the team and showed those with great bodies that even fatties like them could do great things when given the chance.

As his fame spread to distant lands, not just in Solais, but also in Elysium, the Half-Elf was still soundly asleep inside Iris' room and still hadn't woken up from his comatose state.

Natasha, who was Wildgarde Stronghold's High-Cleric, had diagnosed that Lux would only wake up anywhere between seven to fifteen days, as his body had to take its time to recover from the backlash of forcing himself to remain awake despite the fact that he was already suffering from the Abyssal Corruption inside his body.

Eriol had also warned him that he might enter a comatose state for more than a month if he forced himself in the tournament, but Lux didn't back down, willing to pay the price in order to protect his step-sister's happiness.

Against all odds, he had succeeded. In truth, before the match started, he made a request to Judge Dredd to not stop the match even if he lost consciousness.

The referee agreed on the condition that he would not stop the match as long as he deemed that Lux's summons could still fight. However, Judge Dredd made it clear that the moment he judged that Lux was not in any condition to defend himself, he would end the match and declare Cai as the Champion.

Lux agreed to this condition because this was already the best compromise that he could make with the referee of the tournament.

Fortunately, before he lost consciousness, the match was nearing its end, allowing him to become the Champion with everyone's blessings.

Alexander had only visited him once in the past week to check his condition. Aside from that single visit, he no longer went to check on the Half-Elf, even allowing him to stay inside Iris' room, so his daughter could take care of him.

The blue-haired beauty was more than happy to take care of the Half-Elf, even going as far as to wiping his body to make sure he was squeaky clean.

Eiko, who had witnessed her Papa's performance, spent her days munching on the Beast Cores that they had acquired from defending Whitebridge City against the Beast Tide. Naturally, this wasn't enough to give her a full upgrade, but Iris was more than happy to feed her more Cores, allowing her to Rank Up.

Just like Lux, Cai had also entered a comatose state because of the power of the Half-Elf's Abyss Touch.

However, to the High-Cleric's surprise, the Boar's regeneration and recovery rate far surpassed anything that they had seen, leaving Lux in the dust.

It was like the Abyss Corruption didn't want to linger in its body and left it after three days.

After recovering from its injuries, the Boar didn't leave right away and stayed in Barbatos Academy to look after Little Swordy, who was still unconscious. It also wanted to wait for Lux to wake up in order to properly congratulate him for winning the Lionheart Tournament.

"Um, one more plate of bacon please. And another serving of pork chops," Cai said to the waitress. "Put it on My Daddy's Tab, thank you."

The waitress smiled and nodded her head. The boar kept eating like there's no tomorrow, so they had to consult the Headmaster, Alexander, whether they should allow it to continue eating the way it did everyday or not.

Alexander's answer was crisp and firm.

"Put it on My Daddy's Tab."

After getting the go signal, the restaurant inside the academy treated Cai like a VIP, making the latter extremely happy to be able to eat for free.

In truth, they were also happy to host the First Runner Up of the tournament. Cai had not only become a mascot of the Lionheart Tournament, but also a celebrity. As the first runner up, the Boar had fought with everything it had, surpassing everyone's expectations.

"Cai, can I please have your autograph?" a pretty lady with blonde hair and green eyes asked the Boar who was munching on some bacon strips.

"Of course," Cai replied as it dipped its hoof on one of the sauces in the table and pressed it on the scroll that the pretty girl was holding.

"Thank you very much!"

"No problems. I love all of my fans."

The pretty girl giggled before kissing the Boar's cheek, leaving the restaurant with a smile. Half an hour later, Cai left the restaurant looking very satisfied as it strolled around the academy unhindered.

The students who saw it greeted it, and Cai returned their greetings with a polite greeting of its own.

'I wonder when Little Swordy and My Daddy will wake up,' Cai mused as it walked towards the training area of Barbatos Academy. 'I plan to invite them to the Rowan Tribe to see my Grandpa, so that they can get permission to enter the secret Dungeon that belongs to our faction in Elysium.'

'The slots are limited, so I need to bring strong fighters with me in order to clear it. I need to make sure that those other guilds from the six kingdoms will not be able to get the good stuff.'

One of the prizes given by the Tournament was a special badge that allowed the Champion to enter a special Dungeon that opened once a year in Elysium.

This Dungeon was controlled by the Six Kingdoms that supported Barbatos Academy, and they could only send a limited number of people inside it every year.

Usually, only the strongest Guilds that were loyal to them would be able to enter, but this year, they made a special exception for the Champion, and would allow him to bring an entire party inside the Dungeon that would open in exactly two weeks.

The Rowan Tribe was also given a limited number of slots to enter the Dungeon. Their quota was twelve people, and Cai wanted to drag Little Swordy and My Daddy onto its team, making its faction a powerhouse that could challenge the other Guilds that would also enter it alongside them.

'With Little Swordy and My Daddy, I'm sure that we can challenge the Hell-Mode of that Dungeon that no one has conquered in the past,' Cai thought.

When the Secret Dungeon was discovered, the Six Kingdoms found out that it would only allow Grade A Apostles and below to enter it. Because of this, they only sent their best candidates to challenge it, but up till now, no one had managed to clear the Hell-Mode of the dungeon located inside the Special Domain.

Even clearing Normal Mode required a great sacrifice. More than 98% of the Guild members who attempted to clear it would not reach its end, making it an extremely difficult Dungeon to deal with.

However, Cai had complete faith in its two unconscious comrades. In its eyes, even if it were to face the Four Kings and the Five Overlords in the Special Domain this year, it would have nothing to fear.

After all, with two powerful friends by its side, it could walk in the Special Domain with a smug look on its shameless face.

## **Chapter 265: It's Her First Time, So Be Gentle With Her**

The chirping of the birds could be heard in the background as Lux slowly opened his eyes.

Nine days had passed since the tournament's conclusion, but only now had he regained his consciousness after his battle with Cai.



The first thing the Half-Elf saw was a blue-haired beauty sleeping soundly beside him. Iris was hugging him like a body pillow, and her soft, sound asleep breathing reached his ears.

Lux looked at his step-sister's sleeping face that he hadn't seen for quite some time. At that moment, a thought passed through the red-headed teenager's mind, and that was none other than that he wouldn't like anyone else to see this side of her, wanting to monopolize it for himself.

As Lux's gaze wandered down his body, he noticed his baby Slime, Eiko, was sleeping on his chest.

As if sensing that her Papa was awake, Eiko sleepily opened her eyes then looked at Lux once before yawning and closing them again.

Clearly, she was still sleepy that even seeing her Papa recovered and awake didn't deter her from going back to sleep.

The Half-Elf smiled after seeing this and lightly patted the baby Slime's head, which made the latter subconsciously rub her head against his hand.

After petting the baby Slime for a while, Lux glanced at the ceiling and tried to piece together the memories he had during the battle.

The last thing he remembered was summoning Orion to help Diablo and the others fight against Cai.

He had no memories after that, making him feel a cold chill run down his spine.

'Did I lose?' Lux thought as a tinge of anxiety started to grow inside his heart. 'Should I kidnap Cai and roast it in an open fire?'

Various thoughts about different methods of silently erasing the Boar from the world formed inside his mind. Although he didn't have any grudge against it, for Iris' sake, he was willing to dirty his hand and feed the boar to the fishes if he had to.

Just as these thoughts were starting to form, he felt a soft, delicate hand caress the side of his face and gave it a light pinch.

"Good morning, Lux," Iris said softly.

The young lady's gentle touch, as well as her voice filled with happiness, made Lux's heart skip a beat.

This was not the first time that Iris had called him Lux instead of brother, and yet, this time around, the way she said it felt different to him. It was as if there was another meaning behind it, instead of the usual playful endearment that Iris often used in order to get his attention.

"Iris, who won the tournament?" Lux asked. His heart was beating wildly inside his chest in both anticipation and fear of the answer that she would give him.

Originally, Iris planned to tease the Half-Elf and tell him that Cai had won the tournament, but after seeing how serious he was, she decided to not give the latter more worry as she moved closer to kiss his cheek.

"You won," Iris replied after she planted a kiss on Lux's right cheek. "You are the Champion of the Lionheart Tournament."

At that moment, Lux felt that a stone had disappeared from his chest. The anxiety he initially felt vanished without a trace. He then hugged the young lady in front of him, making the baby slime who was sleeping on his chest, fall off, and get sandwiched between him and her mama, who was also hugging Lux back.

"Ma!"

"Pa!"

Eiko said as she squeezed herself upwards to appear between Lux's and Iris's faces, making the two giggle.

As if thinking of the same thing, Lux and Iris kissed Eiko's left and right cheeks, making the baby slime giggle.

"I'm glad you woke up today, Lux," Iris said, no longer calling the red-headed teenager in front of her Brother, like she used to. "This is the best birthday gift ever."

After hearing her words, the Half-Elf opened his eyes wide. He had no idea what day it was because he didn't know how long it had been since he fell

unconscious. The realization that he was able to wake up on the same day as Iris birthday made him thank his lucky stars.

"Happy Birthday," Lux said as he caressed her face. "I'm sorry, I haven't prepared anything for your birthday. What would you like to have as a gift?"

Iris smiled happily after seeing that Lux had taken the initiative to make a gesture of intimacy with her.

Lux had also done this several times to her in the past, but this time felt different. This simple act of touching her face allowed her to feel his rugged hands, which had grown hard through training. It warmed her heart and made her happy.

"You already gave me the best present by winning the tournament," Iris replied. "But, if you really want to know what I want then..."

Iris moved closer to whisper something in Lux's ear, making the latter's face turn as red as his hair.

The blue-haired beauty found this reaction quite funny, so she looked at him with a smile on her face.

"Okay," Lux replied half a minute later. "Let's do it tonight."

Iris' face reddened after hearing Lux's reply. The moment someone turned sixteen in Solais and Elysium, they were already considered young adults, which meant they were eligible to marry.

Both worlds were filled with danger, so the minimum age for marriage was lowered in order to prevent the population from declining. Naturally, this rule wasn't set in stone. Anyone could marry even if they were in their 20's and even 30's, but no one would give a hoot to anyone marrying each other as long as they had come of age, which was sixteen years old.

Lux and Iris stared at each other with passionate gazes.

The baby Slime, who stood between them, subconsciously thought that her parents were planning to do something intimate, so she crawled on top of the bed canopy, looking down at two with a curious look on her face.

"Let's have Grandma look after Eiko tonight," Iris said as she moved closer to Lux.

"Good idea," Lux replied, as he too moved closer to the young beauty who had already wrapped her arms around him.

The two fondly stared at each other for a few seconds before Iris closed her eyes.

Lux knew that, as the man, he should be the one to take the initiative, so he closed their distance and pressed his lips against her soft, pink lips, giving iris a short, yet passionate kiss that made her heart skip a beat.

When their kiss ended, the two gazed at each other for a while and smiled.

"One more time?" Lux asked.

This was the first time he kissed Iris' lips, and for some reason, he felt the urge to give her another one.

"Un," Iris shyly nodded her head in reply.

Just as the two were about to kiss each other for the second time, a knock came from the door, almost making the two of them jump off the bed in shock.

"Iris, good morning," Vera said as soon as she entered the bedroom.

"Breakfast is ready, do you want to..."

The old lady wasn't able to finish his words due to the scene in front of her.

Lux was halfway off the bed, with his head already touching the floor. Iris, on the other hand, was hugging his body, clinging to his waist as if trying to prevent him from falling.

The two had flushed expressions on their faces, and one of the strings on Iris's one-piece night-wear had slid off from her shoulders, creating a scene that could easily create a misunderstanding.

"Breakfast can wait," Vera said with a sweet smile on her face. "The two of you take your time. I'll make sure that no one will disturb you. Eiko, come, let's have breakfast together."

"Nanma!"

The Slime happily jumped off the bed canopy and landed on Vera's hand with a look of anticipation on her face. The food served in the academy tasted good, so even though they were not Beast Cores, Eiko still loved eating it.

"Lux, this is Iris' first time so be gentle with her." Vera reminded the red-headed teenager. "I'll look forward to meeting my great grandchildren a year from now."

Vera then gave the two teenagers a wink before slowly closing the door. For some reason, the lock that was supposed to only be accessible inside the room turned by itself, locking the door completely.

Clearly, Vera didn't mind if her two grandkids tumbled on the sheets for a few hours. She was even eagerly anticipating holding her great grandchildren a year or two from now.

Lux and Iris, who had been staring at the locked door for a few seconds, shifted their gaze to each other and smiled helplessly.

Both of them knew that their Grandma had misunderstood the situation, which was why she left the two of them alone to continue whatever they were doing.

As if losing the tension on their bodies, Iris' grip on Lux's waist loosened, making the Half-Elf slide off of the bed completely.

The two then stared at each other before chuckling at this unexpected turn of events.

"Today is a busy day, and I know that the preparations for my birthday party are well on their way," Iris said as she stepped down from the bed and crouched beside the Half-Elf, who was still lying on the carpeted floor. "I'm sure that Father would like to see me at the breakfast table to talk to me about a few things in regards to the festivities that will be held later tonight."

"Yes," Lux replied as he reached out to place his hand behind Iris' head to slowly pull her closer to him. "We still have time for one more kiss before you go, right?"

Iris nodded. "Un."

The two then kissed each other for the second time before Lux reluctantly left the room to let the blue-haired beauty change her clothes.

Although he had now been officially recognized by Alexander as Iris' fiancé, he still found it inappropriate to stay inside her room while she changed her clothes.

After leaving Iris' room, Lux walked down the hallway and headed towards his room.

Today was his step-sister's... no, Fiance's birthday, so he decided to spend the rest of the day looking for an appropriate gift for her.

Although Lux was still adapting to the sudden change in their relationship, he was looking forward to the future when the two of them would be officially married. Afterall, they had already received the blessing of Iris' father, Alexander, whose opinion of Lux had changed after he became the Champion of the Tournament that was held in Barbatos Academy.

## **Chapter 266: There Are No If's In This World**

Lux had just left Iris' residence in the Academy when a Boar "accidentally" met him when he was about to look for a gift for the blue-haired beauty, who was going to celebrate her birthday today.

"Oh, there you are, My Daddy," Cai said with a smile. "What a coincidence, I was looking for you."

Lux blinked as he looked at the Boar, who seemed to have gotten chunkier since he had last seen it. Little did the Half-Elf know, the prize money, which he had won as the Champion of the Tournament, was being used to pay for the food that the Boar had kept adding on his tab.

"Where are you going?" the Boar asked. "Are you planning to visit Little Swordy? He just regained consciousness this morning as well."

"Uhh... why not?" Lux thought that it wouldn't be a bad idea to visit the skinny swordsman, who he considered as an acquaintance after spending some time together during the tournament.

The Boar chatted non-stop with Lux all the way to the infirmary, telling him about a particular Dungeon that bordered the territories where the factions of the Six Kingdoms belonged in Elysium, which would open in a few days.

According to the Boar, the entry to the Dungeon was highly restricted, so only the guilds that had received the approval of the Six Kingdoms would be allowed to enter its Domain.

"So, I was wondering if you and Little Swordy can join our Rowan Tribe in conquering the Hell-Mode of the Dungeon," Cai said. "Naturally, it will not be for free. If you do this for me, my Grandpa, who is a Saint, will owe you one favor."

Lux's curiosity was piqued after hearing Cai's words. Aside from Alexander, the Rowan Tribe Elder was one of the remaining Saints in the territories that belonged to the Six Kingdoms.

This was why the Rowan Tribe held great prestige, allowing them to move unhindered to the various territories that belonged to these nations.

Seeing that Lux seemed to favor the idea, the Boar decided to throw one more bone at the Half-Elf to make him agree to its request.

"Um, are you perhaps looking for a gift for Iris?" Cai asked. "Actually, I have the perfect gift with me. I was planning to give it to her after I became the Champion of the tournament. But since I didn't manage to win, I'll hand this gift over to you. Trust me when I say that this gift can never be bought with any currency in the world. It is one of a kind, and you will not see anything like it ever again."

Lux could tell that Cai wasn't making things up in order to bring him over to its side. After careful consideration, getting the favor of a Saint was already a wonderful thing. Although Alexander was his step-father, they weren't particularly close, so he didn't have the guts to ask the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy for any favors.

The Elder of the Rowan Tribe, on the other hand, was said to have a very good personality. Because of this, even Alexander allowed Iris to visit the Rowan Tribe in order to participate in their annual celebration as the representative of the Academy.

The gift that Cai had wanted to give to Iris if it won the tournament would surely be something special. Because of this, the Half-Elf was quite tempted to bite into the offer that was being dangled right in front of him.

"I'll decide after I see this gift of yours," Lux replied after thinking things over. "If it's good then I will join your team in exploring the Hell-Mode of the Dungeon."

"Alright! Make sure not to break your promise, okay?" Before the Boar could say other things, its body trembled, making its face look pale.

"Um, you go and visit Little Swordy first," Cai said. "Visit me in my room later. I need to do something first."

Cai didn't even bother to wait for the Half-Elf's reply and briskly strutted away, not even looking back at the bewildered Half-Elf, who looked at the retreating Boar in confusion.

'I guess I'll visit Keane first,' Lux thought before heading straight towards the Infirmary where the Skinny Swordsman was said to be staying.

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"How are you, Keane?" Lux asked as soon as he entered the room.

"Better since Cai is not here," Keane replied. "I swear that pig will be the end of me."

Lux chuckled as he dragged a chair to sit beside the swordsman's bed, giving him an appraising look.

"Congratulations on becoming the Champion," Keane said with a smile. "When I first saw you in the Qualifying Matches, I never thought that you would actually be the last one standing in this tournament."

"Thank you," Lux commented. "If you hadn't been weakened to the point of near-collapse, I'm sure that you would have been a strong contender for first place."

"There are no if's in this world," Keane said firmly. "Cai was meant to become your opponent in the final match. Although I didn't want to say this, there was a high chance that even if I wasn't injured that badly, Cai might have still won against me if it used its Trump Cards without holding back."

Lux nodded his head in agreement.



Even he didn't expect Cai to be so formidable. Perhaps if its last trump card had fully activated, Lux, as well as its summons, might not have been able to stand up against its Third Form.

"What are your plans after this?" Lux asked the skinny swordsman, who—in his eyes—was quite mysterious.

"The first thing I want to do is escape as far away from Cai as possible so I can attain true peace."

"Goodluck with that."

The two warriors gave each other a knowing smile before giving each other a bitter smile.

"You are going with Cai to the Dungeon?" Lux asked.

Keane nodded. "I just want peace. I can't attain it if I'm going to be stuck with it for life. How about you? Are you going?"

"Yes," Lux answered in a heartbeat.

"With you around, I think it is now possible for us to clear the Dungeon," Keane stated. "I'd also love to see how you fight in your peak. I wasn't able to get the opportunity because I was out cold."

Lux smiled, but still gave the mysterious swordsman assurance that he would do everything in his power to clear the Hell-Mode of the Dungeon, which was widely known to have crushed the Six Kingdoms' hopes when it came to being able to explore the secrets hidden inside its depths.

## **Chapter 267: Forever By Your Side**

"I think it is somewhere around here..." Lux muttered as he walked down the hallways, heading towards Cai's room in the academy.

He had been talking to Keane for half an hour, but the Boar still hadn't returned, prompting the Half-Elf to look for it.

Keane had told him which area its room was, as well as Cai's room number, so Lux decided to go and find the Boar himself to ask for it to show him the gift it had been talking about earlier.

"Ah, this must be it," Lux glanced at the room with the number sixty-nine on it and opened the door without even bothering to knock.

Since the Boar was an annoying character, he planned to annoy it as well.

The moment the Half-Elf entered the room, he came face to face with a naked, beautiful young lady, with long brown hair who was brushing her hair at the moment.

She had sun-kissed skin that was radiating youth and life, and Lux's gaze landed on her well-shaped breasts for a brief moment before forcefully shifting his gaze back to the beautiful young lady's face, which wouldn't lose to his step-sister, who was now his fiancée, Iris.

"S-Sorry! Wrong room!" Lux hastily closed the door and backed down the hallway.

A few seconds later, he looked at the room number again to make sure that he hadn't made a mistake. After seeing that the number of the room was indeed sixty-nine, the Half-Elf took a deep breath before knocking on the door to make sure that he wasn't just hallucinating on things.

"Cai? Are you there?" Lux asked.

"Um, just a minute." Cai's irritating voice replied from the other side of the door, making Lux breathe a sigh of relief.

Half a minute later, the door opened revealing the chatty Boar with brown fur, and hazel colored eyes.

"Cai, are you living with a young lady in this room?" Lux asked as the Boar welcomed him inside its room without any fuss.

"Young lady? There's not one," Cai answered. "I'm the only one staying in this room. Ah, but let's not talk about that for now."

Cai then summoned an ornate box out of thin air and presented it to Lux.

"If you join my faction for the upcoming dungeon expedition, I'll give you this as an added bonus to my Grandpa's favor," Cai said with a smug look on its face.

Lux took the ornate box from its hands and opened it.

Inside the box, golden rings with runes written on their surface appeared. Their craftsmanship was amazing, and even if Lux was training to become a Blacksmith and not a Jewelsmith, he could clearly tell that a master had made this set of rings with utmost care and devotion.

"Beautiful..." Lux muttered as he stared at the rings before shifting his attention to the smug-looking pig, who acted as if he was the one that made the rings itself.

"But of course!" Cai replied. "I begged my grandfather to have these rings crafted for me so that when I married Iris, I could present these to her as my wedding gift. Amazing, right?"

