

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

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Dealing With The Uninvited Guest [Part 3] |

Chapter 353.3: Dealing With The Uninvited Guest [Part 3]

Perhaps, knowing that it wouldn't be able to get away—not until it first killed the Tyrannosaurus Monster, the Grim Butcher Nightwalker decided to take some drastic measures.

It gathered Abyss Energy inside its mouth and fired it at the Dinosaur at point blank range, not caring if it would also get caught in the attack or not.

Blood and flesh scattered from the chest of the Tyrannosaurus Monster, but its jaws remained clamped on its prey, sinking its teeth even deeper as it exerted all of its strength to bite the Nightwalker's head off.

Over and over again, the Nightwalker would unleash a barrage of breath attacks at its captor. But the latter ignored everything and continued to hold firm. Perhaps, the Dinosaur knew that once its grip on the Abyssal Monster weakened, it would not have the opportunity to do it again.

"Diablo! Do it!" Lux roared as he summoned Diablo to join them on the battlefield.

The Death Knight's sword blazed in unholy flames as it swung it at the Night Walker's body repeatedly.

Orion used leg-lock on the legs of the Nightwalker, preventing it from standing up.

Cai, on the other hand, buried its tusk on the side of the Abyssal Monster's body, holding it in place, so that everyone could attack it as much as they wanted.

With its neck, body, and legs pinned in place, the Abyssal Monster was unable to break free and was swarmed by the Skeleton Gang Bangers, who relentlessly stabbed it with their swords.

Lux's buff, Decaying Touch, was the true bread and butter of the Skeleton Army. It allowed them to inflict status effects on their enemies in order to greatly weaken them, as well as deal True Damage to their foes, ignoring their defenses.

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.

Hundreds of skeletons mercilessly assaulted the helpless Nightwalker, causing it to suffer great damage over time.

Lux, his clones, and Diablo, who dealt Abyss and Ethereal damage to their enemies, hacked and slashed like there was no tomorrow.

Bedivere also played an active role by swinging his sword at the Abyssal Monster's head, using the opportunity to kill it once and for all.

Finally after what seemed like eternity, the Abyssal Monster's body turned into black mist, dispersing completely.

The only thing it left behind was a black Beast Core the size of a bowling ball which shone ominously from the reflection of the sunlight.

"We did it!" Cai shouted. "We beat it using the power of Love and Friendship! Isn't that right? Sir Tyrannosaurus?!"

It was at that moment when the Dinosaur's body crashed on the ground. The injuries it received were fatal, and there was no hope of it surviving. The only thing that allowed it to hold on was due to the fact that it wouldn't allow itself to die against a monster that invaded its territory.

This was the pride of a World Boss, and it fought until the bitter end.

Lux approached the World Boss and gazed at its reptilian eyes, who was gazing straight at him.

"I will not lie, we came here to kill you," Lux said, which made Cai, who was standing beside him gasp in shock.

"Oi! You shouldn't say that to Mr. Dinosaur!" Cai nagged. "Can't you see he helped us? How can you be so cruel? Didn't we win because of the power of Love and Friendship?"

The Half-Elf ignored Cai and continued to look at the dying monster, whose eyes continued to stare at him. They had come to the forest to kill it, but in the end, it fought alongside them to defeat the invader that came from another world.

Fate truly had a way of toying with people, and Lux experienced an outcome that was far from what he originally thought.

"Thank you," Lux said. "I will take good care of your Beast Core, as well as your body. Rest in peace."

The Tyrannosaurus gave a low growl before closing its eyes. Half a minute later it breathed its last, making the Boar beside it wail as it hugged the monster, whom Cai originally wanted to kill earlier to help Heidi reunite with her father.

"Master, here is the Beast Core," Asmodeus handed the Abyssal Beast Core to Lux with both of his hands in a respectful gesture.

Lux received it and gazed at the prize that he didn't expect would come to him.

"Asmodeus, what are your thoughts?" Lux asked as he glanced at the Archlich, who seemed to have an amused expression on its bony face.

"Master, you already know the answer to that question, right?" Asmodeus replied.

"Hah... don't answer my question with a question."

"Hahaha. Very well. Since Master doesn't want to say it, I'll do it for you."

The Archlich glanced at the Beast Core in Lux's hands before making his thoughts known.

"Master, I know that the main purpose of the Abyssal Core is to get the skills of an Abyssal Creature," Asmodeus stated. "However, the Abyss Touch is enough. Master doesn't need any more skills from the Abyss."