"Yeah. Your grandfather is amazing." Lux nodded his head in agreement. "So you made these rings because you thought that you were going to win the tournament from the very beginning. What a cheeky and chunky pig you are."

"Pig? Excuse me! I'm a Boar," Cai snorted. "You uncultured swine. Also, I was confident that I would win the tournament, so I had these wedding rings prepared in advance. So, what do you think? Will you join our faction when we do our dungeon expedition?"

Lux didn't answer right away. He then picked up one of the rings and took a closer look at it. Although he didn't know what language had been used to transcribe the runes, inside his head, several words appeared as if automatically deciphering the meaning of the runic texts.

"Forever by your side."

The words were cheesy, but for some reason, Lux didn't dislike them. In fact, it even held some kind of binding power that made the Half-Elf feel that these rings weren't that simple.

"Do these rings have any special properties?" Lux asked. He had tried to use his appraisal skill, but the only information he saw on the ring was a bunch of question marks.

Lux wasn't unfamiliar with this experience. There had been several times when he was unable to appraise the stats of strong monsters who were more formidable than he was.

"Of course, they have," Cai replied "My grandpa does jewelfsmithing as a hobby, and he is very proficient with it. Listen here, okay? Those rings have three special attributes.

"The two people that wear those two rings are able to talk with each other as long as they are in the same plane of existence. Meaning, if you and Iris were both on the same continent, you can talk whenever you like. The same can be said with Elysium. As long as both of you are on the same continent, talking to each other is not a problem.

"The second ability of the rings is to know exactly where the other person is. Regardless of where they are in the world, you will be able to find them with the help of this ring.

"The last ability of the rings is quite unique. They prevent any kind of mind-affecting spells--Charm, Fear, Confusion, or other effects that could affect the state of mind--to take hold of them. It also gives a small resistance against the power of Abyssal Corruption, and slows its effects from spreading inside the body.

"Just so you know, very few items are able to effectively mitigate the effect of Abyssal Corruption. This ring is one of them. Ah, my grandfather said in passing that as long as you wear this ring, you can also enter places with dense miasma without worrying about getting harmed by it. Quite amazing, right?"

Lux nodded his head in agreement. This item was like the cellphone from Earth that allowed people to talk over long distances, as well as find their location through GPS tracking.

The immunity against mind-affecting spells, slow down Abyssal Corruption, as well as complete resistance to Miasma, were simply too good to be true.

'As expected of a Saint,' Lux thought as he returned the ring inside the ornate box. 'Whatever they make is truly formidable.'

Cai, who could tell that Lux was quite satisfied with the gift it had prepared for Iris, felt happy inside its heart. In truth, the reason why it was able to give Lux

the ornate box without a second thought was due to the fact that it knew how Iris felt about the red-headed teenager in front of it.

To a certain extent, Cai was Iris' best friend. Perhaps, it was the only real friend the latter had aside from the Beast Companions that protected her at all times.

This was also why, when Cai learned about Alexander's decree to marry off Iris to whoever became the Champion of the Tournament, the Boar made a declaration in front of its Grandpa in the Rowan Tribe.

"I won't let Iris marry someone she doesn't love!" Cai had shouted back then. "If it comes to this, I'd rather marry her myself than let another person make her life miserable!"

Cai's grandfather repeatedly told the Boar that it would be dangerous for it to enter the tournament, but the Boar was dead-set on leaving, with or without its Grandpa's permission.

Because of this, the Saint of the Rowan Tribe had no choice but to help the Boar assimilate the power of strong Monsters to add to her "Gear Art".

Cai's Grandpa scoured the regions of the Six Kingdoms to find a suitable upgrade to Cai's Beast Form, and happened to meet two powerful creatures by chance.

One of them is the Mutated Field Monster, Hildivisni, and the other was an Initiate Ranked World Boss, which proved how much the Saint doted on the cheeky Boar, who wouldn't take no for an answer.

After gaining these two powerful forms, Cai's confidence soared to the heavens, making it ask its Grandpa to forge wedding rings for it and Iris after it became the Champion of the Tournament.

"Okay, I will join your faction for the dungeon expedition," Lux said after closing the ornate box in his hand. "When do we leave?"

"Um, I just contacted Grandpa a little earlier, and he said that due to some kind of phenomenon, the opening of the Domain has been delayed to two weeks from now. However, the Guilds chosen to be the representatives of the Six Kingdoms are already making their way to the Hidden Domain's location.

"I think it will be best if we leave four days from now and head to my tribe, so you can talk to my Grandfather about the favor you want from him after we clear the Hell-Mode."

Lux smiled because the Boar was talking as if they already had the Dungeon in the bag. If the other guilds of the Six Kingdoms, as well as the guild that represented Barbatos Academy, couldn't clear it, then it meant that its difficulty rating was quite high.

Even so, Lux had to admit that the prospect of challenging such a Dungeon was quite tempting for him.

After talking with Cai for a bit more about their journey to the Rowan Tribe, Lux left the room to prepare for the evening celebration party that would be held in the Event Hall of Barbatos Academy.

## **Chapter 268: Either We Go Hell Mode, Or We Go Home!**

After putting on the expensive clothes that Vera had left in his room, Lux looked in the mirror and sighed.

In front of him was a handsome Half-Elf with short red hair and green eyes, who would easily pass as a celebrity back on Earth. Sometimes, Lux wondered how differently things would have ended in his past life if his looks had been as good as this.

Truth be told, Lux would sometimes think that he was in a dream. There had been more than one occasion when he said to himself that if everything was a dream, then he didn't want to wake up.

Fortunately, he was clear that this was his new reality, and he had decided to live this life to the fullest.

Just as he finished brushing his hair, a knock was heard from the door, and his Grandma Vera looked at him with a smile on her face.

"My grandson is really handsome," Vera complimented as she walked towards Lux to take a closer look at him. "Are you almost done?"

"Yes, Grandma," Lux replied. "I can go anytime."

"Good. Iris will take a while before she can finish her preparations, so go ahead and go to the Event Hall."

"You're not coming with me, Grandma?"

Vera shook her head. "I'm going with Iris later. You're the Champion of the Tournament, so there are many people who want to meet you. If I were to go with you, wouldn't they think that I'm a third wheel or something?"

Vera's teasing tone made Lux smile. He knew that his grandma didn't like mingling with strangers that much and preferred the company of those she knew, like the Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold and her family in Barbatos Academy.

"I'll see you later," Vera said as she fixed the non-existent creases in Lux's robes. "Several ladies might approach you later. Although you are already Iris' fiance, having more grandchildren is best."

Vera gave Lux a wink before leaving the room. The Half-Elf knew that his grandma wasn't joking when she said that she wanted more grandchildren. Although he now had Iris, having more than one wife was very normal in Solais and Elysium.

This was especially true for High-Ranking nobles, as well as people who had a very high status in society.

A few minutes later, the Half-Elf walked through the spacious hallways that led to the Event Hall. Along the way, he met several people, and most of them gave him greetings as he walked past them.

Lux also returned their greetings because it was the polite thing to do. Now that he was known as the strongest youth in his generation, he had to set a good example in order to not tarnish his and his Grandma Vera's reputation.

When Lux entered the large doors of the Event Hall, the Master of Ceremonies shouted his name, causing countless eyes to glance in his direction.

The Half-Elf just smiled as he walked with confidence. After encountering so many hardships in Elysium, as well as fighting in the Lionheart Tournament, he didn't feel any pressure even with thousands of people looking at him.

Some looked at him in respect, awe, and admiration.

Others, jealousy and envy.

There were people who looked at him with contempt, but they were merely outliers. Lux didn't mind because their thoughts didn't matter to him.

He was the Champion of the Tournament, and he didn't need to prove himself to anyone in the Event Hall.

While Lux was scanning his surroundings, he inadvertently saw Cai pushing a trolley into the buffet area. The Boar was taking a bit of every meat dish it came across, while completely ignoring the vegetable dishes.

Not far from it was Keane, who held a small plate filled with vegetables and fruits.

Unlike Cai who liked meat, Keane preferred fruits and vegetables. Although the mysterious swordsman could eat meat as well, he would choose to eat fruits and vegetables as long as they were available.

"Ah, My Daddy. Come here and join us," Cai said as soon as it saw Lux, who was already walking in their direction. "You look good in that suit. As expected of someone who is a member of our Secret Organization, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen."

Lux wanted to say that he was not a part of its not-so-secret organization, but he knew that Cai would completely ignore any words of rebuttal, so he decided to not waste any of his breath trying to correct the Boar, who had taken Second Place in the Tournament.

"Can you eat all of that?" Lux asked as he gazed at the piled up meat dishes on Cai's food trolley. "You really are a pig."

"Shut up," Cai replied. "I'm a growing Boar, so this is only normal. Just look at Little Swordy. All he's eating is fruits and vegetables. That's probably why he looks so skinny. I've been pestering him to eat some meat, but he just tells me to mind my own business."



"That's right," Keane said. "Mind your own business."

Cai snorted. "See? How stubborn. You should talk some sense into him, My Daddy."

"It's Lux," Lux commented. "Stop calling me My Daddy."

"But you are My Daddy, no?"

"I am not your daddy."

"Tsk."

Lux felt really helpless because Cai was not the only one who referred to him as My Daddy. Even the people who had greeted him earlier called out to him as "My Daddy," instead of his real name, Lux, which made the Half-Elf regret choosing that name to hide his identity.

Just as the three of them were about to go to the table that was reserved for the Elite 4 of the Tournament, Gilmore, as well as a few of his cohorts walked up to Lux, Cai, and Keane, who held plates filled with food.

"All three of you are going to the Sacred Dungeon, right?" Gilmore, one of the Four Kings, asked in a tone that was only audible for those who were close to his vicinity.

"Yes," Cai answered before Lux and Keane could even reply to Gilbert's question. "They are coming with the Rowan Tribe's delegation."

Since Lux and Keane had already agreed to join its Faction in the Dungeon Expedition, it made sure to tell Gilmore that the Blondie Swordsman couldn't poach its two VIP guests from its team.

"I see," Gilbert said in a slightly disappointed tone. However, the other party's disappointment didn't last long and was quickly replaced with determination.

"It seems that all of us will be competing in the fastest clear in the Normal Difficulty. Let me make things clear, I will catch up to the three of you soon. In the next tournament, the one who will win will be me."

After saying his words, Gilmore and his entourage left, leaving a confused looking Lux and Keane behind.

Seeing their reactions, Cai could only chuckle.

"No one knows what we are planning to do," Cai explained in hushed tones. "The Normal Difficulty is already hard to clear, and not many are even able to clear it."

"In the ten years since the Sacred Dungeon was discovered, the Normal Difficulty has been cleared only two times, and only a handful of warriors were left each time that happened. We're not like those weaklings. Either we go Hell Mode, or we go home!"

The Boar had a serious expression on its face, which was very different from its happy-go-lucky attitude.

"But, why do we need to go clear the Hell Mode instead of the Normal Mode?" Lux asked. He didn't mind going to Hell Mode because he already promised to go, but he was curious why the Boar was so adamant in challenging the hardest difficulty setting of the Sacred Dungeon.

Cai didn't answer right away, but its expression turned extremely sad for some reason. Only after the three of them were seated at their table did it start to talk about the reason why it wanted to challenge the Hell Mode of the Sacred Grove.

"It's because according to an ancient text, a certain flower blooms inside the Hell Mode of the Sacred Domain," Cai explained. "That flower can cure many illnesses, including the Purple Plague."

Lux and Keane both looked at the Boar in disbelief because they knew that the Purple Plague was the plague that erupted more than a hundred years ago during the Hundred-Year-War.

It was a plague that wiped out entire kingdoms, and was said to still have no cure, even to this day.

## **Chapter 269: I Wish This Moment Can Last Forever**

"A cure for the Purple Plague," Keane muttered.

The Purple Plague, as the name suggests, changed the skin color of its victims to purple. Its victims wouldn't get a quick and easy death, but a slow and excruciating one.

If someone was afflicted by this disease, they would immediately be killed, and their bodies would be burned to prevent the disease from spreading. It was said that only Saints were immune to this disease, which meant that the chances of surviving it were extremely low.

"Your Grandma has the Purple Plague?" Lux asked with concern. "Is that the reason why you wanted to challenge the Hard Mode that badly?"

Cai nodded. "That's right. Normal Mode doesn't have this flower, so I can only go to Hell Mode in order to find it. Challenging the Normal Mode is just a waste of time and resources. The Rowan Tribe has pooled everything we have for this upcoming event, so we wanted to bring as many strong warriors as we could with us to ensure our expedition's success."

Lux remained silent for a few moments because he knew that if it had been Vera or Iris infected with the Purple Plague, he would also go to hell and back in order to find the cure for them.

It didn't matter how dangerous it was. He would certainly go all out to make sure that both of his loved ones were cured of their diseases.

"Okay." Lux nodded. "I will help you."

"Count me in as well," Keane commented from the side.

Cai bowed its head respectfully at its two comrades. "Thank you. It doesn't matter if we don't clear the Dungeon. All we need to do is find the flower and the Rowan Tribe will forever be grateful for your help. My Grandpa will certainly do his best to accommodate any of your requests as long as it is within his ability."

Lux and Keane nodded. If what Cai said to them was true, then the Rowan Tribe, especially Cai's Grandpa, would be truly grateful to them and gain his favor.

The favor of a Saint was an extremely precious thing, and since Cai only wanted to retrieve the flower that would cure its Grandma, and not clear the Dungeon, the difficulty of the mission was decreased by a good margin.

As long as they found the flower, they could leave the Dungeon using a special item that the Six Kingdoms had made to help ensure that their talented warriors didn't lose their stats, should they face the threat of being killed by the Bosses that they would face within the Sacred Domain.

After telling its friends the true reason why it was desperately asking for their help, Cai felt as if all the pressure it was feeling suddenly disappeared. Because of this, its appetite doubled as it ate all the dishes it got from the buffet area with renewed vigor.

Half an hour later, the lights inside the event Hall dimmed, until the light disappeared completely.

A moment later, the soothing voice of a lady reverberated within the darkness as she introduced the coming of the birthday celebrant, Iris.

The lights illuminated the right stairs of the Event Hall, where Iris would be appearing shortly.

A mellow music started to play in the background as the Academy's Orchestra played the opening tune for Iris' entrance.

Half a minute later, a young lady, who wore a pure white dress, appeared at the top of the stairs.

Lux's eyes widened in shock when he saw the blue-haired beauty walking down the stairs with an angelic smile on her face.

Her long blue hair was tied up into a princess braid, and the pure-white clothes made her look pure and innocent. She was so gorgeous that all the men couldn't stop themselves from staring at her.

Deep in their hearts, they envied Lux for snagging this angelic beauty for himself and making her his fiancée.

Nero, who was looking at her from the distance, clenched his fist tightly. From the first time he saw Iris, he had already fallen in love with her, and this was one of the reasons why he hated Lux with a vengeance.

Even after losing to the Half-Elf, his love for the blue-haired beauty remained. His only regret was that he wasn't the one who would be marrying her in the

future, but the red-headed teenager, who had won against him during their battle in the Semi-Finals.

Nero acknowledged that he lost to Lux in a battle of strength, but that didn't prevent him from keeping his feelings towards the young lady who was now celebrating her sixteenth birthday.

An age in which most ladies among the noble families were engaged to other nobles, strengthening relationships and bringing about a cooperation that benefited both sides of the family.

Iris had everything in the world—a loving grandmother, a doting father, as well as a dependable fiancé, who had won the Tournament for her sake.

It would not be an exaggeration to call her the happiest young lady within the Six Kingdoms at this moment because she would be able to marry the person that she had loved the past few years of her life.

As Iris walked down the stairs, the light followed her every step.

"May we please call upon My Daddy to give the birthday celebrant the first dance of the night."

When Lux heard what he was called, he scratched his cheeks within the darkness before walking towards the light, where the beautiful young lady waited for him.

The moment Lux stepped into the spotlight, he knelt in front of Iris and kissed the back of her hand like a knight in shining armor. Countless girls couldn't help but sigh in their hearts.

When the handsome Half-Elf, and the blue-haired beauty stood side by side, the words, "a match made in heaven" appeared inside their minds.

"May I have this first dance, My Lady?" Lux asked. Although the announcer had already said that he would be her first dance, he still decided to do things formally and asked Iris' permission to dance.

"It will be my pleasure," Iris replied with a smile so sweet that it could rot anyone's teeth.

The two started to dance to the slow and romantic music playing in the background. Countless eyes watched as the two of them gracefully stepped across the dance floor.

In truth, Iris and Lux had danced to this song countless times in the past. They could dance it even if they had their eyes closed, but tonight was a special night, so both of them gazed at each other lovingly, making the young men and women, who were watching them, feel the urge to have a lover of their own.

"Are you happy right now?" Lux whispered in Iris' ears when the song was about to finish.

"Very happy," Iris replied. "I wish this moment could last forever."

Lux smiled after hearing her words. In truth, he felt the same, but the two of them knew that this was not possible.

Even so, at this moment in time, they held each other's hand and gave each other a knowing glance. Both knew that when the party was over, they could no longer go back to their old relationship as step-siblings because they decided to move forward together.

Iris lightly squeezed Lux's hand, and the latter returned her gesture, making her giggle. In her heart, no one could replace the handsome Half-Elf, who would soon make her his woman for life.

## **Chapter 270: This Is Not A Dream**

### Chapter 270 This Is Not A Dream

The party dragged on for the rest of the night. Lux and Iris found themselves talking to a lot of people because of their statuses.

Lux was the Champion of the Tournament, so it was normal that many people would want to talk to him to form connections.

Iris was the princess of Barbatos Academy and her father was a Saint, so befriending her could make anyone feel that they had a pillar to lean on to.

Surprisingly, Cai and even Keane, also found themselves being talked to by many people, including many high ranking nobles.

The Skinny Swordsman found himself hard-pressed because he was surrounded by many beautiful ladies, asking where he lived or what his hobbies were.

Lux and Cai watched this scene from the side with amused expressions on their faces. Clearly, Keane had no idea how to mingle with the opposite sex, seeing that he looked like he was having an anxiety attack, just by simply talking to the ladies who found his mysterious identity quite attractive.

"I'm so proud," Cai said while munching on some steak. "Our little Keane has grown so much. The time I spent raising him wasn't in vain. Um~ I'm going back to the buffet area. I ran out of food to eat."

Lux smiled at his two companions, whom he had met in the tournament. He didn't enter the Tournament to make friends, but in the end, the persistent Boar still managed to stick to him through thick and thin, while dragging Little Swordy along the way, like a kite flying on a string.

Nero, who was also meant to sit on their table, stayed with his Guild Members for the duration of the party.

Vera stayed with Iris most of the time, but she also mingled with her friends in Wildgarde Stronghold. Gilbert, Natasha, and Rainer talked to her about a lot of things, but the important matters were kept on hold.

All of them knew that this was not the place to discuss such matters, and they would talk in private when they returned to Wildgarde Stronghold.

Alexander, Iris' father, talked to the dignitaries, high-ranking nobles, as well as members of the Royal Families from the Six Kingdoms.

As the Saint who sat at the head of Barbatos Academy, he was often sought out by these influential and powerful people, keeping him busy all throughout the party.

Finally, midnight struck, and the last dance for the night was about to commence.

Lux stood up and walked steadily towards Iris' table to ask her to dance. The two of them had already agreed that he would be Iris' first and last dance for the night.

The moment the two stepped onto the dance floor, the other guests followed with their partners.

The last song was a very slow and romantic one, allowing couples to take it easy and dance in a more intimate manner.

Iris rested her head on Lux's shoulder, while both of them swayed slowly for the last song of the night.

"I feel like I'm in a dream," Iris said in a voice that was only loud enough for Lux to hear. "This is not a dream. Right, Lux?"

"No," Lux replied before sneakily planting a kiss on her head, making it look like he was just whispering something in her ear. "This is not a dream."

"I'm glad."

"Mmm."

As the two danced in each other's embrace, Vera, Alexander, and Alicia watched from a distance.

"Iris looks so happy," Vera commented as she gazed at her two grandchildren. "So, when will the marriage ceremony be held?"

Alexander didn't comment, and simply kept on looking at his daughter who was dancing with Lux. Naturally, Lux's sneaky kiss didn't escape his eyes, but he didn't say anything about it. His step-son had proven himself worthy of his daughter, and he had already decreed that whoever became the Champion would become Iris' fiancé.

Since that was the case, what was the point in getting in the way of their love?

Alicia, who stood behind Vera and Alexander, was smiling. As someone who handled Lux's registration in the tournament from the shadows, she was quite satisfied with how things worked out.



Of course, there were times when she doubted Lux's ability to win the tournament, but after the event was over, she felt as if a heavy burden had been lifted off her shoulders.

"I know that Iris is still young, so you are worried about her," Vera stated without even turning her head to look at her son. "Don't worry, although I want to hold my great grandchildren right away, I know that childbirth isn't an easy thing. I'll wait until Iris turns eighteen for that. I worry for her health as well, you know?"

Alexander briefly nodded his head in agreement. He didn't have a problem with this arrangement and decided to leave things in his mother's hands.

"Give this ring to Lux," Alexander said as he handed a ring with a red gem embedded in its center. "Make sure he puts it on before he retires for the night."

Alexander didn't wait for Vera's reply and went back to his seat, with Alicia following close behind him.

Vera chuckled as she watched her son go before looking at the ring in her hands. She knew what this ring was because it was a ring mostly used by members of the Royal Family. Its main function was to prevent the user from siring children with women whom their family didn't approve of.

In short, this ring was an artifact that acted as a contraceptive, preventing Lux from getting Iris, or any other young lady pregnant.

"Well, I guess this will have to do for the time being," Vera muttered, "But I have a better one prepared for this occasion."

Vera placed the ring inside her storage bag, and took out another. This ring almost looked exactly the same as the ring Alexander had given her, but with one major difference.

It was the color of the gem embedded in its center. The one Alexander had given her was red, but the color of the gem in Vera's hand was purple.

This was a special artifact that their family had kept as an Heirloom, and was passed down the male line of the family.

This ring was called Everlasting.

This also had the contraceptive property, but had one unique feature added into it.

Any lady who received the seed of the man wearing this ring, would only be able to give birth to that person's child. This ring was one of a kind, and there was no other ring like it in the World of Solaris.

Alexander had used it at one point in time, and now, it was Lux's turn to inherit it.

'I wonder how Alex will react if he sees this tomorrow,' Vera mused. She was already looking forward to what her son would say the moment he saw the ring on Lux's hand, which previously belonged to him.

After the last dance ended, Iris headed to the platform meant for making announcements and thanked everyone who had come to celebrate her birthday with her.

Alexander also took this opportunity to officially inform everyone that Lux was now Iris' fiancé, and they would get married as soon as his daughter turned eighteen, which was still two years away.

All the ladies cheered and clapped their hands before glancing at the Half-Elf who was called up to the stage to stand beside Iris.

The young men, on the other hand, felt so envious of Lux. Some even cursed him and hoped that he would be unable to get it up, preventing him from making a move on the lady of their dreams.

Naturally, Lux didn't know what these bastards were thinking. If he knew, he would definitely send Orion after them, so that the Rock Golem could give all of them a good beating.

Half an hour later, the guests left the Event Hall one by one.

Lux and Iris left using the secret passage that was meant for this occasion, preventing them from having to deal with the crowd when they were supposed to leave.

When they had finally left the venue, the two walked hand in hand through the hallways of Barbatos Academy and headed straight towards Iris' private residence, which was in the inner and most protected area of the academy.

As the two walked, Iris could feel her heart beating wildly inside her chest. She was feeling very nervous and excited at the same time.

Tonight will be a special night for the both of them, and the emotions swirling inside her chest made her think that her heart was beating loud enough for the Half-Elf who was walking beside her to hear.

What she didn't know was that Lux was feeling the same.

The red-headed teenager didn't have any experience when it came to making love with women, but he had watched enough of those kinds of contents back on Earth to get an idea about what to do on their first night together.

When the two arrived in front of Iris' room, the young lady summoned one of her guardians, the White Tiger, Hanz, to guard the door that led to their room.

Lux chuckled after seeing this scene, making the blue-haired lady blush. Clearly, Iris didn't want to be disturbed on her special night, so she decided to make preparations.

Eiko was staying with Vera for the night, so there would be no one to disturb the two of them.

When the two entered the bedroom, Iris turned around to give Lux a hug. The Half-Elf hugged her back, and the two of them stared at each other.

A minute later, Lux lowered his head to give Iris a passionate kiss on the lips. Only the sound of kissing could be heard inside the room, marking the beginning of an unforgettable night that they would share together.

## **Chapter 271: Filling Iris Heart And Womb With His Love [Part - 1] (R-18)**

(Disclaimer: You guys have watched enough H and P to know where this is going. Anyone who dislikes reading these scenes can skip this chapter).

After their kiss ended, Lux affectionately looked at Iris as he lightly caressed the side of her face.

"Are you sure about this, Iris?" Lux asked.

Iris smiled and nodded her head. "Yes. Please, make me yours, Lux."

The Half-Elf stared at the blue-haired beauty in front of him. She wore a white dress that enhanced her angelic beauty. Soon, his hand slithered behind her back and undid the buttons that held her dress in place.

A rustling sound followed as the dress that covered her young and beautiful body fell on the floor. Only her white undergarments remained, and this sight made Lux feel as if a fire was starting to burn in his chest.

"You're very beautiful," Lux whispered as he planted a kiss on Iris' cheek, who was already beet-red from embarrassment.

"Thank you," Iris shyly responded as she did her best to keep a calm expression on her face.

Lux held her and gently laid her down on the bed, kissing her lips as he did it. For some reason, he enjoyed kissing her, probably because this was the first time in both of his lifetimes that he had done it, and it was even with a lady as beautiful as Iris.

In between the kisses, a rustling sound was heard as Lux removed his upper clothes and tossed it aside. A soft moan escaped Iris' lips as Lux kissed her neck, making his way towards her collarbone.

His kisses trailed downwards, until they reached her right breast, which Iris reflexively covered with her hand.

Lux smiled as he looked up at the blue-haired beauty's face, which had turned a shade redder, leaving a stark contrast to her white skin that looked so pure and soft to the touch.

Without much effort, the Half-Elf peeled her delicate hand from her bosom before kissing and suckling the aching pink tip that started to become firm inside his mouth.

Lux kissed, licked, and bit it, marking it as his.

His other hand moved to cup her left breast before kneading it gently.

'So soft,' Lux thought as he groped Iris' breast that perfectly fit his hand. He then started to lightly pinch, flick, and press down on her pink tip, making it hard under his touch.

Right now, the blue-haired beauty, who was hailed as the Princess of Barbatos Academy, lay on the bed tugging the sheets, as she surrendered her chaste body to her beloved.

After showering her breasts with kisses and love, Lux started to make his way downwards, until he came face to face with the white lingerie that covered Iris' secret garden.

Feeling a bit mischievous, Lux ran his finger over it, moving up and down, teasing that small crack that would open up to him in a few minutes.

Finally, his ministrations started to take effect as he saw a wet stain start to appear on the white undergarment, proving that she was now ready for more loving.

Lux finally took it off completely and spread his beloved's legs to take a better look at it.

"Please, don't stare at it that much," Iris said with a voice filled with embarrassment and shame, which did nothing but stroke the inner fire that had started to burn in Lux's chest.

The Half-Elf then lowered his head and kissed it before using his tongue to make her feel good. A minute later, soft gasps of pleasure escaped Iris' lips, as Lux did his best to ensure that her first time wouldn't hurt as much as it would.

Only when Iris' body shuddered did Lux stop. Clearly, she had experienced her first climax, making her pant for breath afterwards.

Looking down at her, Lux was finally unable to hold back and removed his pants, making the blue-haired beauty see the thing that would soon take away her chastity. The Half-Elf rubbed it at her entrance, making its tip wet.

'It's bigger than I thought,' Iris stared at Lux's member with both nervousness and anticipation. 'Will that really fit in me?'

This question was soon answered the moment Lux lowered his hips, making Iris' body arch due to the foreign object that suddenly entered her body.

Iris' breath became ragged as tears formed in her eyes. The red-headed teenager didn't move right away. Instead, she kissed Iris' cheeks, and patted her head in order to calm her down.

Only when she whispered to him that he could continue to make love to her did Lux start to move his hips, pushing deeper inside her.

The pain that Iris felt didn't last long, and soon she was starting to feel a tingle in her lower body, which turned into pleasure, making her grip the sheets tight.

The white sheets were now stained with faint traces of her innocence, proving that she had now become Lux's woman.

Lux was doing his best to avoid thrusting too roughly because it was her first time, but her pleasure-filled sighs and the way she called his name made the Half-Elf feel like his chest was about to burst from happiness and love.

Still, he endured and made love to Iris to the best of his ability, sending her to the peak of pleasure.

Soon, a grunt escaped Lux's lips as he released his seed inside her.

His release was so strong that it was painful. He even thought that a part of his soul had been released inside Iris' innocent womb as well, which had just tasted the essence of a man for the first time.

As both of them panted for breath, the ring on Lux's finger glowed faintly.

This ring was called Everlasting, and once it was used, its effect would last for three years. In those three years, only he would be able to make the lady, who made love with him, pregnant.

After three years, the effect of the artifact's ability would expire.

Only when he made love with her again would the artifact's ability activate, extending its effects for another three years.

As Lux and Iris enjoyed the afterglow of their love making, the feelings of love for each other only grew. Soon, the two began kissing once again as they renewed their vows of love with each other.

Dawn was still far from sight, and till then, Lux would pour his overflowing feelings inside of her, filling Iris' heart, and womb, with his love.

## **Chapter 272: Filling Iris Heart And Womb With His Love [Part - 2] (R-18)**

The sound of water echoed inside the bathroom as Lux washed Iris' body gently after they made love with each other several times.

The blue-haired beauty didn't resist Lux's attempts to clean her up, and even enjoyed the care that he was giving her.

After doing it twice, he wanted to stop to allow Iris to recover because it was her first time, but the blue-haired beauty told him that she wasn't as delicate as he thought she was. Because of this, the two went on for two more rounds before Lux decided to stop.

He didn't want to put too much strain on Iris' body because she was just a virgin just a few hours ago, and he cared for her very much. Although she looked fine on the surface, he didn't want to risk it and simply held himself back.

Several minutes later, the two entered the bathtub. The beautiful young lady leaned her back against her beloved, enjoying the feeling of his body against her.

The Half-Elf's hands held Iris' waist, holding her in place.

"Are you feeling better?" Lux asked. "Does it still hurt? I'm sorry. I was a bit rough in the end."

"I'm fine, Lux," Iris replied as she rested her hands over his, giving him assurance that she was fine. In truth, the pain had already subsided, and what replaced it was a fullness, making her feel as if Lux was still inside of her.

Naturally, she didn't voice this out loud because it would be embarrassing to talk about it.

Lux's hand then moved towards her lower abdomen and used his fingers to draw circles on it, making Iris' feel ticklish.

Vera had explained to him the ability of the ring he was wearing, and for the most part, he was very satisfied with it. He was not in a hurry to have a baby with Iris since she was still too young to become a mother, and there were still some things he needed to do in Elysium.

He was now officially her fiance, and although they weren't married, it was already a done deal. The thought of embracing Iris again made Little Lux hard again, making him feel as if he had awakened a side of him that he didn't know existed.

"... Lux, it's starting to get hard again."

"I'm sorry."

"It's fine," Iris said softly. She could feel his hardness pressing on her back, and since the water in the bathtub wasn't hot, she could feel the heat radiating from Lux's strong member. "Knowing that you are feeling like that because of me makes me happy."

As soon as those words escaped Iris' lips, Lux felt as if the string holding back his patience snapped.

His hands moved up and lightly groped Iris' breasts, making the latter gasp in surprise. As Lux played with her tender breasts, Lux knew that he was reaching his limit, but he also didn't want to push her past the point of exhaustion. Still, he pulled the plug of the bathtub draining the water inside it.

While the water was draining from the tub, Iris took the initiative to face Lux and kissed his lips. She then held his hard, and throbbing member and started to slid it inside of her. She stopped and broke their kiss, right as Lux grabbed her hand.

"Wait a little longer," he whispered huskily against her lips.

Iris nodded then kissed him again as Lux's hand released hers so both of them could fondle her breasts. His kisses started to move down her neck now that the water was no longer around their hips. Lux smiled at the heat that radiated from Iris' cheeks.

He shifted beneath her ever so slightly, so she knew she could take him in now if she wanted. Iris shifted her hips forward, bringing him inside her. She



brought his head back up and kissed him deeply as she enjoyed feeling his fullness inside of her.

When their kiss ended, Iris slowly moved her hips up and down, allowing the pleasure to build up inside of her.

Lux's hands moved up to cup her breasts, before sucking on them alternately. He enjoyed their softness, making the blue-haired lady moan as the Half-Elf's gentle and persistent attacks stirred the tingling sensation in the place where the two of them were connected.

A few minutes later, the blue-haired beauty's body shuddered as she felt something hot shoot inside her womb. She felt like her insides were melting, further intensifying the climax that washed over her body, causing her mind to go blank for a few seconds due to how good it felt.

As the two panted to catch their breath, their eyes gazed at each other with affectionate gazes.

A moment later, the two shared a long, soft, and gentle kiss, signaling the end to their lovemaking.

After that, both of them washed up before sleeping in each other's arms on the bed.

The two of them woke up around noon, just in time for lunch, which they shared with Vera.

Alexander was nowhere to be found, which made Lux think that his step-father, now his father-in-law, was purposely avoiding him.

Vera looked at her granddaughter, whose smile indicated her happiness, making her feel happy as well.

Eiko, who hadn't seen her Papa and Mama for the entire night, was acting like a spoiled child because she wanted their attention.

Because of this, the two teenagers pampered the baby Slime by hand feeding her alternately, making Eiko very happy.

After lunch ended, Iris took Eiko to stroll around the academy, while Vera took Lux to a place where they could talk privately.

"Alex said that you and Iris can get married when she turns eighteen," Vera said with a smile. "I would like to hold my great grandchild after that, so you better do your best. Do you understand, Lux?"

"Yes, Grandma," Lux replied with a serious look on his face. "I will do my best to give you many great grandchildren."

"As much as I'd love that, remember that moderation is key," Vera commented as she rested her hands on Lux's shoulders. "You and Iris are important to me. As long as both of you are happy, and healthy, I'll be fine with a dozen great grandkids."

Lux chuckled because his grandma's words and her intentions were contradicting each other. How can having a dozen kids be called "doing things in moderation?"

After talking for a while, Lux asked Vera if she knew about the Sacred Dungeon that could be found in the Hidden Domain that was jointly controlled by the Six Kingdoms and Barbatos Academy.

"Actually, this is also something that Gilbert wanted to discuss with you," Vera said. "He was hoping that you would temporarily join the Storm Dragon's guild in order to fight for the resources inside the Sacred Dungeon."

"Grandma, sorry, but I don't want to be on the same team as Nero," Lux replied. "I owe a lot to the Wildgarde Stronghold, but putting Nero and I on the same team is not adding  $1+1 = 2$ , but  $1-1 = 0$ . It will just create problems for both sides, so it will be best if we both act separately."

"Also, I have already promised Cai that I will join the Rowan Tribe's expedition team to explore the Dungeon. I'm really sorry, but can you tell Sir Gilbert about this?"

"The Rowan Tribe?" Vera arched an eyebrow. "If this is the case then Gilbert and the others will have no objections. In fact, we are also teaming up with the Rowan Tribe to challenge Hell Mode. Are you also going there to get the cure for the Purple Plague?"

Lux nodded, which confirmed Vera's suspicion.

"Good. Since both of our objectives are the same, there won't be any problems," Vera commented. "I'm not sure if you know, but the Saint's Wife is

Gilbert's older sister. This is why the Rowan Tribe and Wildgarde Stronghold have a very good relationship with each other. Gilbert has ordered Nero to find the flower which is supposedly the key to curing the Purple Plague. If we succeed in this expedition then aside from Cai's Grandmother, the entirety of the Six Kingdoms will benefit from this as well."

Lux's interest was piqued, so he asked his grandma more questions, allowing him to have a better understanding about the Nomadic Tribe that could move unhindered across the Six Kingdoms without anyone daring to stop their way.

## Chapter 273: Change Of Plans

When Iris opened her eyes, she found herself inside a warm and protective embrace.

It felt so comfortable, and nice, that she didn't want to leave, but there were some things she needed to do today, so she couldn't stay in her beloved's embrace for hours on end.

After propping herself up, she gazed at Lux's peaceful sleeping face and smiled. The mere thought of spending the rest of her life with him was a wish that had become reality. Her gaze then wandered over his strong, and lean body, appreciating every part of it.

When her eyes landed on Lux's lower half, she felt her cheeks burning because the little guy was standing tall so early in the morning, despite the fact that it had worked hard last night to make her feel incredibly good, making her almost faint from the pleasure it brought her.

Leaving the bed, she went to face the full body mirror that was located in the corner of her room.

A blue-haired beauty stared back at her, and several kiss marks could be seen on her white and youthful body.

On her neck, on her collarbone, around her breasts, near her belly button, and even on her lower abdomen.

'Maybe I shouldn't have teased him so much last night,' Iris mused as she lightly touched the places where Lux had left his mark. 'He was a little rough on me last night, but it felt incredibly good...'

After losing her maidenhood, Iris had become quite active when it came to love making, even taking the initiative to push Lux down on the bed, so she could embrace him.

Even she was surprised at how bold she was, but in the end, she thought that she was only able to do such things because she truly loved Lux, and had wanted to be with him for several years.

Turning around, the blush on her face became redder when she saw more kiss marks on her backside, making her feel ashamed.

'I should tell him not to kiss me there next time,' Iris thought as she shook her head helplessly.

After admiring and checking her body for two more minutes, she then walked towards the window of her room and glanced at the scenery.

She had seen this view countless times in the past, but now, it held a different meaning to her. Because she was no longer alone. She had a fiancé, whom she would marry in two-years-time.

'Maybe I should thank my father for what he did,' Iris mused.

In more ways than one, Alexander had indeed spurred Lux to push himself to the limit in order to reach a certain standard that would allow him to triumph over his rivals in the tournament.

This included Nero, who had a crush on Iris and was someone who didn't have a good relationship with him.

As she was gazing in the distance, she felt a pair of strong arms wrap around her body, and pulled her towards a strong, and lean chest, making her sigh in happiness.

"Good morning," Lux whispered in her ears before planting a kiss on her cheek. "Did you rest well?"

"I did," Iris replied as she returned Lux's kiss. "What are your plans for today?"

Lux didn't answer right away as he pondered the question inside his head.

"I will be leaving in two days time to go to the Rowan Tribe," Lux answered. "Cai said that I need to meet with its grandfather, and discuss the plans for the expedition in the Sacred Dungeon. You will be going with the Elite Members of Barbatos Academy, right?"

Iris nodded. Just like the Rowan Tribe and the Six Kingdoms, the Barbatos Academy was also sending an elite team in order to gather resources inside the Hidden Domain, where the Sacred Dungeon was located.

"Be careful, okay?" Iris said softly before turning around to look up at her fiance's clear, green eyes, that she loved so much. "As much as I want to go with you, I need to ensure that Barbatos Academy gets some gains in this expedition."

"I will," Lux promised. "You guys will be challenging the Normal Mode, right?"

"Yes. Last time, we didn't clear it, but we did gain some good things inside. This year, our goal is to actually clear it so that the morale of the Guild will soar."

"Goodluck to you."

Iris smiled. She knew that Lux planned to go to the Hell Mode of the Sacred Dungeon in order to help Cai look for a special flower that was said to cure most diseases. According to eyewitnesses reports, they were able to see this flower inside the Sacred Dungeon, when they first challenged the Hell Mode of the Dungeon.

Unfortunately, this flower grew on the back of what seemed to be a land turtle, who was a Rank 5 Field Boss Monster

(A/N: Rank 5 is equivalent to the Initiate Rank of Mortal Standards).

Cai's plan was simple. It would distract the monster, while Lux and Keane found a way to take the flower from the monster's back. Once they succeeded, they would immediately escape and no longer engage the Field Boss Monster, whose rank well surpassed their own.

After some hugs, and kisses, Iris went to the bathroom alone, and forbade Lux to come in with her. She knew that if she and the Half-Elf were to bathe

together, the two of them would end up making love again, which would prevent her from doing the things she needed to for the day.

The Half-Elf understood that Iris had many responsibilities, so he didn't insist on going in the bathroom with her.

After tasting the forbidden fruit, both teenagers had become addicted to it. This was why they were doing their best to do things in moderation, because too much of something was not good.

—

Fifteen minutes later, Iris had arrived at the Conference Room of Barbatos Academy where the high-ranking members of the Silver-Ranked Guild, Serenity, were going to meet.

Iris was one of the three Vice-Guild Masters of Serenity, and had her own personal army that ensured her safety during guild expeditions and went by the name, White Rose.

Serenity was a guild that was made up of talented students from Barbatos Academy. They were the cream of the crop, which allowed them to gain a high-standing among their peers, gaining the respect of everyone in Barbatos Academy.

One can even say that every student, especially the commoners, that managed to pass the entrance exam of the Academy dreamt of being part of this Guild, which represented the faction of Barbatos Academy in Elysium.

"You're late, Iris. Is My Daddy that good in bed that you forgot we had an important meeting today?" a beautiful lady asked in a teasing tone, which made the blue-haired beauty blush as she walked towards her seat.

The one that called out to Iris was none other than the Guild Master of Serenity, Henrietta Vi Fallon. A gorgeous lady with long purple hair, and eyes that were extremely rare within the Six Kingdoms.

This hair and eye color was unique within the Fallon Family, and only one child with this trait would be born every two hundred years.

Because Henrietta stood out from the crowd, many people, especially her family, had great expectations on her. Fortunately, she had a good head on

her shoulders, and didn't feel any pressure from the expectations that everyone had of her.

She believed that she could live her life the way she wanted, and even her family couldn't stop her from doing what she had set out to do.

Henrietta had become the Guild Master of Serenity not because of her looks, but her ability. Even Iris, whom everyone treated like a VIP, only had respect for her Guild Master, who was also her best friend.

After Iris had sat on her chair, Henrietta no longer delayed their meeting and started the discussion.

The first words that came out of her lips shocked everyone, making even Iris look at her in surprise.

"This year, we will not go and challenge the Normal Mode of the Sacred Dungeon," Henrietta declared. "All of us will challenge Hell Mode, and our goal will be the Sacred White Lotus, which is said to cure almost all kinds of diseases, including the Purple Plague, which is still wide-spread within the borders of the Six Kingdoms."

## **Chapter 274: To The Rowan Tribe!**

"My greatest regret is not being able to win the tournament, and become your fiance," Cai said as it pressed its forehead against Iris', making the latter giggle. "But because I know that you love your step-brother, I decided to take it easy on him and let him win, without making myself look bad."

"Thank you for letting him win, Cai," Iris replied. "Also, thank you for doing your best for me. I really appreciate it."