Lux nodded because this was also what he was thinking.

"Since that is the case, using this Beast Core for Abyssal Skills will be a waste, no?" Asmodeus smirked. "This core should serve a better purpose, yes? I don't know if it's possible, but a Nightwalker is an Undead Creature. Although it is tainted by the Abyss, the fact still remains that it is an Undead. Why not try to see if we can Re-animate it? I'm very curious. Will we be able to have our own Abyssal Creature as well?"

The Archlich could already tell that this was what Lux had thought of doing after receiving the core. What the Half-Elf needed from him is only an assurance that the possibility of having an Abyssal Monster under his command was possible.

"I don't want to disturb your discussion, but the battle we just had will definitely attract some people from the town to investigate," Bedivere said. "How about we move to a different place first?"

To Lux's surprise, the Living Armor was already holding the Beast Core of the Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus.

Lux had told him that this might allow him to have a proper reunion with his wife, so it was a very important thing for him.

Seeing Bedivere's resolve, the Half-Elf nodded his head and used his Enchanted Beast Ring to store the body of the Boss Monster. He then ordered the Skeletons to erase their tracks as they moved deeper inside the forest to perform the act of turning the Living Armor into one of the Half-Elf's Undead Legion.

Chapter 354.1: Even If I Am Defeated, My Loyalty Will Not Fade [Part 1]

Chapter 354 Even If I Am Defeated, My Loyalty Will Not Fade [Part 1]

After heading deep inside the forest, Lux finally had time to settle the matter with Bedivere.

Frankly, he didn't know how to proceed with the matter. The easiest way to fix his problem was to get his Beast Core and use Animate Undead on him so that he would be reborn into a different kind of Undead with a new body.

But Lux was reluctant to do this.

An Undead was still an Undead. If he wanted to allow him to return to his family, he should be similar to Sid and Scarlet, who had turned into a Dampir and a Cambion, or like his Grandma Vera, who was still undergoing her transformation.

Since that was the case, using Animate Undead was not an option, so he could only use Blackfire, the Black Coffin, which had the power to transform the dead and near-dead creatures into other creatures.

But before he could even do that, a sudden notification appeared in front of him, which made his eyes widen in shock.

A High-Ranking Undead wishes to swear his allegiance to you.

The Crimson Wanderer Living Armor, Bedivere, wishes to serve you as a Loyal Knight.

Do you wish to accept?

< Yes / No >

Lux casually chose Yes, because Bedivere had already agreed to become his subordinate earlier in order to be together with his family.

However, what showed up in front of him next made the Half-Elf realize that there were still some abilities of the Necromancer Class that he didn't know.

< You have chosen to make the Crimson Wanderer Living Armor, Bedivere, your Knight. >

< Since a High-Ranking Undead chose to serve you on its own accord, a special feature of the Necromancer Job Class is unlocked! >

< Special feature, Necromancer's Covenant, has been unlocked! >

< Necromancer's Covenant >

"Till death do us part."

– As a Necromancer, you hold dominion over the Undead. Because of this, some Undead Creatures will be attracted to you and would wish to serve by your side.

– Up to thirteen creatures can be accepted through the Necromancer's Covenant, but this is not limited to Undead Creatures. Even if it is a living creature, as long as they vow to serve you faithfully till death, it will become part of the Necromancer's Covenant.

– Any creature who joins the Necromancer's Covenant will be forever loyal to the Necromancer.

– The Rank of all creatures joining the Necromancer's Covenant will always be equal to the rank of their Master. It doesn't matter if their Ranks are Higher

or Lower than the Necromancer they serve. Once they become part of the Covenant, their Ranks will always match their Master's Rank.

- The creatures under the Covenant cannot have their Ranks upgraded by any means. They will grow as their Master grows and weaken when their Master weakens.
- Each of the thirteen creatures serving the Necromancer will be called Knight of the Covenant, and are allowed to have subordinates of their own. It doesn't matter if these subordinates are living or dead. However, there will be a limit to the number of subordinates they can have.
- Each Knight can make Monsters forcefully submit to them if they wish. Any method is acceptable!
- Once the contract is established, these minions can only be summoned by the Knights that subjugated them. The Necromancer doesn't have the ability to summon the subordinates of his Knights.
- The minimum number of subordinates each Knight can have is twelve. This number will increase as their Rank increases.

Initiate Rank = 30 Subordinates

E-Ranker = 100 Subordinates

D-Ranker = 200 Subordinates

C-Ranker = 500 Subordinates

B-Ranker = 1,000 Subordinates

A-Ranker = 5,000 Subordinates

S-Ranker = 50,000 Subordinates

SS-Ranker = 100,000 Subordinates

Saint = 1,000,000 Subordinates

(A/N: These are the Rankings for the Mortal Practitioners. Monsters have a different ranking. They all start from Common Monsters to Rank 1-5. The next stage after Rank 5 is Deimos (E-Ranker), Argonaut (D-Ranker, and C-Ranker), Dreadnought (B-Ranker, and A-Ranker), Empyrean (S-Ranker and SS-Ranker), Calamity (Saint), Demigod (Supreme).)

- If a Knight dies, they can be revived by paying an adequate number of Beast Cores.
- You may choose to give your Knight a different form by sacrificing Beast Cores or Monster Parts to get their ideal profession. The rarer the profession is, the greater the sacrifice needed.
- A Knight can undergo transformation more than once. You will be able to customize them according to your desire. It doesn't matter if they have a hundred arms or legs. As long as you are able to provide the necessary materials, anything is possible!
- All materials used in the transformation are non-refundable. Once they are used, they are gone, so choose your Knight's transformation wisely!

< Knight Bedivere has been accepted as part of the Necromancer's Covenant.
>

< Would you like to customize Knight Bedivere? >

< Yes / No >

Lux's body shook in excitement because he never expected that the feature, Necromancer's Covenant, would be unlocked if a High-Ranking Undead chose to serve him with their own free will.

Since it had already come to this, he no longer hesitated. It didn't matter even if Bedivere lost the special abilities of his Living Armor form anymore. Lux would just make up for it using the transformation that was available to him!

'Okay, let's see what options are available in the custom settings,' Lux excitedly checked the Bedivere's Page that had appeared in his Soul Book.

< Bedivere >

- The percentages that are shown are the compatibility rating of the transformation. If you wish to create or customize a form that is not available in the options, please supply the necessary Beast Cores or Monster Parts.
- If you choose to transform your Knight into a particular form with a low rating, take note that the transformation is highly likely to fail. The materials used to transform the monster will also disappear.
- If you want to increase the chances of the percentage of the profession you fancy, add more Beast Cores or Monster Parts befitting that profession in order to increase its percentage rating!
- Take note that there is a chance that the items you sacrifice could cause a mutation and become part of whatever form your Knight is going to transform into.
- An 80% chance is guaranteed that the Knight's custom transformation will be successful.
- The Knight Bedivere can only gain a mortal body if you don't choose any option belonging to the Living Armor category. But even then, he would still be a Half-Living Armor and Half-Mortal.

Transformation Customization.

Living Armor = 100%

Doom Knight = 1%

Steel-Wing Knight = 1%

XXX...

XXX...

XXX...

"Okay, let's test this," Lux muttered as he added the Rank-5, Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus Beast Core, to the material tab.

Spiked Living Armor = 100%

Dino Rider = 40%

Steel-Wing Knight = 25%

Steel Baron = 25%

Steel Lancer = 25%

Dragoon = 20%

XXX...

XXX...

XXX...

Dragon Knight = 1%

"So this is how it works... interesting," Lux muttered as he looked at his options.

The thing that instantly caught his eye was, of course, the Rare Job, Dragon Knight. Lux didn't know if the Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus had Dragon's blood in it that allowed the Dragon Knight Profession to appear in the choices.

It was the best one among the options presented to him, but the abysmal chance of succeeding was something that made his teeth itch.

'Okay, how about this?' Lux mused as he added the Body of the Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus Monster to the material list.

Spiked Living Armor = 100%

Dino Rider = 100%

Dragoon = 60%

Steel-Wing Knight = 25%

Steel Baron = 25%

Steel Lancer = 25%

XXX...

XXX...

XXX...

Dragon Knight = 10%

'10%... still not enough,' Lux mused as he looked at his inventory for things to add. 'How about I use the Barb-Tailed Tyrannosaurus body to increase the percentage of the Dragon Knight instead of using it as transformation material?'

Lux took the monster's body and added it to the Dragon Rider Job Class as an offering.