If Lux was there, he would have definitely slapped the shameless boar's bum for being thick-skinned. Clearly, it had fought with everything it had during the tournament, and still lost to Lux, even though the latter had fallen unconscious near the end of their battle.

"Um, will you come to our festival again next year?" Cai asked. "I'd like to see you dance again. Your step-brother stole my precious recording crystal. Next

year, I promise that I will get a dozen copies of your dance, and treat it as my family's treasure."

Iris nodded "Okay. I will also come next year."

"Great! I look forward to accompanying you next year. Um, you can also bring My Daddy, we won't mind."

"Thank you."

Iris and Cai met in private because the latter wanted to talk to Iris without being interrupted before it returned to the Rowan Tribe. It had traveled all the way to Barbatos Academy in order to protect its friend's freedom from her own father, who decreed that she would become the fiancée of the Champion of the Tournament.

After chatting for a few minutes, Iris suddenly remembered the letter that Cai's Grandpa had sent to her when the Boar decided to join the tournament. Cai's position in the Rowan Tribe was special, so there were several restrictions placed on it, preventing the boar from doing things that it must never do, while away from home.

"By the way Cai, did you make sure that no one saw your true form while you were participating in the tournament?" Iris asked while playfully rubbing the boar's face. "Grandpa Rowan gave you this restriction before you left the tribe, right?"

"... Of course! Hahaha!" Cai replied after a brief pause. "How can I possibly let someone see my true form? Wouldn't I be taking a loss if that happened? I still want to get married, you know?"

"That's good to know. I don't know what Grandpa Rowan would do if someone really saw your real body."

"I know, right?"

Cai laughed along with Iris, but if one was to pay close attention, they would find out that the boar was laughing nervously.

It had forgotten to lock the door when its transformation was about to be undone due to its haste, which allowed Lux to see its true form when the Half-Elf visited its room to look for it.



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An hour later, Lux, Cai, and Keane, stood at the gates of Barbatos Academy.

Eiko was perched on top of her Papa's head just like always. In fact, the slime was very excited to set off on a new adventure with Lux. Ever since the tournament ended, the Baby Slime was raring to return to Elysium in order to train, and gather more Beast Cores so that it could become stronger.

The tournament only pushed Eiko's desire to become stronger so she could beat her rival, the Unicorn Astra, in their next rematch.

"Make sure to help your Papa at all times, okay?"

"Ma!"

"Always eat on time, okay?"

"Ma!"

"Tell me all the names of the ladies who try to flirt with your Papa, okay?"

Eiko nodded her head, while perched on top of Lux's head, making the Half-Elf give Iris a bitter smile.

The blue-haired beauty then smiled mischievously before planting a kiss on Lux's lips, in front of everyone, who were also gathered in the gate of the academy, making the boys look at Lux in envy and jealousy.

"Be careful and don't push yourself too hard," Iris said as she cupped the Half-Elf's face. "Just come back to me safely."

"I will," Lux answered before kissing Iris' lips in front of everyone.

When their kiss ended, Cai lightly snorted and gave the two a disapproving look, voicing everyone's thoughts.

"You two should just get a room," Cai stated. "What are you two, exhibitionists? Are we a joke to you?"

Lux and Iris gave the boar a side-long glance before grinning at each other. Iris had kissed the red-headed teenager to let everyone know that she now

belonged to him, making those who still had thoughts about her stop completely.

Lux, on the other hand, understood what she was doing, so he decided to play along and kiss her as well in front of everyone, to show them that the blue-haired beauty now belonged to him, so they should look for other fishes in the sea.

After sharing one more kiss that made Cai almost vomit sugar, the trio finally left the academy, leaving Iris and Vera behind.

Lux's Grandma had talked to Lux in private, at the same time that Cai was talking to Iris. They both said their farewells to each other, and Vera told him that she would return to the Wildgarde Stronghold and wait for his return.

Right now, Barbatos Academy, the Rowan Tribe, the Six Kingdoms, as well as other prominent families were all gearing up to challenge the Hidden Domain that only opened once a year.

"Let's go," Cai declared as it faced the West. "To the Rowan Tribe!"

As if waiting for that moment, a giant Manta Ray descended from the sky. It was the mount that Cai had used to travel to Barbatos Academy, and it would be the same beast that would carry it back to where the Rowan Tribe was currently settled, which was near the outskirts of the Hidden Domain that would be opening in a few days.

Lux and Keane followed behind Cai as the Boar mounted the Flying Manta Ray, which was a beast that the two of them were seeing for the first time.

The Half-Elf had only heard stories of the Nomadic Rowan Tribe from his Grandmother, and most of her stories told him how hospitable this tribe was even when interacting with strangers.

However, Vera warned Lux about one thing and one thing only.

"Rowan is known to spoil his only granddaughter very much," Vera said to him before they parted ways. "As long as you do not disrespect her, you will be able to leave the tribe in one piece."

Vera had said these words in a teasing manner, so Lux didn't know if his grandma was only joking when she gave him this warning.

Even so, he decided to not take chances and make sure to be on his best behavior during his visit. That way, he would get a better understanding of what kind of person the Chief of the Rowan Tribe was, and find a way to form a good relationship with him, so he would gain a backer that had the strength of a Saint.

As the Giant Manta Ray flew towards the West, the corner of Iris' lips curled up with a smile.

'I wonder what Lux will think when he finds out that I am also challenging the Hell Mode of the Sacred Dungeon,' Iris mused. Although she didn't look like it, she was a very competitive individual.

She believed that this time around, Serenity would be able to get the Sacred Lotus Flower back from the dungeon, and help the people that were inflicted with the Purple Plague, which had left many people—including Cai's grandmother—encased in a block of ice, waiting for the day that the cure for it would finally be found.

## **Chapter 275: May Your Reign Be Long And Prosperous!**

The giant Manta Ray steadily flew across the sky as it continued its flight path toward the West.

During the journey, Lux asked Cai questions about the Rowan Tribe, to which the Boar more than happily answered .

Clearly, Cai loved its tribe so much that whenever it talked about it, one could feel the pride in its voice.

"We don't like conflicts, but we are not afraid of it," Cai said with a serious expression on its face. "We are the only tribe within the Six Kingdoms that travels from place to place. Where we went depended on the season and the mood of my grandfather.

"Because of this, most of the men and women in our tribe are battle-hardened warriors. We also carry a portable gateway that leads us to Elysium, so it doesn't matter where we go. This is one of the reasons why we do not feel the

need to travel to the other kingdoms in order to borrow their gates, and can remain with the tribe for most of our lives.

"Granted, there are those who leave for various reasons, but we don't hold them back. The only oath they had to take was that when they leave the tribe, they would make a solemn oath not to do anything to harm its interest, wherever they may go. After that, they can leave with our Tribe's blessing."

Lux and Keane simply listened as the Boar spoke about the pros and cons of traveling from place to place. Naturally the pros are you would be able to see many different sceneries, meet new people, and explore new places.

There were of course cons as well.

The most common was parting with the friends and family members who decided to stay in the places they visited, as well as saying goodbyes to the new friends that had been made along your journey.

They also didn't have what they could call a "permanent home"—a place where they could settle down and grow as a community, making their own mark on the world.

"Perhaps because of this, our faction in Elysium decided to have a place we could call our home," Cai stated. "Right now, our faction has built a small town in a place where different paths converged. In short, the place we chose is like a hub for those who also like to travel. Visitors can use it as a place to trade, rest, and to a certain extent, stay for extended periods of time."

"What we don't have here in Solais, we have in Elysium. So we are thankful for the opportunity to have a place we can call home, in a world that is similar, yet different, from this world we live in."

Keane, who had been silent for a long time suddenly spoke up.

"What is this Elysium you speak of?" Keane asked. "What new world are you talking about?"

Lux and Cai stared at the skinny swordsman with confusion.

"... You don't know what Elysium is?" Lux asked in disbelief.

"Is that some kind of big city?" Keane asked back. "I've lived on the mountains all my life. I don't know about this place you call Elysium."

Lux and Cai exchanged glances because they could tell that Keane wasn't lying. The mysterious swordsman had really not gone to Elysium, so the two of them were at a loss about how to explain it to him.

"Um, just what kind of rock have you been hiding under all this time?" Cai inquired. "You said you have a Master, right? Why didn't he tell you about Elysium?"

Keane frowned as he remembered his no-good-master who only drank rice wine and ate barbecue all day and night. However, even if his Master was like that, he was still the person that saved their village when it was attacked by bandits when Keane was only eight years old.

Unfortunately, Keane's parents died protecting him, and he became an orphan. Because of this, his Master decided to raise him as his Disciple, and the two of them had lived in the mountains while Keane studied the Grand Void Sword Style.

'Maybe this is why my Master said that I should travel the world and find my own version of peace,' Keane thought. 'Does he perhaps think that I am now qualified to enter this world called Elysium?'

Lux on the other hand looked at Keane with admiration. Based on strength alone, he could tell that Keane had already reached the rank of a Grade-A Apostle, without even going to Elysium.

This meant that, whoever his Master was, had taken great care of him and didn't allow him to get left behind by his peers in terms of strength.

"Basically Elysium is very much like Solais, but there are differences as well," Lux said as he tried to explain things about Elysium to the skinny swordsman.

Cai would also comment from time to time in order to fill the gaps that Lux left about Elysium, allowing Keane to have a better understanding of the world that he was about to go to alongside Lux and Keane.

"For now, I think it will be best if you join the Faction of the Rowan Tribe," Lux advised. "They are a neutral faction, and you will be able to let you gain a better understanding of how the world of Elysium works. Also, experience is

the best teacher. As long as you are able to visit it a couple of times, you will eventually adapt to your new environment."

Keane nodded his head in understanding. He felt very curious about this new world that Lux and Cai were talking about. Something inside him was telling him that the version of peace he was looking for might be found in Elysium.

"We're here," Cai informed as it looked in the distance with a smile. "We have arrived in the current settlement of the Rowan Tribe."

Lux and Keane followed Cai's gaze and saw many fluttering banners that bore the insignia of the Rowan Tribe.

The Half-Elf was surprised to see that the emblem of the Rowan Tribe was a black boar with red eyes that would make anyone who had seen it feel intimidated.

The Giant Manta Ray let out a soft humming sound as it slowly descended from the sky.

Perhaps, noticing its arrival, a loud horn sounded from within the settlement, and several flying Manta Rays rose up in the air to meet them.

"Welcome back, High Priestess—ack!"

One of the teenagers who came to greet Cai, suddenly found himself falling off his mount when the Giant Manta Ray, which Cai was riding, shot out a blob of water that sent him flying.

Fortunately, the teenager's mount was quick and hurriedly caught its rider with ease, preventing him from falling to the ground. Clearly, this wasn't the first time that this happened, and all of the flying riders of the Rowan Tribe and their mounts had long known how to handle such incidents.

The other teenagers who saw this immediately understood what they needed to do and simply pressed their hands together and bowed their heads in respect.

""We greet the Great Boar of the Rowan Tribe. May your reign be long and prosperous!""

Cai briefly nodded its head in order to acknowledge their greeting.

"Um, did anything of interest happen while I was away?" Cai asked.

"The emissaries from the Elven Kingdom of Elswyth came. They had a discussion with the Great Chief, but no one knew the details of their conversation."

A handsome teenager who was riding a golden Manta Ray spoke, and the others parted to make way for his arrival. His body was covered with tattoos, and his strong and overbearing presence made anyone who saw him feel as if they were facing a strong adversary.

"I greet the Great Boar of the Rowan Tribe. May your reign be long and prosperous!"

The teenager bowed respectfully towards Cai, and the latter briefly nodded its head to acknowledge his greeting.

Lux recognized who the teenager was and finally connected the dots.

During the tournament, when Cai was about to face one of the Five Overlords, his opponent conceded before the fighting even began.

"I see. So you are from the Rowan Tribe," Lux commented.

"Yes," the handsome teenager glanced at Lux and gave him a nod of recognition. "I didn't get the opportunity to fight you during the tournament. Perhaps you can give me the opportunity to spar with you after our expedition through the Sacred Dungeon is over?"

"Sure."

"Thank you."

After this brief greeting, the flying Manta Rays escorted Cai and its mount as it descended towards the Rowan Tribe, where the people had already gathered to celebrate its return.

It was only at this moment that Lux and Keane realized that the Boar that many had ridiculed, teased, and laughed at during the Lionheart Tournament, was actually an important personage in the only Nomadic Tribe within the Six Kingdoms that even made the rulers dare not to offend.

## Chapter 276.1: Meeting The Saint Of The Rowan Tribe [Part 1]

Maximilian Rowan was the Chief of the Rowan Tribe and a powerhouse in his own right.

Right now, only Five Saints remain within the territories of the Six Kingdoms.

Two of them were from Barbatos Academy, while two others had shunned the world and lived the life of hermits, not caring about the petty squabbles the Six Kingdoms had over their territories.

Last but not the least was Maximilian.

He was known as the Black Boar of the Plains, and those who had witnessed his might during the Hundred-Year-War could attest that he wasn't someone that should be provoked no matter the cost.

Although the Chief of the Rowan Tribe was a pacifist at heart, he was the most aggressive of all the Saints when it came to using force to settle disputes.

This contradictory behavior of his made him a very unpredictable person, so those who dealt with the Rowan Tribe, especially when it came to political affairs, tread on a tightrope.

The delegation of the Elven Kingdom of Elswyth was proof of this. They had come to "politely ask" the Saint to handover Gerhart, as well as the Elven Treasure, Kinslayer, in exchange for rare resources that could only be gained from the Elven Kingdom.

However, after Maximilian told the Elves that Gerhart was his Disciple, they immediately changed their stance and simply asked that the Kinslayer be returned to them. They were even willing to make an oath that the Royal Family was willing to turn a blind eye to the incident that happened in the Lionheart Tournament and no longer pursue Gerhart in exchange for the Kinslayer.

To this, Maximilian nodded his head.



He said that as long as he acquired a blood pledge from the Elven Royal Family that they would no longer seek trouble for his Disciple, he would hand over the Kinslayer. However, until the pledge was in his hands, the Kinslayer would remain in his possession.

Hearing this, the Elven Delegation immediately returned to the Elven Kingdom in order to have the Royal Family procure the blood pledge, making them cease all hostilities against Gerhart, whom Maximilian had recognized as his disciple.

When Lux, Cai, and Keane arrived at the Rowan Tribe and heard this piece of news, the Boar snorted but didn't say anything.

Clearly, it didn't like anyone hurting its sworn brother, Gerhart, and found its Grandpa's demands quite satisfactory.

"Hmph! They are lucky that Grandpa was willing to negotiate about giving the Kinslayer back," Cai said. "If it had been me, I would have demanded a lot of things from them until they spit blood."

The Boar grumbled as it walked towards the Main Hall of the Great Chief, where guests were received by the Saint directly. Cai's current size was that of a meter-tall-boar, making it look like a house pet, but everyone that it passed along the way bowed their heads respectfully to it.

"Gramps! I'm back!" Cai shouted as soon as it arrived at the Great Hall, making its presence known.

"Cai, welcome home," a middle-aged man whose body was similar to that of a body builder smiled as soon as he saw the boar, who didn't hesitate to run and jump into the Chieftain's arms.

"I missed you, Grandpa."

"Not as much as I missed you."

The middle-aged man kissed the boar's cheeks and patted its head several times, making Cai close its eyes in contentment as it laid down on Maximilian's lap, allowing its grandpa to spoil it.

"You must be Cai's friends," Maximilian said as he shifted his attention to Lux and Keane who remained standing inside the Main Hall. "Please, sit. Both of you are guests. Feel free to treat this place as your home."

Gaining permission from the host, the two teenagers sat on the sitting cushions that were laid out in front of them.

On the surface, Maximilian gazed at them with a fond smile, but deep inside, he was assessing the two teenagers who accompanied Cai back from the Lionheart Tournament, in order to join their faction in the upcoming expedition inside the Hidden Domain.

"I've heard many things about the two of you from Xander," Maximilian said.

Xander was the name of the handsome teenager with tattoos all over his body and one of the Five Overlords. He was also the same person who conceded in his match against Cai in the tournament, which allowed the Boar to proceed to the Semi-Finals.

"On behalf of the Rowan Tribe, let me thank you for coming," Maximilian added and gave the two boys a brief nod. "If this expedition succeeds, I will owe both of you a favor. If it doesn't succeed, I will still give both of you proper compensation for joining our faction for the duration of the exploration of the Sacred Dungeon.

"All I ask is that you do everything in your power to find the Sacred White Lotus that can help save my wife, as well as those who had been inflicted by the Purple Plague for the past few decades. Can I expect that the two of you will do your best, regardless of the results of this mission?"

Lux and Keane both nodded their heads at the same time. Since they were already here, they would do their utmost to make this mission a success.

"You did well, Cai," Maximilian stated. "Both of these boys are good seedlings."

"But of course," Cai replied. "I made sure to only pick the best. Those Four Kings and the other Overlords, except Xander, are all no good. They're not worth soliciting."

Maximilian laughed as he patted Cai's head, who had a smug expression on its face.

"Well then, why don't you take Keane to the temporary lodging that we prepared for him during his stay?" Maximilian asked. "I want to discuss something with the Champion of the tournament in private."

"Okay," Cai replied. "Little Swordy, follow me. I'll show you to your room."

Cai obeyed its Grandpa and didn't even bother to stay and listen to the conversation between Maximilian and Lux.

Since its grandpa didn't want it to hear their discussion, it meant that it wasn't meant for its ears, so the Boar didn't insist on staying.

Lux could tell the trust between Maximilian and Cai was complete, and it reminded him of the trust he had with his grandma. Even though there were times when Lux was curious about what his Grandma was discussing with other people in private, he never asked her questions about them and simply waited for Vera to open up.

If she didn't say anything, it meant that the matter didn't concern Lux, so there was no need to talk about it.

A few minutes after Cai and Keane left the Main Hall, Maximilian waved his hand, creating a soundproof dome around him and Lux.

Clearly, the middle-aged man wanted to make sure that their discussion wouldn't reach anyone else's ears, which made Lux very curious about what Maximilian would say to him.

"Should I call you, Lux or My Daddy?" Maximilian asked with a smile.

"Just Lux, Your Excellency," Lux replied. "My Daddy is just an alias I used during the tournament."

"But, your Alias is more popular than your real name. It seems that almost everyone will be calling you My Daddy from now on."

"..."

Lux only hung his head in resignation, making Cai's grandpa laugh again. Clearly, he found the Half-Elf's dilemma quite amusing, so he felt the urge to tease the red-headed teenager and make him feel comfortable before he breached the real issue of why he asked him to stay.

Five minutes later, the smile disappeared on Maximilian's face, and was replaced by a solemn one.

"Tell me, Lux," Maximilian said as he gazed steadily at the Half-Elf in front of him. "You saw my granddaughter's real form, right?"

## **Chapter 277.2: Meeting The Saint Of The Rowan Tribe [Part 2]**

"You saw my granddaughter's real form, right?"

A pin-drop silence descended inside the room after Maximilian asked his question.

Lux's first thought was to deny it, but he knew that lying to a Saint was very risky. In the end, he decided to come clean and tell Maximilian everything that happened.

"I should have knocked when I went to Cai's room," Lux started. "I saw her real form by accident."

"Good," Maximilian commented. "If you lied just now, I would have slapped you silly, but since you admitted your wrongdoing, and it was truly an accident, I will forgive you."

A playful smile appeared on Maximilian's face as he eyed Lux with satisfaction.

"You see, my granddaughter has disliked wearing clothes since she was little," Maximilian explained. "When she was still very young, it was fine. But as she grew older, we knew that things needed to be done in order to protect her reputation. The blood of the Rowan Family flows in her veins. Because of this, she was able to learn the art of Therianthropy fairly easily."

"But she can only shapeshift to become a boar. Perhaps, it was due to her admiration of me since she was young, so she wanted to become like me as well."

Lux nodded in understanding. When Maximilian got angry, he would transform into a hellish, giant, Black Boar, whose capacity for destruction was second to none.

Cai had grown up hearing her grandfather's bragging, and because of it, she had unknowingly imprinted to her inner core that becoming a boar would make her just as amazing as her Grandpa.

Since she didn't like to wear clothes, she would just transform into a boar. Although her way of thinking was unconventional, it still gave her family a sense of relief, knowing that Cai wouldn't be walking around naked all the time, letting everyone see her youthful beauty.

The only problem was that, at least once every three days, she would return to her original form for half an hour to an hour. During this time, Cai would lock herself inside her room, preventing anyone except her family from seeing her.

Maximilian had also placed a spell on her body, which would allow him to know if anyone saw her true form and who that person was. In the Saint's eyes, all those who had laid their eyes on his granddaughter would have a reddish aura that surrounded their bodies, allowing the Saint to know who they were.

"I promise that I will not divulge this secret to anyone," Lux said with seriousness.

"Well, I will believe you for now," Maximilian replied. "Cai and Iris are very close friends, and your grandma and I are close friends as well. You might not remember it, but Vera brought you to me when you were only two years old."

"Grandma did?"

"Yes. She wanted me to take a look at your body in order to find the reason behind your abnormal disease that causes you to faint. That is when I discovered that your soul was damaged. However, looking at you now, it seems like you have fully recovered. You even won the tournament and proved that you're the strongest member of the young generation. You really surprised me!"

Maximilian laughed heartily because he was truly surprised when he found out that the sickly boy that he thought would remain crippled for life had suddenly

bounced back and even won the tournament where the strongest youngsters from all over the Six Kingdoms gathered to prove their worth.