Dragon Knight = 20%

The Half-Elf scratched his head. 20% was still too big of a gamble for him to take. After careful consideration, the Half-Elf rummaged through the items he had in possession to see if there was anything he could use to increase the chances of letting Bedivere transform into one of the most formidable Job Classes in Elysium.

"Faunus Battle Regalia... I forgot about you," Lux muttered as he looked at the set of Mythical Armor that he had collected from all the villages that were around the Stronghold of Norria. They were the replica of the Favonius Set, which belonged to Favonius, who was the founder of Leaf Village and the one who bestowed his armor and weapon to Lux, as his way of acknowledging everything he had done for Leaf Village.

"In Leaf Village, a special armor is made, its toughness is as resilient as adamantium.

In Lindow Village, a shield stands proud, waiting for the day its new owner arrives.

In Sunflower Village, where the sun rises in the east, a blade that has slain a dragon is hidden.

Lastly, in Millwood Village, where secrets are kept, a mask with many faces smiles at the ignorant."

Four Villages,

Four Battle Regalias that made up the Mythical Faunus Set.

Among these items, Lux only used the Mask of the Thousand Faces. He had completely set aside the Faunus Battle Regalia because the armor currently used was way better than the Mythical Set of the Beginner Villages.

"What if..." Lux narrowed his eyes as a daring thought appeared inside his head. He then added the Faunus Armor, Shield, and Sword, to the materials to be used for raising the chances of acquiring the Dragon Knight Job Class and the result was...

Chapter 355.2: Even If I Am Defeated, My Loyalty Will Not Fade [Part 2]

Dragon Knight = 50%

Lux stared long and hard at the percentage bar, but no matter what he did, the percentage didn't move upwards.

He couldn't believe that even after using a Rank 5 World Boss Beast Core, a Rank 5 World Boss Monster Body, and a Mythical Set of Armor, Sword, and Shield, the percentage of the Dragon Knight Job Class only peaked at 50%

"Sir Bedivere, I have a question for you," Lux said softly. "Right now, I am able to give you an opportunity to remodel your body in order to give you a mortal form. But, there is a catch. These are the professions that are available to you. I will let you decide what profession you would like to have."

The Half-Elf showed his Soul Book to Bedivere and explained to him how the Necromancer's Covenant worked.

The light flickering in the Living Armor's eyes blazed brightly as if he was making a very hard decision. If Bedivere wished to only have a mortal form, choosing the Dino-Rider Transformation was ideal.

However, since his rank was going to regress to match Lux's current Rank, the Living Armor was very tempted to choose the Dragon Knight Job Class.

But the chance of success was only 50%.

Bedivere spent a few minutes in silence as he made a tough decision that would affect his second chance at life.

"In the past... I have always wanted to become... a Dragon Knight," said Bedivere with a hoarse voice. "But... I never got the opportunity. If this is to fail... what would happen... to me?"

"Nothing," Lux replied. "You will stay the way you are. However, we will need to acquire high-level Beast Cores and Monster Parts in order for you to take another shot at your transformation."

Lux still had several Beast Cores in his possession, which he had gotten from winning the Lionheart Tournament. However, he had been saving them to

increase Eiko's Rank after she revived, so he couldn't use them to help Bedivere increase the percentage of the Dragon Knight profession.

A few more minutes passed before Bedivere finally clenched his fists as he made his decision.

"Let's take... the chance," Bedivere stated.

Lux nodded his head in understanding.

He then took a deep breath before taking a dagger to give his palm a shallow cut, allowing blood to drip from his hand.

Immediately, a red magic circle formed under his feet, starting the ritual of the Necromancer's Covenant, allowing Bedivere to undertake his baptism and transformation.

"Be it known to all men that I, Lux Von Kaizer, hereby accept Bedivere as one of the Knights of my Covenant," Lux said as a magic circle formed under Bedivere's feet. "Do you swear and acknowledge me to be your true and lawful Liege?"

"I do swear," Bedivere answered.

"Do you also swear to defend, and obey me, until death shall take you?"

"I do swear."

"Make your pledge of Loyalty."

Bedivere knelt down in front of Lux. He had been bestowed knightship in the past, so he already knew what he was going to say. However, as if helping him form his oath, several rows of words appeared before him, which he read faithfully.

"I, Bedivere, Son of Bedwyr, hereby solemnly swear and pledge my sword to Lux Von Kaizer, my Master and Liege, to defend and obey him until his soul departs this world and uphold the honor of knighthood. If I fail, death shall take me."