A moment later, Maximilians' gaze landed on the three rings on Lux's hands, which made him arch his eyebrow in surprise.

"So Cai gave you the ring I made for her," Maximilian commented. "Does Iris have the pair to this ring?"

"Yes," Lux answered. "I'm sorry. Cai gave them to me in the spur of the moment. I can return them if you want."

"Hahaha. No need. Just treat it as a congratulatory gift to your engagement with Iris. All I ask is that you treasure them because I made them with great care. If you get married in the future, feel free to look for me. I will personally craft your brides' wedding rings."

"Thank you very much!"

"You sure are something. You didn't flinch when I said brides and not bride," Maximilian commented. "So, do you plan on having more than one wife? Is Iris fine with that?"

"Um, I am not actually looking for more wives," Lux replied. "But, Iris said that she is fine with me having more wives. All I need to do is tell her, so that she can meet them and see if they are worthy of me or not."

"What an understanding young lady. Maybe I should let Cai be your second wife?"

"Hahaha."

Lux laughed because he thought that Maximilian was just joking. The Saint also laughed making it look like he was just teasing Lux as well. However, only Maximilian knew the truth of whether he was just joking or not.

Half an hour later, Lux was escorted to his room by one of the servants working for the Chief of their tribe.

When Lux arrived at the Rowan Tribe, he was kind of expecting to see all of them living in tents, just like the other tribes near the borders of the Six Kingdoms.

However, what he saw were large huts made from animal bones and skins that could easily fit a family of eight.

The servant that was escorting him explained that all of the houses of the Rowan Tribe were artifacts made by the Great Chief himself.

Whenever they traveled, the houses would turn into fist sized balls, made from animal bone, that they could pack in their belongings, making them very easy to carry.

They would then ride their mounted beasts, and migrate to a different location, while keeping their houses with them at all times.

Lux was quite interested in this portable home, and he decided to ask the Saint to give him one as a reward after their expedition in the Sacred Dungeon.

Elysium was a very big world, and there would be times that he would need to camp out in the open as he traversed the lands, going from one place to the other.

Having a portable house would easily solve his problem and allow him to live in comfort, despite being away from villages, towns, and cities, for long periods of time.

That night, Lux and Keane were invited to join the Rowan Family for dinner, which the two gratefully accepted.

There were three more days before the Hidden Domain opened, which was plenty of time to get to know the members that would be joining their expedition. Lux had already known how strong Keane was, but he was not aware of how strong Xander and the other warriors of the Rowan Tribe were.

Because of this, he decided to have a sparring match with them to better understand their abilities.

Maximilian had assigned Lux to be the Captain of their expedition, making him the final decision maker of the team.

Although he was the Champion of the Tournament, the teenagers of the Rowan Tribe were itching to spar with him to see how strong he really was.

Lux thought that this was a good idea. As long as his temporary teammates were convinced of his strength, it would allow him to command them without any resistance to his orders.

During Dungeon expeditions, teamwork was the key and Lux had no intention of working with people who didn't trust him.

He would rather go Solo, or take just Cai and Keane with him, rather than lead a group who didn't see him as their leader.

When the warriors of the Rowan Tribe heard that Lux planned to duel with the people accompanying him to the Sacred Dungeon, all of them gathered to challenge him one by one, which the Half-Elf was more than happy to oblige.

## **Chapter 278: Can The Two Of You Not Show Your PDA Here?**

A few days later...

"Grandpa, I promise that when I return, I will have the Sacred White Lotus to help cure Grandma," Cai said in a serious manner. "I will not let you down."

"I know, but also be careful," Maximilian replied. "The Sacred Dungeon is not easy to conquer. If it was, it had already been cleared several times already."

"Relax, we already got this in the bag."

"Hah... you never change do you?"

Maximilian helplessly shook his head before shifting his attention to Lux, who was standing not far from them.

"Make sure that Cai doesn't do anything reckless," Maximilian stated. "I will leave her, and my tribe's youngsters, in your hands."

Lux nodded. "I will do my best."

After Lux had fought with all the teenagers of the Rowan Tribe, including Xander, they finally realized how strong the Half-Elf was. Because of this, they



no longer had any problems with him becoming their leader, and promised to obey his orders for the sake of their Tribal Chieftain.

"Let's go and conquer the Sacred Dungeon!" Cai declared.

""Yes!""

The Giant Platform at the center of the settlement started to glow faintly. This was the portable Warp Gate of the Rowan Tribe that allowed them to go to Elysium.

One by one, the teenagers entered the portal with Lux entering last. This was the first time he was entering Elysium through a Warp Gate and wondered if there was any difference between it and the Ring of Arondight that Eriol had given him.

A bright flash of light enveloped Lux's body, forcing him to cover his eyes.

When the light receded, he found himself in what seemed to be a settlement inside a jungle with trees that were several meters tall.

Several tree-houses could be seen in the distance, and those who dwelled in them were teenagers, making Lux understand that this was one of the Rowan Tribe's settlements inside the world of Elysium.

"The Hidden Domain is an hour away from here," Cai said. "Let us make haste. I'm sure that the other guilds are also there."

As if waiting for that moment, the Giant Manta Ray that Lux had seen in Barbatos Academy materialized above Cai's head.

Several other Manta Rays appeared as the members of the Rowan Tribe summoned their Beast Companions.

The Rowan Tribe was a Nomadic Clan, and they traveled over land, air, and sea. Because of this, all of them had Manta Rays as their first Beast Companions, allowing them to travel wherever they needed to go.

Lux and Keane mounted Cai's Manta Ray because they didn't have a flying mount of their own.

Keane, who was learning things about the world, wondered if he could also have a Beast Companion similar to Cai's Manta Ray and Lux's baby slime, Eiko.

"Of course you can have a Beast Companion of your own," Cai replied as she lightly nudged her Manta Ray to take off towards the direction of the Hidden Domain. "After this expedition is over, I can help you look for one if you like. The Manta Rays are our Tribe's exclusive mounts, so if you want one, I can ask Grandpa to give you one as a reward for helping me in this expedition."

Keane's interest was piqued after hearing Cai's words. For him, having a flying transport was great because it would allow him to go anywhere he wanted.

Preferably somewhere far away from the chatty Boar, who was making the peace he was looking for in life slip away from his fingertips.

As for Lux, he already had Jed. After taking in the blood of the Mutated Thunder Wolf King, it had evolved into a Rank 4 Thunder Warg King, which also allowed it to use Lightning Steps, allowing it fast movements on the ground, but lacking the ability to fly in the air.

Lux planned to look for a Beast Core that had the ability of flight, similar to Air Steps, which would allow the Half-Elf's mount to also traverse in the air.

As the small fleet of Manta Rays flew Northwards, Keane looked around him with a serious gaze. He was trying to look for differences between Solais and Elysium, but so far, he hadn't seen anything that stood out between the two.

"Just wait until we arrive at the Hidden Domain," Cai said with confidence. "It will be your first initiation here in Elysium, so you better do your best, Little Swordy."

"... How many times should I tell you not to call me Little Swordy?" Keane sighed because he had already given up on making the Boar call him by his name.

Now he had understood what Lux had felt when everyone kept on calling him My Daddy, instead of his real name, making him feel depressed.

"You'll get used to it," Lux commented as he tapped Keane's shoulder, making the latter mutter that he didn't want to get used to it.

Almost an hour later, they finally arrived at a canyon, with a deep gorge at its center.

"Is the Hidden Domain inside it?" Lux asked with a frown.

Cai nodded. "It was accidentally discovered when one of the students of Barbatos Academy fell on it and discovered the existence of the Hidden Domain. Knowing that the Academy didn't have the manpower to gather as many resources from the Domain, Sir Alexander decided to share the news to the Six Kingdoms and the Rowan Tribe.

"In return, the academy will get 10% of any resources that the other Factions gain whenever they enter the Hidden Domain. The Kings and my grandfather signed the agreement, and since then, the Six Kingdoms, Barbatos Academy, and the Rowan Tribe have ensured that the Hidden Domain would remain hidden from the other factions in Elysium. Also, this place is a neutral area, and no adjacent kingdoms can own it."

"No adjacent kingdoms can own it?" Lux tilted his head in confusion. "What do you mean?"

"Um, I don't really understand. But my Grandpa said that the God of this World created several Neutral Areas in Elysium, preventing anyone from staking their claim on it," Cai replied. "No settlements can be built in it because anyone who's tried has suddenly found themselves attacked by Argonaut and Dreadnaught Ranked Field Monsters.

"Also, the strongest mortals that can enter this area are Initiates. They simply don't have the strength to fight against Monsters of such rank, so the Elysians have left this land alone, giving us the opportunity to take advantage of it."

While Cai chatted with Lux and Keane, its Giant Manta Ray took the lead to enter the deep gorge, with the other manta rays trailing behind it.

After fifteen minutes of darkness, Lux saw faint blue lights at the bottom,

"Those are the lights of glow worms," Cai explained. "It means that we are near it."

True to her words, a path appeared at the bottom of the gorge that was spacious enough for two mammoths to easily walk side by side on.

The path was glowing with a blue light due to the countless glow worms that were sticking to the walls of the gorge, illuminating the path in front of them.

A moment later, they arrived at a very spacious clearing that was the size of three football fields merged together. At the far end of this spacious clearing was a giant silver gate that was shut tight.

Waiting outside of it were hundreds of teenagers, who belonged to the Six Kingdoms and Barbatos Academy.

As soon as Cai's Giant Manta Ray landed, countless eyes glanced in their direction.

Lux, Cai, and Keane were members of the Elite Four that had survived the Lionheart Tournament.

Everyone present on the scene instantly recognized them. However, no one dared to approach them, with the exception of one person.

"You're finally here, Lux," Iris said as she walked towards the Giant Manta Ray with a smile.

"I'm here, Iris," Lux replied as he jumped off the Manta Ray and opened his arms wide so he could embrace his fiancée in his arms.

However, just as the two were about to hug each other, they found themselves hugging the body of a Boar, who stepped between the two of them at the last second.

"Um, can the two of you not show your PDA here?" Cai asked as she pushed Lux away with her snout, before nuzzling Iris, making the latter giggle. "Have some delicacy. We didn't come here to watch the two of you make out. You can do it when the two of you are alone, okay?"

Lux, who had been pushed aside, sighed in his heart as he looked at the boar who had given him a very strong urge to spank her.

Iris on the other hand, covered her lips as she suppressed a chuckle, while listening to Cai's complaints about how she and Lux should conduct themselves in public.

The Half-Elf could only roll its eyes at Cai's shamelessness before pushing it aside to give his fiance a hug.

Iris hugged him back, making those who were watching the two of them click their tongues in irritation. Several of the young men had a crush on Iris, including the members of her own guild who were about to accompany her inside the Sacred Domain.

Although they had long accepted that the apple of their eyes had already been eaten by someone else, the lingering feelings they had for her still remained.

This was especially true for Nero, who was looking at the two of them from afar.

Although he had a calm expression on the surface, inside his heart was a fire that threatened to engulf everything that belonged to the red-headed teenager who was currently hugging the young lady of his dreams in a tight embrace.

## **Chapter 279.1: Dangers That Lurks Inside The Hidden Domain [Part 1]**

"The power of the Abyss is not something that can easily be controlled, or subjugated," Rainer said with a solemn look on his face. "If your will isn't strong enough, it will take over your senses and its seed will bury itself in your heart, giving birth to a monster with a human face."

"Nero. No matter what happens, you must strengthen your will, and not allow the power of the Abyss to take root in your heart. Many have already fallen victim to its whispers filled with temptation and promise of power. Do not let yourself be one of them. Do not let the Power of the Abyss control you. You must always be the one in control, do you understand?"

"Yes, Master," Nero answered. "I will keep your teachings in my heart."

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"Guild Master, the gate is showing signs of opening," one of Nero's Guild Members informed him. "If everything goes according to schedule, it will open in less than an hour from now."

"Understood," Nero nodded. "Thank you for your report. I will be there shortly."

The Guild Member respectfully bowed his head before leaving the makeshift tent that served as Nero's personal quarters while waiting for the Gate of the Hidden Domain to open.

The Hidden Domain was a treasure-trove of resources, and the Sacred Dungeon was only one of them. Unfortunately, many strong monsters guarded the locations where extremely rare herbs, fruits, and flowers—that were highly sought out by alchemists, and pharmacists—could be collected.

Several attempts had already been made in the past, but this only led to countless deaths, which made the various factions reconsider their strategy.

Any deaths in the Hidden Domain were permanent. Meaning if they died while collecting treasures inside, they could not be resurrected. Only those that died in the Sacred Dungeon would respawn outside of the Hidden Domain, in front of the Silver Gates.

Because of this, all the Apostles from Grade C to Grade A were strictly ordered to not wander around the Hidden Domain, and simply focus on challenging the Sacred Dungeon.

That way, even if they died, they would just be kicked out of the Domain, and keep their lives intact.

Nero took several deep breaths in order to calm himself before looking at the mirror.

"Nero, you're strong," Nero said firmly as he stared at his reflection in the mirror. "A single loss doesn't mean anything. It is just a way to remind you that you still have room to grow. Just continue to work hard, and strive to become the best. One of these days, everyone will know that you are the strongest person among your peers."

After lightly clapping his face with both of his hands. Nero once again took a deep breath before leaving the tent.

He was the Guild Master of the Silver-Ranked Guild, Storm Dragons.

His Guild Members looked up to him, and respected him. He had already proven himself to be a capable leader and, with him at the helm, he would

lead the faction of the Wildgarde Stronghold and complete their mission without fail.

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"Can you feel it?" Keane asked Lux who was standing beside him with his arms crossed over his chest.

"Yes," Lux replied. "The Gate is about to open."

Keane shook his head. "I am not talking about the gate. I am talking about the people gathered here. Do you feel it?"

Lux scanned his surroundings, and looked up at the people around him.

As his gaze landed on Iris, the blue-haired beauty waved at him with a smile. She was currently with her Guild, Serenity, and the purple-haired beauty that was standing beside her gave Lux a challenging gaze, as if she wanted to challenge him to a duel.

Lux ignored her and glanced at the other teenagers that had gathered to explore the Hidden Domain together.

The Four Kings and the Five Overlords were present, each leading their own Guilds. The presences they were radiating were very different from the ones they had during the Lionheart Tournament, which made Lux wonder if all of them had increased in rank during the time he hadn't seen them.

"Now, do you feel it?"

Keane's inquiry broke Lux out of his daze, making the Half-Elf nod his head.

"There is this kind of tension that is hard to explain," Lux frowned because he finally understood what Keane was talking about. "It's like everyone here is heading to war, making the air around us heavy."

Keane nodded because his senses were extremely sharp. When the Silver Gate had shown signs that it was about to open, the auras of everyone, including the members of their group, had suddenly flared up.

Even the usually chatty Cai was silent, and the hairs on the back of its body were standing on end.

Iris, too, had a solemn look on her face as she gazed at the Silver Gate whose radiance was getting stronger with each passing minute.

Only Lux and Keane had relaxed expressions on their faces, making them feel out of place.

The reason why the two could still remain calm was quite simple. This was their first time entering the Hidden Domain, while the others had entered it a year ago.

They had already experienced firsthand, what kind of terror lay beyond the Silver Gate, and knew that, the moment they entered it, their lives would be in danger.

The Sacred Dungeon was located at the center of the Hidden Domain. This meant that they had to travel for at least an hour before they could reach it.

They couldn't use any flying mounts, because this was a very risky move. It might make the local beasts inside the Domain attack them because they felt that their territory was being challenged by a newcomer.

In the past, all the Guilds would travel towards the Sacred Dungeon separately, however after losing more than half of their members before they even reached their destination, the decision makers of Barbatos Academy, the Six Kingdoms, and the Rowan Tribe decided that all factions must work together to reach the Sacred Dungeon.

With such a large force that was made up of Hundreds of Apostles, even Deimos and Argonaut Ranked Monsters needed to think twice before they engaged them in battle.

The Hidden Domain was a place where the "Survival of the Fittest" was always in effect. The Beasts here were very intelligent. They would not hesitate to kill the other local beasts to eat their meat and beast cores, once an opportunity presented itself.

This was why no Beast would take the initiative to attack a large group of Apostles, in fear that another one would attack its back the moment it received a serious injury from the foreigners that entered their Domain.

Suddenly, a creaking sound was heard as the Silver Gate that had been shut tight earlier, opened wide, showing a purple portal at its center.



"Storm Dragon, Follow me!" Nero ordered.

"Serenity, by my side!" Henrietta shouted.

"Saber Kings, lead the charge!" Ackley, the Barbarian whom Lux had fought in the tournament, roared.

"Silent Forest, keep your eyes open," Vall, the Spider Boy, stated.

"Noblesse, with me!" the Elf Prince, as well as the one that Gerhart fought during the tournament, Enlil hovered in the air as he led the Elves to enter the portal.

One by one, the Guilds that represented the various powers that gathered to challenge the Hidden Domain entered the portal.

"Let's go," Lux ordered.

The Rowan Faction was the last guild that entered the portal. Before the Silver Gate fully opened, the leaders of each guild had gathered to talk about the roles they would play in the journey to the Sacred Dungeon.

The Barbarian Guild, Saber Kings, and Nero's Guild—the Storm Dragons—would be the Vanguard.

The Silent Forest, led by Vall, and Noblesse, led by Enlil, would be the scouts.

Serenity would be at the center, that would immediately support the Vanguard or the Scouts if they were attacked along their journey.

Lux's Guild served as the rear guard to prevent any Monsters from sneaking up behind them and launching a surprise attack.

As the hundreds of teenagers marched towards their destination, various shrieks, roars, and chirping sounds were heard in the forest that surrounded them.

Everyone braced themselves for the first phase of their journey, where death was permanent, and their safety lay at the whims of the Monsters that inhabit the Hidden Domain that had been around for thousands of years.

## Chapter 280.2: Dangers That Lurks Inside The Hidden Domain [Part 2]

As the different guilds made their way toward the Sacred Dungeon, which was located at the center of the Hidden Domain, they kept their guard up in order to prepare for any contingencies.

Even Lux had summoned Diablo and Pazuzu, and they were currently walking by his side to ensure that they would be able to react if their Master was in any kind of danger.

Eiko, who was perched on top of Lux's head, looked left and right with curiosity. She was able to rank up after eating the Beast Cores, which were the remaining spoils of war from the defending Whitebridge City.

Of course, these Beast Cores weren't enough, but after knowing the baby slimes dilemma, Iris used her stash of Beast Cores to allow Eiko to increase her strength before the expedition in the Hidden Domain.

Because of this, the Baby Slime gained many new abilities, including adding two more summons to her squad of slimes, who she named Saber and Cloud.

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< Eiko >

"The world is my oyster!"

– Named Slime Monster

– Rating: C

– Progress ( 0 / 20,000)

Health: 7,600 / 7,600

Mana: 32,500 / 32,500

Strength: 92

Intelligence: 650

Vitality: 152

Agility: 92

Dexterity: 92

Special Abilities: Mimicry [EX], Regeneration [EX], Family Bond [EX], Speech [EX], Dig [EX], Storage [EX], Poison Immunity [EX], True Sight [EX], Stealth [EX]

Summon Skills: Summon Blackie (Devil Slime), Summon Whitey (Angel Slime), Summon Rocky (Earth Slime), Summon Maya (Water Slime), Summon Saber (Saber Slime), Summon Cloud (Aero Slime).

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, Mad Sprint, Moon Blast, Elemental Shields, Slash, Heavy Slash, Scorching Ray, Fire Wall, Entangling Vines, Locate Flora or Fauna, Sticky Web

Passive Skill: Uncanny Dodge, Very Tough, Guts

Titles: Mama's and Papa's Girl, Treasure Hunter,

Note: This Baby Slime is the real Protagonist!

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< Storage [EX] >

- Eiko can devour items and store them inside her body.
- Maximum weight of items that can be stored inside her body is ten tons.
- Can Store Living Creatures for a short period of time.
- Maximum number of creatures that can be stored inside the body is three.
- Maximum duration of storing living creatures inside the body is three hours.

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### < True Sight [EX] >

– Eiko can see invisible creatures, hidden passages, as well as other creatures, places, or things that wouldn't be normally seen through normal eyesight.

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### < Treasure Hunter >

Eiko can detect the presence of nearby treasures around her with great accuracy.

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"Mumumumu!" Eiko grumbled on top of Lux's head because she could detect plenty of treasures that were spread out within the Hidden Domain.

Unfortunately, she could also sense strong monsters guarding these treasures, so she was unable to get them.

Her Papa also told her that she shouldn't do any reckless actions because the place they were currently at was very dangerous. Because of this, she just stayed put on the Half-Elf's head.

'Don't worry, Eiko,' Lux said through telepathy. 'When we get stronger, we can always return here using the special Teleport Scrolls I acquired long ago.'

'Pa!'

After Lux completed the quest Birth Of An Abomination, he was given several rewards, and among them was the option to choose one among four special rewards that was given to him as a bonus.

These four choices were the Hell Horse, Golden Token of Gweliven, a Monster Egg, and four Teleport Scrolls that allowed him to directly teleport to any places he had visited, regardless of restrictions that were set in place.

Meaning, since he had already entered the Hidden Domain, he could come back to it at any given time in the future.

This would allow him to explore and gather resources inside it, even if it remain closed to the outside world. For Lux, this was one of the reasons why

he accepted Cai's invitation to join her faction in coming inside the Hidden Domain.

Suddenly, several buzzing sounds were heard around them and the trees in the forest started to shake.

Lux had encountered a similar scenario back in the Figaro Gardens, and he immediately summoned Ishtar, as well as a dozen Skeleton Grand Archers to intercept the approaching threat that was coming their way.

"Mosquitoes!" Enlil shouted as he hovered above everyone's heads, and spread his arms to create powerful gusts of winds that blew outwards to prevent the thousands of mosquitoes that were flying in their direction to advance.

These were not regular mosquitoes but Rank 3 Mosquitoes that were called Ruthless Venom Mosquitoes.

Just like their name suggests, their bites could inject poison to their targets, paralyzing their entire bodies, which would allow the mosquitoes to suck on their bloods, while their victims watch helplessly as they turn into dried up husks, deprived of blood.

Vall immediately transformed into an Alpha-Ranked Elegant Golden Jumping Spider, and spat webs around them to create a deathtrap to the mosquitoes that had managed to evade Enlil's attacks.

Although a single mosquito was not a threat to them, a swarm of mosquitoes that numbered in the thousands was not something they could easily fend off.

Among these mosquito swarms were hundreds of Rank 4 Mosquitoes, which were called Horned Harlequin Mosquitoes. But that was not all. At the swarm's very core was a Rank 5 Field Monster, which was notorious for destroying entire villages and towns, while commanding its massive mosquito army.

Its name was the Diabolical Doom Mosquito, whose body was covered in red and black stripes, making it look incredibly deadly.

Lux eyed the four-meter tall flying mosquito in the distance as he used his Elysium Compendium to check its information.

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< Diabolical Doom Mosquito >

– Terror Mosquito

– Rank 5 Field Boss Monster

Health: 900,000 / 900,000

Mana: 250,000 / 250,000

Strength: 300

Intelligence: 500

Vitality: 900

Agility: 1000

Dexterity: 1000

Active Skills: Poison Sting, Increase Agility, Fury Attack, Poison Spray, Sky Assault, Sting Drill, Hyper Blast, Increase Evasion,

Passive Skills: Enhanced Fortitude, Doom Fervor, Lifesteal, Tactician.

Title: Swarm Overlord

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< Swarm Overlord >

– Increase the attack and defense of the swarm under its command by 20%

< Doom Fervor >

– When the monster's Health goes below fifty percent, its attack damage would increase by 50%.

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The Diabolical Doom Mosquito didn't personally launch an attack at the Apostles, whose rich blood had attracted them from far away. It used its aerial

superiority, as well as its numbers, to attack the humans that were completely outnumbered five to one.

Despite Enlil's and Vall's effort to deter and keep the mosquitoes at bay, the power of the swarm descended upon them nevertheless.

All of the teenagers that had come to enter the domain were the elites of their respective guilds. The majority of them had already fought against Beast Tides, so they already knew what to do when dealing with beasts whose numbers far exceeded their own.

Unfortunately, even with their experience, several of them were still pierced by the mosquitoes needle-like mouths, causing them to get poisoned and paralyzed.

As the corpses of countless mosquitoes surrounded them, their fighting space became smaller, which made the defenders' movements quite sluggish and, in turn, giving the mosquitoes several opportunities to deliver a deadly bite on their blindspots, which caused their defenses to crumble.

Dozens of crippled young men and women were helplessly carried off by the mosquitoes, as their blood was sucked mid-air.

This hellish scene continued for several minutes until more than half of the mosquito swarm were eliminated due to everyone's outrage after seeing their friends and comrades being killed in front of them.

Diablo, whose strength rose by leaps and bounds due to the number of dead creatures around him, created a killing zone that instantly felled any mosquito that came within his range.

Two of the members of the Rowan Tribe had been caught off guard by the mosquitoes and was carried away during the skirmish.

There was nothing that Lux could do to save them, so he just focused on preventing the rest of his team from getting killed.

Cai had already used her Second Gear and transformed into Hildisvíni, whose tough hide prevented any of the mosquito bites from penetrating deep in its defenses.

Several clinking sounds were heard as Keane repeatedly flicked the handle of his sword, splitting the mosquitoes into two halves, killing them instantly.

Eiko had already summoned all of its Slimes as they created a protective perimeter around her surroundings.

Iris had already summoned her Five Beast Companions that ensured that not even a strand of her hair would be touched by the mosquito swarm that came to them en masse.

This gave Lux some peace of mind as he focused on eliminating as many mosquitoes as possible.

He, as well as the strong members of the expedition, was paying close attention to the Diabolical Doom Mosquito that was simply hovering in the sky. They knew that it was only waiting for a perfect opportunity to strike and eliminate the strong fighters that were making it difficult for its swarm to truly gain the upperhand.

Enlil, who kept on creating powerful tornadoes that sucked the mosquitoes mid-air and shredded them into pieces, was the swarm's greatest threat in the battlefield.

However, none of them could approach him because the Elf was a true Master of manipulating the Wind Element. As flying creatures, they needed the wind to navigate in the air, but the Elf had effectively created a protective zone around him that could repel any mosquito that came within a hundred meter distance away from him.

Vall was also another pain in the ass that made the mosquitoes incredibly frustrated. The Spider Boy had created a dome of sticky web around the trees, effectively trapping them, and binding them in place.

He was also very nimble in his spider form, so any mosquito that attempted to approach it would only find themselves cut into pieces by the invisible strings that he had prepared beforehand, making them wary of approaching him.

When the mosquitoes realized that the defenders had already found the right way on how to deal with them, the Diabolical Doom Mosquito screeched and ordered a retreat.



The reason why it retreated was not because it couldn't overpower the teenagers on the ground.

It retreated because the other monsters in the forest had been attracted to the smell of blood and corpses in the battlefield, which made them leave their dwellings to join the fray.

"Sh\*t! Everyone, head to the Sacred Dungeon in haste!" Einar, the Barbarian, roared. "Other beasts are coming! If we stay here, we will get sandwiched from all sides! Run now while you still can!"

As soon as they heard the Barbarian's warning, everyone immediately ran towards the direction of the Sacred Dungeon. More than a hundred of them were already killed during the fight against mosquitoes, and more would die if they stayed behind.

Although everyone was running, they made sure that their formation was as closely packed as possible.

The Rowan Tribe, whose role was to guard the rear had no choice but to carry the stragglers, whose stamina wasn't that high to begin with. Most of these people were magic casters and healers, who specialized in the magical arts but didn't excel in physical training.

Fortunately, Lux could summon skeletons and golems. Because of this, their advance wasn't impeded as the skeletons carried those who were unable to run anymore, making them look at the Half-Elf with grateful gazes.

Lux would glance behind him from time to time, because he could feel that several predatory gazes had locked onto his body. Sensing the threat coming from their backs, Orion positioned himself directly behind the Half-Elf, effectively blocking his body from being seen from behind.

A moment later, several roars, shrieks, and growls, were heard from the distance as some of the Beasts in the forests feasted on the corpses of the mosquitoes, as well as the dried up husks of the young men and women, who would never be seen again.

## **Chapter 281: Standoff Against A Juggernaut**

"I think I finally understand that feeling of tension that everyone was exuding before we entered the Hidden Domain," Keane said as he ran beside Lux and with the rest of the members of the Rowan Tribe.

"Yes," Lux replied. "They knew that the moment they entered the portal, their lives would be in great danger. This is probably why all the Guilds banded together at the very beginning in order to advance as a single unit.

"If we had all headed towards the Sacred Dungeon by ourselves, we would have been easily killed off one by one by the Monsters that lurk within this forest."

Cai didn't say anything and simply carried the members of the Rowan Tribe who were injured on her back. This was the first time she had entered the Hidden Domain, but everytime her grandfather sent an expedition to challenge the Sacred Dungeon, more than half of the teenagers he sent didn't return.

This was also why going to the Hidden Dungeon wasn't a compulsory order. Everyone had the right to reject him. Even so, more than twenty people answered his call, and accompanied Cai to one of the most dangerous places in Elysium, which had already claimed countless lives.

Out of the thirty members of the Rowan Tribe Faction, five had died, and four more were injured during their retreat.

The other guilds had also suffered several casualties, but now was now the time to assess how many members they had remaining. What mattered was reaching the Sacred Dungeon as soon as possible.

As soon as they were able to enter it, even if they died inside the dungeon, they would just be teleported outside the Gates of the Hidden Domain, allowing them to live another day.

Countless roars, growls, and shrieks could be heard behind them, but no Beasts followed their retreat.

They were busy devouring the corpses of the Mosquitoes, as well as their Beast Cores, like opportunistic hyenas enjoying the hardship of others.

Half an hour later, the long march ended as they all entered a spacious cave.

A collective sigh of relief was heard from around them because they had finally entered the path towards the Sacred Dungeon.

But this relief was fleeting once they saw the ten-meter-tall creature that was barring their way.

"An Adamantite Golem," Henrietta said with a grim look on her face. "This is bad. The pigmentation on its body shows that it is nearing the Deimos Rank."

For some reason, an Adamantite Golem stood at the path that would lead them to the Sacred Dungeon.

This Golem was incredibly sturdy and has a very high resistance against physical and magical attacks. Usually, it would take a thousand-men team to defeat a Golem of this rank, which was considered a Rank 5 World Boss.

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< Adamantite Golem >

– Ancient Construct

– Pseudo-Deimos Ranked World Boss

Health: 6,000,000 / 6,000,000

Mana: 100,000 / 100,000

Strength: 4,500

Intelligence: 200

Vitality: 4,000

Agility: 400

Dexterity: 400

Active Skills: Smash, Body Slam, Earthshaker, Gaia Smash, Rock Throw, Piledriver, Stone Edge, Jack Hammer.

Passive Skills: Enhanced Fortitude, Guts, Adamantium Body

## Title: Unstoppable Juggernaut

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### < Unstoppable Juggernaut >

- During battle, the Adamantite's Golem attack and defense would increase by 10% every time its health was reduced by 10%.
- When it initiates a charging attack, anything that gets hit by it would be instantly stunned, and knocked back without fail.

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None of the members of the various guild dared to step forward and even utter a sound. They were afraid that the Adamantite Golem would take their movements as a sign of aggression and immediately initiate an attack.

If in the past, they would welcome such a Boss Monster as an opponent, now it was different. Many of their comrades were injured, and they still had to challenge the Sacred Dungeon.

They couldn't afford to have any more casualties, so they didn't do anything that might provoke the towering Giant that was staring at them from a distance.

The standoff lasted for exactly ten minutes before the Adamantite Golem walked away. Only when it had disappeared from their sight did everyone manage to regain their composure.

Not all monsters inside the Hidden Domain were aggressive. Some, like the Golems, preferred solidarity. Since the teenagers didn't do anything to provoke it, the giant construct didn't label them as its enemies, and left the cave to look for another place to rest.

"Damn, I almost peed when the Golem looked at me," Cai said with shaky legs. "I don't think I'd survive if I got punched by that thing directly."

Lux and Keane nodded their heads in agreement. A Pseudo-Deimos Ranked World Boss was definitely bad news, so not engaging it in battle was the best option they had.

"Let's go," Einar said as he led his guild members to march forward. His guild served as the Vanguard, so he and his men walked at the front of the formation.

Everyone followed suit. Finally after half an hour of walking, they finally reached a place that looked like a Mausoleum for the dead.

It looked very creepy, but at its center was a red portal that glowed faintly amidst the dim light that surrounded it.

"We will rest here for an hour before we set out to fulfill our own missions," Enlil said. "From here onwards, everyone is on their own."

The heads of each guild, and factions all nodded their heads in understanding. All of them had been ordered by their respective kingdoms, and factions to gather resources in the Sacred Dungeon.

As to what level of difficulty they would choose, only the high-ranking members of their guilds and teams knew.

During that hour-long break. The guilds that had healing classes like Clerics, Priests, and Life Mages, tended to the injured.

This included the injured members of the other guilds who had accompanied them along the way. This was the agreement that everyone continued to agree to anytime the Hidden Domain was challenged.

This was done to ensure that the next time the Hidden Domain opened, all the next participants would still perform their duties, in order to ensure the success of the missions that were entrusted to them.

## **Chapter 282: Just What Is Nero Scheming Now?**

"Lux, are you okay?" Iris asked in a worried tone as he lightly patted Lux's body to look for any injuries that he might have received during their battles on the way to the Sacred Dungeon.

"I'm fine," Lux replied. "My summons and Eiko protected me."

"Pa!"

"Good job, Eiko."

"Ma!"

The baby Slime smiled happily as Iris patted her head. Astra, who was standing beside Iris, snorted at the baby Slime who was once again being pampered by his Master.

Eiko, on the other hand, ignored the Unicorn. She still hadn't won against Astra during their last rematch, and still treated the unicorn as its rival.

"How many people did the Academy lose?" Lux asked.

"Fifteen," Iris replied sadly. "Ten more are injured, but they are now being treated. Out of the forty members of our Guild, almost half of them died along the way. I pity our Guildmaster, Henrietta. She will have to write letters about the deaths of our Guild Members and send them to their parents. I'm sure that she will fall into a depression again once we return to the Academy."

Lux could only sigh in his heart after hearing Iris' words. Although he had just become the temporary leader of the members of the Rowan Tribe for this expedition, there had been people who died under his watch.

Cai said that he didn't need to worry about what happened because she would be the one to personally tell the news to her Grandfather.

The Boar's only regret was that she wasn't able to bring their bodies back to the Rowan Tribe, so that they would be given a proper burial.

"What level of difficulty will you and your group challenge later?" Lux whispered in Iris' ear.

"Hell Mode," Iris whispered back. "However, we will have to wait for Henrietta's decision as to whether we will continue according to what we discussed beforehand or not. Three of our five healers were killed, so the difficulty of conquering the Dungeon has increased."

Lux nodded his head in understanding.

"How about we combine our forces and challenge the Hell-Mode difficulty together?" Lux proposed. "When it comes to command, your Guildmaster can

just focus on commanding your members, while I command the members of the Rowan Tribe. Do you think that will work?"

Iris pondered Lux's suggestion for a bit before glancing at her Guild Master. She didn't know if Henrietta would agree to Lux's suggestion, but she thought that it wouldn't hurt to ask if she would agree to this proposal or not.

"I'll ask her first," Iris replied. "However, I can't promise you that she will agree."

Lux nodded. "I understand. I'll wait for her reply."

Iris smiled before walking in the direction of her Guildmaster to pass on Lux's proposal to work together.

While this was happening, several guilds were also talking about collaborating with each other. The only problem was on how the resources of the Dungeon would be divided among them.

Ten minutes later, Henrietta approached Lux's group, alongside Iris and her other officers.

"Iris mentioned that you want to collaborate with our guild," Henrietta said with her arms crossed over her chest. "I saw how you fought in the Lionheart Tournament, so having you around, in addition to other members of the Elite Four, is very reassuring."

"However, be that as it may, having two teams will definitely mess up the chain of command. How about you and the members of the Rowan Tribe follow my commands instead? That way, we will be one unified unit, and will be able to clear this Dungeon smoothly."

Before Lux could even reply, Cai snorted as she looked at the purple-haired beauty who was looking at them with a smile.

"You wish!" Cai replied. "The Rowan Tribe will only follow My Daddy. Although our two factions have a very wonderful friendship, in regards to this matter, we will not yield."

The other members of the Rowan Tribe, including Xander, nodded their heads to agree with Cai's words. They only recognized the strong, and Lux had proven to them that he was strong during their sparring matches.

"Is that so?" Henrietta arched an eyebrow. "Then in that case we should just..."

"Wait a moment," Lux interjected before Henrietta could finish her words. "If the information that has been passed to me is correct, you will be asked to choose one of four paths once you reach the middle-point of the Dungeon in Hell Mode. Is this true?"

Henrietta nodded. "It is true."

"Then how about we compete?" Lux proposed. "Each of our teams will choose one of the four paths at the beginning. Whoever clears their chosen route first will become the temporary leader of both teams. How does that sound?"

Henrietta pondered for a bit before nodding her head. "I can agree to this condition. Whoever manages to clear one of the paths first will definitely have the capability to lead our combined forces. Very well, let's do this."

The purple-haired beauty then extended her hand for a handshake in order to close the deal.

"This competition sounds fun. Can I also join it?"

Just as Lux was about to shake hands with Henrietta, a confident voice sounded from their side, making the two of them glance towards where the voice had come from at the same time.

Nero walked towards Lux and Henrietta with a smile as he decided to join their competition in order to conquer the Hell Mode of the Sacred Dungeon.

"I overheard your discussion and thought that it is not a bad idea," Nero stated. "We only brought twenty five members on this expedition, and we lost six of them. Because of this, I am thinking of merging with Serenity for the duration of this mission and giving the role of temporary leader to Lady Henrietta."

"All I ask is that the resources be divided equally between our two guilds. As long as you can promise me that, we will gladly obey your orders. I think this is a better option than having two groups with separate leaders. This will only break the chain of command, and prevent our merged units from performing to the best of their abilities."



Henrieta nodded her head in satisfaction before glancing in Lux's direction.

"It seems that we do not need to compete any longer," Henrietta said before facing Nero. "As the Guild Master of Serenity, I happily welcome the Storm Dragons to join our team for this Dungeon exploration. Let's talk about how the shares will be divided in our temporary camp. Is that fine with you?"

"Of course," Nero replied with a smile. "I believe in Lady Henrietta's leadership, and I know that me and my members will be in good hands. As long as you don't betray our trust, we will be able to agree on many things."

"Very well. Let's negotiate over there."

"Ladies first."

Lux watched as the two Guild Masters moved to the corner of the cave and started to negotiate with each other.

The Half-Elf frowned but didn't say anything because it was Henrietta's choice whether to accept his offer or not.

However, for some reason, he had a nagging feeling at the back of his head as he looked at the brown-haired boy, whom he had defeated in the tournament not too long ago.

"Pa!"

"You feel it too, Eiko?"

"Pa!"

Lux rubbed his chin as he tried to understand this uncomfortable feeling that he was getting from Nero. He didn't know why his love rival suddenly decided to surrender the control of his guild members to Henrietta and join Serenity on their Dungeon expedition.

All he knew was that it didn't feel right, so he decided to let Eiko stay with Iris as Serenity challenged the Hell Mode of the dungeon.

Although not having the Baby Slime around would decrease his combat potential, he still decided to let Eiko accompany Iris in order to ensure that no harm would come to her.

'Just what is Nero scheming now?' Lux thought as he eyed the brown-haired boy. 'Whatever it is, I don't like it.'

As if sensing his gaze, Nero glanced in his direction and gave him a smirk. For a brief moment, a look of ridicule flashed through his eyes.

Nero had gotten over his loss to Lux after a week had passed. All that was in his head right now was to show everyone how competent he was, and prove that a single loss was not enough to tarnish the reputation he had built over the years through the hardships that he had encountered in Elysium.

## **Chapter 283: Entering The Sacred Dungeon**

After the break, several of the Guilds that had lost a lot of members decided to temporarily merge with each other in order to challenge the Sacred Dungeon.

Since Henrietta and Nero had already agreed on merging their guilds together, she politely declined Lux's offer and led Serenity towards the entrance of the Sacred Dungeon.

Eiko was currently perched on top of Iris' head. Lux had a nagging feeling in his guts and felt like something might happen during the blue-haired beauty's dungeon expedition.

So in order to add another layer of protection, he asked the baby Slime to go and protect her Mama from the unforeseen dangers that she might encounter inside the Sacred Dungeon.

"Be careful, okay?" Lux whispered in Iris' ears. "Be extra careful around Nero, too. I feel something off about him."

"Okay," Iris replied before planting a kiss on Lux's cheeks. "Take care as well. I'll see you later."

Lux nodded before sending Iris back to her guild members.

Just as he was about to gather the members of the Rowan Tribe, so they could start challenging the Dungeon, two young men, whom Lux had fought in the competition, approached him.

"What level of difficulty are you planning to challenge?" Einar Mordosk, the Barbarian Prince whom Lux had fought during the Qualifier Matches, asked.

"Hell Mode," Lux replied.

"What a coincidence, we are also challenging Hell Mode," Vall, the Spider Boy, commented. "Do you want to join forces?"

Lux arched an eyebrow as he gazed at the two teenagers that were part of the Four Kings and Five Overlords. He had no doubt that both of them were strong because he had already experienced their strength.

However, he didn't understand why both of them were asking him to collaborate with them in challenging the Hell Mode of the Sacred Dungeon.

"May I ask why the two of you decided to team up with me?" Lux asked.

"There are Guilds that have more members than the Rowan Faction. Wouldn't it be better to join them instead?"

"I only recognize strong people," Einar answered. "Since you have already proven your strength, having you watch my back will give me some peace of mind."

"He's right. I also feel the same way," Vall commented. "As long as we can agree to the division of the spoils, I'm sure that we will be able to loot more gains than any of the other factions aiming to challenge the Sacred Dungeon."

Lux glanced at Cai in askance, but the latter simply shrugged. Their main goal was to get the Sacred White Lotus inside the dungeon. If Einar and Vall agreed that their faction would be the one getting the flower, there would be room for cooperation.

"We came here for the Sacred White Lotus," Lux stated. "You can have the majority of the resources we'll gain inside the Dungeon, but this flower must be handed over to us."

"Ah. The Flower that is said to cure the Purple Plague? Sure. I don't mind," Einar casually waved his hand. "It doesn't matter who gets it. The cure will be shared with everyone within the Six Kingdoms after it is made after all."

Vall nodded his head in agreement. "I also don't have a problem with this arrangement. How about this? You get the flower, as well as 20% of the

overall spoils in the dungeon. Einar and I will have 40% each. How does that sound?"

"I agree to this condition," Lux replied and extended his hand for a handshake. "Pleasure working with the two of you."

Einar and Vall smiled as they shook the Half-Elf's hand one after the other. No one had been able to clear the Hell Mode of the Dungeon.

In fact, no one fully understood how this mode worked because most challengers were wiped out after just a few minutes of entering it.

They had only heard that the weakest monsters that were inside the dungeon were at least Rank 3, and it was suspected that the Boss Monsters in Hell Mode were either Pseudo-Deimos Ranked or Argonaut Ranked, but either way, they were extremely hard to kill.

Since no one had seen these bosses for themselves, only speculations of their rank served as basis.

However, the teenagers wanted to believe that the one that they would be fighting against was similar to the Adamantite Golem that they had met along the way to the Sacred Dungeon.

Even so, the thought of fighting such a monster was something they wanted to avoid as much as possible.

The Half-Elf glanced at Diablo, who was seated on Nightmare. Right now, Diablo's attack and defense stats had returned to normal because there were no dead monsters nearby.

It seemed that the boost on attack and defense given by the Blood Fervor Skill would disappear after an hour of staying idle or lack of corpses around the Skeleton Rider.

Even so, Lux wasn't worried. If Einar and Vall would indeed work alongside him to challenge the Dungeon, the chances of getting the flower was higher.

After finalizing the division of spoils, the three factions agreed that each of them would be commanding their own troops in battle.

Although this had a con of not being a cohesive unit as a whole, its advantage was flexibility. Each team could execute their attacks and defense, without worrying about the other guild that they were allied with.

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< You have Chosen Hell Mode >

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The mechanical voice sounded inside Lux's head before his group, as well as the guilds that had joined his party, disappeared from where they stood in front of the entrance of the Dungeon.

By the time they opened their eyes, they found themselves in a spacious hallway, enough for ten of Lux's Rock golems to walk side by side.

Those who had challenged the Hell Dungeon in the past reported that they were teleported in this very same hallway, before facing groups of Rank 4 Monsters that numbered in the dozens, led by an Alpha Monster of the same rank.

This was the reason why most of those who challenged this dungeon hadn't been able to go far. Monsters with that quantity and quality were simply hard to fight with less than thirty members in a party.

The maximum number of people that could enter the Instance Dungeon was a hundred.

Instance Dungeons were special areas, typically a Dungeon that could generate a new copy of the same location for each group, or for a certain number of players that entered the area.

Even if all the members of the expedition were to challenge the Sacred Dungeon at the same time, they would still be sent to different copies of the dungeon, unless they were in the same party.

"Everyone, raise your guard," Einar shouted. "We don't know what lies before us, so make sure to always keep your attention on your surroundings."

Just like their set up on the way to the Dungeon, Einar's group took the lead as the Vanguard, Vall's team served as scouts, while Lux's team served as reinforcements that guarded all sides.

After walking two hundred steps, the ground under their feet trembled.

Lux, who had experienced something similar in the Bronze Crypt, immediately issued commands to his teammates.

"Monsters might come out of the ground," Lux announced. "Everyone, brace yourselves!"

Cai immediately transformed into her Second Form and glanced at the ground under her feet.

As if waiting for that cue, several bony hands rose up to hold onto her hooves, but the Boar was one step ahead of them, and used her tusks to shatter the hands that dared to try to bind her in place.

The other members of the Rowan tribe did the same, but they were still surprised when they found themselves surrounded by hundreds of High-Level Undead that rose up from the ground underneath their feet.

"Do not panic!" Vall ordered his guild members, who had almost broken their formation. "Stand your ground! Protect the healers!"

Not far from them, the Barbarians handled the Skeletons calmly as they smashed their war axes into their bodies, cleaving their body parts.

The Undead were actually very weak, at most Rank 2 Monsters, but instead of being relieved, a frown appeared on Lux's, Vall's, and Einar's faces.

The information they received told them that the weakest monsters in the Hell Mode of the Dungeon were Rank 4 Monsters, so they couldn't help but wonder where these weak monsters were coming from.

As soon as they finished decimating the Undead around them, they heard a hollowed cackling sound, as if someone found their act very funny.

Half a minute later, the bones lying on the ground rose up in the air and combined together, forming a dozen Black Bone Golems.

"Rank 4 Grim Terror Bone Golems," Einar muttered as he held the War Axe firmly in his hand.

Lux, who had a strong connection with the Undead was still feeling wary of the cackling sound he'd heard earlier.

Although the dozen Rank 4 Bone Golems were quite difficult to handle, he was sure that whoever laughed at them earlier, posed a much higher threat than the monsters that were currently towering above their heads.

## **Chapter 284: Show Him The Power Of The Real King**

The Rank 4 Grim Terror Bone Golems were no ordinary Rank 4 Monsters.

They were Rank 4 Alpha Monsters.

Even as a group with less than a hundred members, fighting against a dozen Rank 4 Alpha Monster was doable. But what concerned Lux, Einar, and Vall, the respective leaders of the three factions that had allied together to challenge the Sacred Dungeon, was not these high-level monsters, but the monster who was pulling the strings from the shadows.

"We'll take down four each," Lux shouted. "The first one to finish their targets would assist the other two groups."

"Sounds like a plan," Einar commented.

Vall smiled without saying anything. Instead, he once again transformed into the Elegant Golden Jumping Spider, whose strength was just slightly stronger than one of the Grim Terror Bone Golems that they were fighting right now.

Immediately, a battle erupted as the teenagers divided the monster into three groups.

Lux had summoned his minions, letting Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, and Orion deal with two of the Bone Golems, while Cai, Keane, and the rest of the other teenagers of the Rowan Tribe dealt with the other two.

Naturally, Lux fought with the assistance of his summons in order to speed up the process. Although the battle was fierce, all the teenagers were able to kill their opponents one by one.

The first one to finish their enemies was none other than Lux's group. After that, they immediately helped Vall's team, and lastly, Einar's.

When the last of the Giant Bone Golems collapsed on the ground, their whole group cheered for having won a hard battle. However, there were four people who weren't smiling, and simply glanced at the shattered bones around them.

Lux, Einar, Vall, and Keane, didn't let their guard down.

It was as if they already knew what was going to happen next, and all of them were preparing to unleash their strongest attack at a moment's notice.

Suddenly, another cackling laughter echoed within the hallways.

A moment later, the bones that were lying on the ground, floated in the air and converged together, as if forming into something. The teenagers that had watched this scene felt a shiver run down their spine.

In just a minute, a giant Skeleton with obsidian bones, wearing a black crown on its head, roared in front of them.

Lux narrowed his eyes as the information of their new opponent appeared before him.

< Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King >

– Skeleton King

– Rank 5 Field Boss Monster

Health: 3,750,000 / 3,750,000

Mana: 250,000 / 250,000

Strength: 1500

Intelligence: 500

Vitality: 2500



Agility: 600

Dexterity: 600

As soon as the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King took a fighting stance, the unholy cackling spread in the hallways, as if mocking the teenager's futile struggle for survival.

"Let me handle this," Cai stepped forward as it glared at the Field Boss Monster in front of it. "Third Gear..."

However, before it could even activate its Trump Card that it wasn't able to use in the tournament, Lux raised his hand sideways in order to stop the Boar from continuing its next transformation.

"Leave it to me," Lux replied. "None of you interfere."

As a Necromancer, he felt as if the one laughing somewhere in the dungeon was mocking him. This was something that he couldn't stand and he decided to make it choke on its laughter by activating his latest Trump Card.

After the tournament ended, Alexander had passed to him a golden ring where the rewards for the Champion were stored. When Lux received the ring, he wasn't able to believe what he saw because the rewards were simply too good to be true.

Six Argonaut Ranked Beast Cores

Twelve Deimos Ranked Beast Cores.

A hundred Rank 5 Beast Cores

A thousand Rank 4 Beast Cores

Two thousand Rank 3 Beast Cores

Three thousand Rank 2 Beast Cores

Five thousand Rank 1 Beast Cores.

A million gold coins.

There were also several weapons, armors, and artifacts, which Lux planned to use during the dungeon expedition.

Lux had used all of his Rank 1 Beast Cores and nearly exhausted his Rank 2 Beast Cores in order to unlock another ally that would make his Undead Legion's strength increase drastically.

"Asmodeus, shut his trap," Lux ordered. "Show him the power of the real King."

Immediately, a magic circle appeared beside Lux, and his newest Named Creature made his presence known to all.

< Asmodeus >

"I stopped fighting my inner demons. We are on the same side now."

– Named Skeleton Mage

– Lich Lord

– Rating: A

– Progress ( 0 / 40,000)

Health: 10,000 / 10,000

Mana: 140,000 / 140,000

Strength: 105

Intelligence: 700

Vitality: 200

Agility: 105

Dexterity: 105

Active Skills: Tame Undead, Bone Prison, Death Coil, Life Drain, Summon Deathscythe, Poison Dagger, Summon Flame Skulls, All of Lux's Active Skills.

Passive Skills: Mana Regeneration, Health Regeneration, All of Lux's Passive Skills.

Title: Lord's Equal

– Asmodeus is your fifth Named Creature and has been bestowed the title of Lord's Equal.

– This Named Creature has gained the ability to evolve.

< Lord's Equal >

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

– As his Lord's Equal, Asmodeus would be able to summon the exact same number of minions that his Master can summon, with the exceptions of Named Creatures.

– As his Lord's Equal, Asmodeus would be able to use all the Necromantic Spells that his Master currently has.

– As his Lord's Equal, Asmodeus will gain access to all of his Master's skills, with the exception of Blood-line abilities.

– When fighting alongside his Master, all of Asmodeus Stats will increase by 50%

Note: The devil is and always will be a gentleman.

< Tame Undead >

– You will be able to tame any undead creatures that are two ranks higher than you.

– Maximum number of Tamed Creatures is one.

– If you tame another Undead Creature while you own another, the first Undead Creature will disappear and be replaced by the new one.

A lich, who wore kingly robes and a bejeweled golden crown on his head, appeared beside Lux and looked up at the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King.

"This hallway isn't big enough for two kings," Asmodeus said with a trace of amusement in its cold voice. "But I'll make an exception if you become my servant."

As if feeling that its dignity had just been challenged, the Skeleton King glared at the Lich Lord, who dared to think of making it his servant, and raised its obsidian sword in preparation to strike the lich down.

"So the answer is no?" Asmodeus raised his finger and pointed it at the Skeleton King's head. "What you think doesn't really matter. The one who gets to decide your fate is me, not you."

The Skeleton King had enough of the Lich's bullsh\*t and decided to erase its existence from the world.

"Tame Undead."

The Giant Obsidian Sword stopped a foot away from Asmodeus' head. Cai, Keane, Einar, and Vall had already distanced themselves away from the Giant Skeleton King, thinking that it would instantly annihilate Lux's newest Named Creature and attack them all afterwards.

However, the scene they were expecting didn't happen. Instead, their eyes widened in shock at the unexpected turn of events that happened in front of them.

The Giant Obsidian Skeleton King raised its sword once again and knelt like a knight in front of Asmodeus, swearing its fealty to its new lord.

Suddenly, a roar of anger reverberated within the hallway. Clearly, it wasn't pleased with what had happened to its servant.

"What's wrong?" Lux sneered at the end of the hallway. "No longer laughing?"

A wrath-filled roar followed suit, but after that, the entire hallway suddenly became quiet.

The only thing that could be heard was the ragged breathing of everyone, who was still in disbelief of what just happened in front of them.

"D-Did he just tame a Rank 5 Field Boss Monster?" Cai stuttered in disbelief.

"Yes," Keane, who was standing not far from her, replied.

Einar and Vall both had their lips tightly shut as they glanced at Lux who had his arms crossed over his chest. They thought that they had already seen the extent of his power during the tournament. However, what they saw now was simply unbelievable. If they didn't witness it personally, they wouldn't believe it even if it was said to them by someone they trusted.

Just before everyone could come to terms with what just transpired, the Giant Skeleton King reached out its palm towards Asmodeus.

A second later, the Giant Skeleton King placed the Lich Lord on its shoulders before standing up.

With a wave of his hand, Asmodeus summoned thirty-five Skeleton fighters, thirty skeleton Grand Archers, and two Rock Golems.

Having the Title, Lord's Equal, he had the exact same skills as Lux had, with the exception of his Dragon War Arts that could only be used by the power of the Dragon Bloodline.

This was also the reason why Lux didn't bat an eye when he asked Eiko to look after Iris. Asmodeus had the exact same powers as him, making him a true powerhouse among Lux's Named Creatures.

"Let's go," Lux ordered. "Asmodeus, lead the way."

"As you wish," Asmodeus gave Lux a respectful nod while seated on the shoulder of the Giant Obsidian Skeleton King.

He then led the way, while Lux and his skeletons followed behind. It took half a minute for the others to snap out of their daze and follow behind the Half-Elf, who made them realize that the Champion of the Tournament was more formidable than what they had seen during the tournament. they thought he would be.

## **Chapter 285.1: Into The Valley Of Death [Part 1]**

"Um, is that Rank 5 Field Monster now a pet of yours?" Cai asked as it walked beside Lux.

"Not my pet," Lux answered. "It's Asmodeus' pet."

"But isn't that the same thing?"

"Well, in a way, yes."

For an Apostle, having a Rank 5 Field Boss Monster as a pet was something unthinkable. As far as Cai knew, only the powerful high-ranking nobles and the nobility in Elysium had the luxury of having one as their bodyguard, but for Solaians, having a Rank 5 Field Monster at their beck and call was truly unbelievable.

In fact, Lux should be the only Apostle-Grade teenager within the Six Kingdoms that had such a powerful "Pawn" by his side, which made them feel that clearing the Sacred Dungeon had now become a lot easier.

But, contrary to what everyone thought, Lux didn't feel the same way. If a Rank 5 Field Boss Monster was present at the very starting point of the Dungeon, it only meant that the one manipulating it earlier was a creature that far surpassed the Rank 5 threshold.

'Either Pseudo-Deimos or Deimos-Ranked,' Lux thought as he walked towards the end of the hallway. 'The worst case scenario is that the bosses in this Dungeon are Argonaut-Ranked.'

Although Lux had the Golden Dragon Token, which allowed him to summon Keoza, he was very reluctant to use it unless necessary. It was one of his life-saving Trump Cards, and it could only be used two more times.

He was prepared to use one of those opportunities when he entered the Sacred Dungeon because of the things he had heard about it. Even so, he only planned to use it as a last resort.

'I'll cross the bridge when I get there,' Lux thought. 'If my life is in danger, I will not hesitate to use the token.'

Although dying inside the Dungeon would only reduce his stat points, this was something that Lux didn't want to happen. Even with the Beast Cores in his possession that could propel him to the Initiate Rank, he deemed that it was best to just use them to improve the quality of his Skeleton Summons first by staying in the areas that were exclusive for Apostles.

Also, he still hadn't met with Colette, Matty, and the others. The Half-Elf personally wanted to give them an apology for not telling them about the plan he had made in order to hoodwink Twilight Rain.

He had thought that the less people that knew about the plan, the safer they would be. Lux had gotten in the way of the Secret Organization many times, and they had even dispatched Initiates to deal with him.

If they found out that he had close ties with Colette and the others, the chances of them being targeted as well was high. This was why Lux decided to "die" as soon as possible. He hoped that the animosity of Twilight Rain would end with his death, and they would no longer target the people that were important to him in the Kingdom of Gweliven.

'I wonder if they are still mad at me...' Lux could only sigh in his heart as he neared the end of the Hallway. He knew that right now, he needed to focus on the task at hand, so he decided to set aside the topic of their reunion.

After exiting the hallway, they found themselves staring at a spacious hall with five closed gates with different colors.

Lux frowned as he walked at the golden gate that stood at the very center of the hallway and read the letters that glistened on its surface out loud for everyone to hear.

-----

"Four horsemen of the Apocalypse,

Conquest, War, Famine, and Death.

These four laughed at the folly of humanity,  
and watch mankind take its final breath."

– The First Rider feeds desperate places,

His white coat brings false hope.

For him, peace has two faces,

Strife that ends hanging on a bloody rope.

– The Second Rider brings carnage like a mad hound,

His red eyes filled with burning desire,

Dire screams fill the air when the trumpets sound,

War that ends deep in a sinister mire.

– The Third Rider never felt any reason to mourn,

His black soul laughs when others slowly decay.

People wish that they were never born,

Famine that ends in an uncontrolled dismay.

– The Fourth Rider is poisoned with wrath,

His pale skin breaks every heart filling it with fear.

Corpses laying on his traveled path,

Death that ends in a timeless tear.

– He who seeks to release these Devils upon the world.

Do you know what monsters you plan to let loose of your own accord?

Someone who's weak-willed must never even try,

For the consequences of their actions will make many people die.

-----

(A/N: The author of the poem is named Niels. I just added a few things, but the poem belongs to him. There's no other information I can get aside from the fact that he is 31 years old and lives in the Netherlands. All credit belongs to him.)

-----

After reading the words written on the golden gate, Lux glanced at the four other gates located on his left and right sides.



On each of the colored gates, the words Conquest, War, Famine, and Death were written respectively. According to what limited information they had, the Sacred White Lotus was seen on the gate that represented Death.

"So, which gate are we taking?" Einar, the Barbarian Prince asked.

Lux pointed at the Black Gate. "We're going to the Gate that represents Death."

"Sounds ominous," Vall commented from the side. "But, since we're already here, why not?"

Both Einar and Vall knew that Lux had come for the Sacred White Lotus. In fact, it was not only them. The majority of those that entered the Hidden Dungeon this time all changed their goals from challenging the Normal Mode into Hell Mode.

The reason for this was simple.

The Purple Plague was starting to become active again along the borders of the Six Kingdoms. Although proper steps were being taken to "freeze" all of those who were infected by the disease, they understood that this was merely a stop-gap measure, and not a cure for the problem at hand.

Because of this, the Six Kingdoms had ordered their elite candidates to acquire the Sacred White Lotus no matter the cost. Even if they had to ally themselves with other guilds to do it.

The Six Kingdoms, Barbatos Academy, and the Rowan Tribe had an unwritten agreement that whoever gets the Sacred White Lotus, its benefits would be shared to all of them.

---

Welcome to the Valley of Death.

---

The monotonous voice spread in the surroundings, as if confirming that they had really entered the Gate of Death.

Lux and the rest scanned their surroundings first to check for any hidden dangers that might be present in it.

Just like the name suggested, they had appeared in a valley, where countless bones littered the ground.

Several banners fluttered in the breeze, and each of them represented the armies that had fought to the death, covering the valley with the air of death and destruction.

Lux paid close attention to Diablo's stats to see if the dead bodies in the surroundings were boosting his Blood Fervor passive skill. Unfortunately, nothing changed. This meant that the dead bodies that littered the ground didn't trigger the passive skill's effects, and were merely there as props or for something sinister that they would have to face later on.

"Everyone, be careful," Einar shouted. "You already know what happened earlier. Stick together and do not wander around aimlessly. Also, don't touch anythi—"

Einar wasn't able to finish his sentence because Cai had already gone to the battlefield, picking up the swords that littered the ground.

"Hahaha! So many swords!" Cai said as it happily tossed the swords inside its storage bag. "Grandpa will be very pleased after I bring these back to him. Oh... this one is of high quality, not bad."

The corner of Einar's lips twitched. He shifted his attention to Lux and gave him the "Bro, can't you even take care of your own subordinates?" look.

Before Lux could even shout and tell Cai to return, the Boar suddenly shouted and uttered a curse.

As it was picking up a sword that it fancied, the hand that was holding the sword held it firmly, not wanting to let go.

"Damn, you're already dead and you still don't want to let go of this sword?" Cai cursed as it stomped on the Skeleton's arm with the intention of breaking it to pieces. "Let go!"

However, no matter how hard it stomped on the bony hand that held the ornate sword in a firm grip, it didn't shatter.

Just as Cai was about to unleash a barrage of stomps to show the Skeleton who was the boss, the ground under their feet trembled.

The Skeleton's other bony hand rose up to catch Cai's hoof and stopped it from descending on its sword arm, making the Boar squeal in shock.

A moment later, it propped itself up from the ground and pushed Cai's hoof with a force that sent the latter flying away like a cannonball.

Suddenly, the sounds of countless rattling bones reverberated in the surroundings. The noise was so loud that Lux was forced to cover his ears because he had very sensitive hearing.

"I knew it," Vall said in a helpless tone.

Everyone stood in shock as countless Skeletons rose up from where they lay, and raised their weapons towards the sky.

Lux immediately activated his appraisal skill and the information he saw made him understand that staying on the battlefield was an option that they couldn't afford to take.

"Run!" Lux shouted, as he ran straight towards the South East, with the intention of scaling the side of the mountains in order to escape the vast Skeleton army. Every single Skeleton within it were all Rank 4, making it impossible for any of them to stand up against them.

The only option was to escape and hope that the Skeletons would slow down on the uphill climb.

As everyone was running for their lives, Cai, who had been busy cursing at the Skeleton earlier, was running away from a chariot that was being manned by several Undead Warriors, which seemed to be keen on hunting her down.

In an attempt to escape its pursuers, it immediately transformed into its Second Form, Hildivisni, and charged like a madlad towards the Southeast in order to put as much distance as possible between her and her pursuers.

Everyone knew that if any of them were caught up by the Skeleton Legion, only death awaited them. This was why they ran with everything they had towards their destination because their lives depended on it.

## **Chapter 286.2: Into The Valley Of Death [Part 2]**

When the teenagers scaled the cliffs beside the valley, the Skeleton Legion stopped pursuing them.

Instead they all returned to the battlefield and once again laid on the ground, as if nothing had happened.

Lux, Einar, and Vall gathered together to have a meeting as to what their next course of action would be.

"There is no information that we can use in exploring this Dungeon," Einar said. "From here on out, we just need to keep a close eye on our surroundings. We don't want to find ourselves surrounded by that massive Undead Army. There's simply no way out of that thing."

Lux and Vall nodded their heads. They were of the same opinion.

"I have a feeling that this Dungeon floor is just one big area with the Undead Army at its core," Vall commented. "It is possible that we need to reach its center in order to clear it. But, that is clearly suicide."

"Unless we really understand how this Dungeon works, it is best that we spend some time scouting the place. It will take a lot of time, but it will be safer to check the outskirts first than fight that Undead Army head-on."

Lux rubbed his chin as he pondered his next move. In truth, after they had run away from the Undead Army, he received a quest notification that explained how the Death Valley came to be.

-----

< The Flower of Death >

Mission Rating: S

– In the distant past, two warring kingdoms fought for supremacy within the Valley of Death. The battle was so fierce, that countless lives were lost during the conflict.

– However, just before the battle was about to reach a conclusion, a third party arrived and decimated the bulk of the two armies, forcing them to make a hasty retreat from the battlefield.

– Since then, no one has dared to enter the valley in fear that the countless people that died inside it would drag all of them to join them in the afterlife. Your Mission is to eliminate the third party that hides within the Valley of Death, and ensure that their tyranny ends once and for all.

< Quest Objective >

– Kill the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant.

< Quest Rewards >

+10 to Skeleton Summoning Skills

+10 to Skeleton Archer Summoning Skills

+2 to Golem Summoning Skills

+2 to Skeleton Mage Summoning Skills

+5,000 Body Cultivation Points

– 500,000 Gold Coins

– Beholder's Legacy

– The Flower of Death

---

The quest rewards were pretty straight forward with the exception of the Beholder's Legacy, as well as the Flower of Death.

The Half-Elf didn't know if the Flower of Death and the Sacred White Lotus were one and the same, but he had a feeling that it was no ordinary flower.

His only concern was how to inform his allies about the scary opponent that they would face, and how he managed to stumble upon such important information when this was his first time entering the Sacred Dungeon.

Perhaps, noticing his silence, Cai, who had always done everything at its own pace, poked his back with its hoof.

"What's wrong?" Cai asked. "Don't tell me those Skeletons scared you. You're supposed to be a Necromancer, right? Why don't you just let your Undead units fight them head-on. Also, you have the Obsidian Skeleton King as a lackey. Although it would only survive for ten minutes fighting that Undead Army, it will still be able to hold them off for a period of time."

Lux gave the Boar a side-long glance before shifting his gaze towards Einar, and Vall, who were waiting for his opinion about the problem that they were facing.

"Before I left the Academy, someone sent me an anonymous letter about the monster that we would be facing if we challenged the gate that had the word 'Death' written on it," Lux said with a calm expression on his face. "Included in the letter was the name of the enemy that we would have to face if we chose to enter this route."

The Half-Elf was trying to bullsh\*t his way through this problem by using an anonymous letter as a base. Although it sounded suspicious, it was still a good alternative to prevent others from becoming overly suspicious about what he was about to say.

"An anonymous letter?" Cai asked. "What did it say?"

"It said, if you were to challenge the Gate of Death where the Sacred White Lotus can be found, be careful of the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant that commands the Undead. It will be your greatest foe, and few have survived its deathly gaze and lived to tell the tale.

"W-What did you say?!" Einar couldn't believe what he had just heard and grabbed Lux's robes and lifted him in the air. "Oi. tell me that you're joking. You're telling us that the monster we are about to face is a Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant?! Do you have any idea what that is?!"

Even Vall, who was usually the most composed person in their group paled after hearing that the enemy they would be facing was a Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant.

This monster was often seen in High-Level Undead Dungeons, with a challenge Rating of A and above.

Simply put, the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant was a Pseudo-Deimos-Ranked World Boss, which was similar to the Adamantite Golem that they

saw on the way to the Sacred Dungeon. It was not an easy opponent to face and all recovery, and healing abilities didn't work under its gaze.

The worst part was that anyone that died would be raised up as an Undead, and would become its slave for life. The only way to free them from this unholy servitude was to kill the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant.

Death Tyrants, in general, were former Beholders. These were giant, sphere-like monsters with tentacle-like protrusions (sometimes called eye-stalks) on their bodies that contained eyes, and one giant central eye at the center of its main body.

They were truly horrifying existences, and no one wanted to face such creatures whenever they explored labyrinths, or any other ancient ruins, because of how nefarious they were.

It was almost impossible to ambush a beholder because its many eyes could see in every angle. Also, all of them contained an ability of their own. A Beholder's eyes could petrify, charm, instill fear, slow, paralyze, blind, and instantly kill their enemies.

There were occasions when all of these abilities were used all at once, in order to finish off their enemies in one fell swoop. They were also very resistant to magic because the central eye emitted an Anti-Magic Field, preventing anyone from harming it with magic.

A Death Tyrant was a Beholder who had dreamt itself to exist beyond death, or something or someone had been turned into one due to outside interference. Either way, it had retained its intelligence, and gained a few other abilities that would put all living creatures under its mercy.

"Now, I fully understand why no one was able to conquer the Hell Dungeon," Xander, one of the Five Overlords and member of the Rowan Tribe, commented.

"If the four gates that represent Conquest, War, Famine, and Death, each have a Pseudo-Deimos Monster as its boss, it could only mean that the Golden Gate at its center—which I believe would open once the four gate had been conquered—would have a Deimos-Ranked Monster, or possibly even a Pseudo-Argonaut Monster inside it."

Those who heard Xander's words shuddered at the nearly impossible mission that they were facing.

For some reason, the Sacred Dungeon could only hold five-hundred people at any given time. This included those who were challenging the dungeon separately from the rest. Because of this, the Six Kingdoms, the Barbatos Academy, and Rowan Tribe, could only send a limited number of individuals each time the Hidden Domain opened.

Because of greed, and their own pursuit for power, they had never considered forming a five-hundred man team to challenge the Dungeon as a group, and instead settled for smaller parties, in the hope that the gains they would get would outweigh the dangers that their limited numbers would be facing.

Lux, who was still being raised high up in the air by Einar, lightly tapped the Barbarian's wrist with his hand.

"Regardless of what we are facing, we have no choice but to face it," Lux replied. "You came here knowing the dangers that we are going to face. You, me, and everyone here, all of us have no choice but to continue moving forward. Or are you saying that you are giving up? If you are then feel free to leave this place in a manner of your choosing."

Einar snorted but he lowered Lux and allowed him to stand on his two feet once again. He didn't have any intention of hurting the Half-Elf. It was just that his body moved on its own and before he knew it, he was already holding the Half-Elf in his hands.

Just like the Half-Elf had said, he came here knowing the dangers he would face. He was just surprised that the opponent they would be facing right off the bat would be something so sinister that he wanted to confirm if the information Lux was sharing with them was true.

"Let's rest here for an hour," the Half-Elf said as he glanced at the distant battlefield in the center of the valley. "After that, we will split into teams and scout the surrounding areas. If we really don't find anything else, prepare yourselves for an uphill battle. We will definitely have a tough time from this moment onwards."



## Chapter 287.1: Staring Into The Eyes Of Death [Part 1]

The Valley of Death's terrain was much more complicated than Lux had originally expected. It had marshlands, forests, and uneven terrains, which made it difficult to navigate.

Since they already had an idea about what they were going to face, the three factions that were led by Lux, Einar, and Vall scoured the surrounding areas to check its every nook and cranny.

Several hours later, they met at the make-shift camp they had set up and told each other their findings.

"Just as we expected, there are no animals or any other forms of life aside from the flora in the surroundings," Einar said as he used a branch to draw on the ground. "In the Northeast, there is a marshland. Some of the areas are relatively deep, but at most, it would only reach up to our chests."

Vall, who also held a branch in his hand, drew something on the Southwest corner of the map.

"I traveled to the outskirts of the Valley of Death to check if I would incite any reactions from the Undead," Vall stated. "However, the Skeleton Army didn't make a move to intercept me, and simply stayed where they were. Thanks to that, I was able to travel to the other side and see what lay beyond that point."

"Unfortunately, just as Einar said earlier, I only saw a forest, a marshland, and uneven terrain. I didn't see any living creatures. Even the buzzing of insects was non-existent."

Lux sighed in his heart. Since there was nothing that could be found along the outskirts of the Dungeon, it meant that they had no choice but to head towards the center, which was protected by hordes of Undead whose weakest Monster was Rank 4.

Einar and Vall both had frowns on their faces. They just couldn't think of a way to deal with the vast hordes of Undead to get to the center of the Valley of Death, where they believed the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant was hiding.

"So, what's the plan?" Einar asked.

"Should you even be asking that?" Vall snorted. "Since there is no other way but to go forward, we will have no choice but to go forward."

Lux, who was still staring at the map drawn on the ground, remained calm, which surprised the two teenagers who were with him.

"Actually, this isn't as bad as you think it is," Lux said after a few minutes of silence. "Although it will take us a long time to achieve it, I believe that we will be able to overcome the Hordes of Monsters. However, in order for that to happen, I will need both of your full cooperation."

Einar arched an eyebrow as he gazed at the Half-Elf, who seemed to have formulated a plan in his head.

"You have my attention," Vall commented. "As for my cooperation, let me hear you out first."

Einar nodded his head in agreement. Although he didn't mind charging into a horde of Undead to directly smash them to pieces, he needed to know if his effort would pay off in the end.

"Trust me," Lux said. "Even if it takes a day, or two, as long as we reach a certain milestone, even if we faced the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant, I have the confidence to kill it."

Einar and Vall glanced at Lux. The Half-Elf's words sounded quite confident that they were persuaded to feel like he might be able to make it a reality.

The appearance of Asmodeus, who had managed to tame a Rank 5 Field Monster, made everyone view the red-headed teenager in a new light.

Since they had already come this far, they decided that they would first see if Lux could back up his words. Naturally, the Half-Elf knew what Einar and Vall were thinking.

He decided not to say anything and let his actions do the talking for him.

"Okay, now, let us start our strategy meeting for clearing this dungeon floor," Lux said with a serious expression on his face.

A few hours later.

The Valley of Death trembled as countless Undead rose up from their slumber and attacked Orion, as well as four Rock Golems that were supporting it.

The Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King had also joined the fray, decimating any Undead that was within its Obsidian Sword's range.

Diablo, Ishtar, Asmodeus, the Skeleton Fighters, and Skeleton Grand Archers fought with everything they had, which contrasted against Lux, who was cooking stew on the cliff, as he overlooked the battle.

The Barbarians led by Einar, and the warriors led by Vall, also joined the battle.

Cai and Keane led the members of the Rowan Tribe to join the fight.

Their strategy was like this: the Rock Golems would lure the Monsters to the outskirts of the battlefield, where they would be gangbanged by everyone. Lux's role was to stay at the highest vantage point of the battlefield, so he could immediately warn everyone if the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant appeared.

Lux didn't divulge the secret of Diablo's skills to anyone. He had tested it out earlier, and he was pleased to learn that, when the Rank 4 Skeletons died, the passive skill in Diablo's armor activated and increased his attack and defense by five.

The Half-Elf planned a long and gruesome battle, allowing Diablo's attack to reach a level where even a Pseudo-Deimos Ranked Monster would feel a sh\*t load of pain every time it received even a single blow from his Named Creature.

Diablo's attacks had the Ethereal Element, which meant that it would deal true damage to anything it hit, regardless of how high its defense was. Back then, Lux thought that this was a pretty nice thing because he didn't fully understand how this skill worked.

However, after fighting strong Bosses, he finally realized how deadly Diablo's attacks were because they ignored all kinds of defenses and allowed him to deal a severe blow to his enemies once his attack and defense reached a certain threshold.

If Diablo's attack reached six digits, even an opponent with Millions of HP would not be able to brush off the Skeleton Rider's attacks, which was one of Lux's trump cards in battle.

'I'm sure that they will also realize it later,' Lux thought. 'But as long as I don't say anything, Einar's and Vall's suspicions will just remain as suspicions.'

Blood Fervor was a broken ability, so Lux didn't plan to tell anyone that his Skeleton Rider possessed it. As long as he kept mum, even if someone asked, they would just leave with more questions instead of less.

Just as the Half-Elf expected, the Undead ultimately overwhelmed the defenders, forcing them to retreat. Orion and the Rock Golems covered the retreat of the teenagers before shattering into rubble.

The Skeleton Fighters also died in battle, and only Diablo remained on the battlefield with half of its Health Points still intact. Its lifesteal ability wasn't working, so it was unable to regain its Health Points in a prolonged battle.

This proved that the Death Tyrant was monitoring the battle as well. This monster had the power to negate any healing and recovery abilities, which made it a very tough opponent to fight during expeditions.

Lux had already expected this outcome, so he wasn't worried. He just ordered Diablo to retreat to the farthest place in the map, near the Forest. The moment his Health Points started regenerating, it meant that he had gotten out of the range of the Death Tyrant's abilities.

Whenever Diablo's health fully recovered, the Half-Elf would once again summon his minions for another round of battle.

An hour passed...

Two hours passed...

More hours passed...

Einar had been hacking their enemies non-stop and his shoulders had started to turn numb. The War Axe in his hand also became very heavy, making him exert more effort with every strike.

Even Vall had taken on his human form because he couldn't keep up his transformation for long periods of time. They had already been fighting for several hours, and they were nearing their limit.

Fighting a Rank 4 Monster wasn't an easy thing. Although the Rock Golems were only luring dozens at a time, it still took a toll on their bodies.

In the end, the teenagers left the battlefield completely, to let all of them rest and recover their strength. Only the Undead remained, and they continued to attack their enemies one by one, further increasing Diablo's attack power.

Suddenly, Lux saw something red flash at the center of the Valley of Death.

"So, you finally aren't able to keep still, huh?" Lux sneered at the Giant Skull whose deadly eyes were now gazing in his direction.

Although the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant had made its appearance, it didn't move from where it hovered. Instead, it kept on summoning more Undead Soldiers to fight for it, making the sneer on the Half-Elf's face widen.

Lux knew that if the Death Tyrant didn't make a move soon, Diablo's strength would finally reach six digits, making him a formidable foe to both the living and the dead.

## **Chapter 288.2: Staring Into The Eyes Of Death [Part 2]**

If given enough time, Lux was confident that Diablo's damage would reach a staggering level.

Right now, the Skeleton Rider's bonus damage and defense had already surpassed ten thousand, which was considered immensely powerful.

Rank 4 Monsters weren't easy opponents, so even after many hours in battle, they only managed to kill a little more than two thousand of them.

If Diablo had only been fighting Rank 1 and 2 Monsters, perhaps his damage might have already surpassed over fifty thousand by now.

The Half-Elf already expected that this would be a long and drawn out battle. Their strategy was luring dozens of skeletons by batches because fighting over a hundred Rank 4 Monsters with their ranks would be too dangerous.

Healing abilities didn't work because the Death Tyrant was actively using its ability that prevented any restorative and healing skills from taking effect. Because of this, the Clerics and other Jobs, who were tasked to heal their allies, felt frustrated.

In the end, Lux couldn't do anything but let the injured pull back from the battlefield and towards the very rear of their temporary camp, so that the healers could tend to them.

Just as the Half-Elf thought that the Boss Monster wouldn't move from its location, it started to head towards their direction. However, for some reason, Lux thought that something was very off with the opponent that he was about to face.

When looking at it with his appraisal skill, the stats of the Monstrous Terror Death Tyrant wouldn't show. Even its name was made up of weird characters, and only its health was visible. But even then, something still felt off, yet he still couldn't put his finger on what was wrong with it.

—

< %#% @ & # ^ % >

Health: 1,238,987 / 1,238,987

Mana: ?????

Strength: ????

Intelligence: ????

Vitality: ????

Agility: ????

Dexterity: ????

-----

'Is this some kind of bug?' Lux wondered.

There had been several times when the compendium wasn't able to determine the strength of the enemy, and only had question marks for the stats of the monster. However, this time it was different.

This time, even the name of the monster couldn't be accessed, which perplexed the Half-Elf.

"So the boss has decided to enter the fray," Einar said as he gazed at the approaching monster with a solemn look on his face. "What do we do now?"

"We retreat," Lux said decisively. "We are still unable to beat that thing. We need more time."

Vall frowned but didn't say anything. The skeletons that they had killed didn't drop any Beast Cores. However, that was not the main issue.

The problem was the shattered skeleton bones that could reattach themselves after half an hour, making the teenagers fighting them feel helpless.

Lux had told them that they would need to spend at least a few days in order to beat the Boss Monster, so they already expected that the battle wouldn't be ending soon. But knowing that they had to retreat once the Boss Monster personally made a move on the battlefield still frustrated them.

"Everyone pull back!" Cai ordered as it ran back to the area where the three leaders were located. "I may not be good at fighting, but I am very good at running away! Come after me if you dare, you overgrown eyeball!"

The Death Tyrant suddenly stopped hovering and aimed all of its eyes at the Boar who had taunted it. A few seconds later, all of its eyes emitted death rays, which were aimed at the Boar's direction, making Cai squeal in panic and run like there's no tomorrow.

The ground that the dark rays hit instantly turned completely black, making the other teenagers feel the hairs at the back of their necks stand on end.

All of them ran with all of their might, only leaving Lux's undead minions to cover their retreat.

The Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King raised its Bone Shield and blocked the Death Tyrant's second barrage of Death Rays, shielding the teenagers completely from this deadly attack.

'Strange, if I remember correctly, each of the Beholder's eyes have a different ability,' Lux thought as he backed away just like everyone else. 'But all of the Death Tyrant's eyes can shoot Death Rays. Is this some kind of mutated species? Is that the reason why its name can't be read?'

Lux didn't know the answer to these questions right now because the Death Tyrant was still emitting Death Rays, which were being blocked by the Giant Skeleton King, who was quite resistant to it.

These ray attacks were especially deadly to living creatures, but it wouldn't deal much damage against the Undead. The Skeleton King would receive greater damage against the Skeleton Army, than fighting against the Death Tyrant, who seemed to only know how to use Death Rays.

"Orion, do it!" Lux ordered.

The Rock Golem roared as it charged towards the Death Tyrant with the intention of smashing its giant eye with its rocky fist.

Just as Orion was nearing its target, the Death Tyrant's giant eye flashed once, instantly making Orion's running speed come to a complete crawl.

After Orion's speed drastically slowed down, it was swarmed by the Undead Legion, and it was forced to defend itself by bashing and punching its enemies left and right.

The Death Tyrant wasn't being idle and once again shot Death Rays towards Orion. Unlike the Skeleton King, who was very resistant to the attack, Orion, although not instantly killed, received a lot of damage.

Little by little, its health dropped until it shattered into rubble.

Lux summoned his Soulbook and immediately checked Orion's Page. The first thing he looked at was the Rock Golem's revenge list and true enough, the gibberish name appeared on it.

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< Revenge List >

1. < %#%@&#^% >

Number of Deaths: 1

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Lux suddenly had an idea as he retreated to a safe place. Five minutes later, he once again summoned Orion, allowing the Rock Golem to attack the Death Tyrant for the second time.

Orion was a Revenger

When Orion is killed by an enemy, he will add the name of that creature in his Revenge List. The next time he faced the same enemy, all of his stats will increase by 200%.

Everytime he was killed by the same creature a 10% stacking bonus would be added to his increased stats.

Simply put, Orion could fight the enemy over and over again, until it reached a point where its stats would overwhelm its enemy, making them unable to kill it anymore.

In truth, this was Lux's Plan B.

If Diablo's increased attack and defense didn't reach the six digits before the Boss Monster's arrival, he would send Orion to confront it repeatedly.

By doing so, Orion would gain a massive increase in its stats after its repeated deaths, allowing it to get his revenge on the Monster that was making things difficult for them.

Even though Einar and Vall didn't know what Lux's summons were capable of doing, they weren't dumb.

They understood that the Half-Elf had a reason for repeatedly sending his Rock Golem to die against the Death Tyrant, who had been lured away from the horde of Skeletons that had stopped their pursuit and returned to the center of the Valley.

Over and over, Orion died. However, each time he was re-summoned, he would survive a little longer than before.

In the end, as if getting tired of fighting against the Rock Golem, the Death Tyrant blinked away several times until it had returned at the center of the plains, where the army of the dead protected it.

'Only 260%.' Lux sighed in his heart. 'This will be a long battle indeed.'

The Half-Elf then glanced at the members of the Rowan Tribe, the Barbarians, as well as Vall's guild, who were all currently resting.

All of them had done their best, and Lux had no complaints whatsoever. In the end, only his tireless Undead Army was left fighting. They used Ishtar's long range attack to attract a few skeletons towards them.

Although this was a pitiful attempt to raise Diablo's bonuses, Lux decided to leave the rest to his subordinates and take a rest as well.

Although he simply observed the battlefield, he felt drained because he kept on summoning the Skeletons, as well as the Rock Golems that were continuously dying.

In the end, he let Asmodeus take his place, as he went to sleep with the others. Since the Lich Lord could summon the same number of Skeletons that he could, there was no problem in keeping the battle going even if he wasn't monitoring the battlefield.

The teenagers had assigned watchers to keep a look out for any changes in the battlefield. Lux heavily emphasized that if the Death Tyrant appeared again, they should wake him up as soon as possible.

He planned to make Diablo and Orion his hard hitters during this battle, and he would make sure that their pesky enemy would finally be blown away by the counterattack that would happen once the Skeleton Rider and the Rock Golem gain enough power to conquer the Valley of Death, once and for all.