Suddenly, a sword, as black as night with runic carvings, materialized in front of Lux, which he held as part of the ceremony of the Covenant.

"As for my part, I do swear to defend and honor Sir Bedivere," Lux stated. "As befits a true Knight of my Covenant."

He then lightly tapped Bedivere's left and right shoulder with the black sword in his hand.

"Rise, Sir Bedivere, and may your glory be my glory."

Lux took a few steps back to allow Bedivere to stand up and complete the ceremony.

At that exact moment, Bedivere's body was enveloped by a green tornado.

Several rows of text appeared in front of Lux, notifying him that the transformation was about to start.

< Attempting transformation... >

Lux clenched his fist as the glow of the green tornado in front of him pulsed like the beating of the heart.

He and Bedivere had taken a gamble with a 50% chance of succeeding. It was similar to flipping a coin, and if they got unlucky, then they would get nothing from the sacrifices he had made.

Suddenly, a loud draconic roar spread in the surroundings as two green wings emerged from the tornado, dispersing it completely.

< Congratulations! The transformation was successful! >

< Bedivere >

"Even if I am defeated, My loyalty will not fade."

– Knight of the Covenant

– Dragon Knight

– Rank: Grade A Apostle

Special Ability: Wonder Guard

< Wonder Guard >

– All kinds of damage received by Bedivere and his mount, including Abyssal Damage, will be decreased by 60%

The Half-Elf took a deep breath as he gazed at a three-meter-tall green dragon with a knight riding on its back.

Bedivere was wrapped up in a very familiar armor, which made Lux's eyes widen in shock.

"The Faunus Battle Regalia...", Lux muttered as he gazed at the armor that he had worked hard to collect during his time in the Beginner Villages. Now, it was worn by the first Knight of his Covenant, who had become one of the strongest fighters in Lux's Army.

"Thank you, Master," Bedivere said as he bowed his head, alongside his dragon, who spread its wings and bowed its head respectfully to Lux as a sign of its fealty.

"How are you feeling?" Lux asked after he recovered from his shock. "Do you feel anything strange with your body?"

Bedivere smiled, which was enough to make all the single ladies blush if they had seen his handsome features.

"I feel so alive," Bedivere replied. "Also, I can tell that my body is stronger compared to when I was still alive. Although my Rank has regressed, my friend here will make up for it. Isn't that right, partner?"

Bedivere lightly patted the body of the Green Dragon, who replied with a low growl, agreeing with the Dragon Knight's words.

Lux looked at the handsome knight, who didn't notice that tears were streaming down the sides of his face from happiness. He was quite happy that everything turned out well, and that the materials he used weren't wasted.

Now that he now had a powerful Dragon Knight by his side, and his matters with the Vahan Empire had ended, it was now time to finally move to the next phase of his plan, and go to the one place that would never forsake him.

"Let's go, Sir Bedivere," Lux said with a smile. "Let's take Heidi and Lilia to the place that will become their new home."

Bedivere nodded his head. Right now, he was feeling incredibly grateful to Lux. He had already made an oath to serve his new Liege with everything he had.

Deep inside, Bedivere was feeling excited. It was as if the time that had stopped two years ago finally started moving once again.

He glanced at the Half-Elf, to whom he owed his life, and wondered just how far his new Master would go in the world of Elysium.

But he already understood that no matter where the red-headed teenager went, he would be by his side, fighting whoever dared to hurt the person to whom he owed his second chance at life.

Chapter 356: Oh! My Long Lost Friend! It's You!

"Daddy, where are we going?" Heidi, who was currently riding on Bedivere's shoulders, asked.

"Actually, I am not sure," Bedivere replied. "But since my Maste— I mean, Lux, said that it is a wonderful place, I trust that it is so."

"Will I have lots of friends there?"

"Of course! My Heidi is so kind and sweet. It's impossible for my daughter to not have any friends."

Heidi giggled after hearing her father's praise. Lilia watched her husband and daughter's interaction with eyes filled with tenderness and love. She couldn't stop herself from tearing up.

She had been waiting for years for Bedivere's return, so their family would be complete once again. Now that he was here, she felt as if all of her suffering and hardships for the past two years were paid in full.

"Is everyone ready?" Lux asked as he sent a party invitation to everyone around him. "We're going now, so I hope that all of you can accept my party invitation."

Several rows of text appeared in front of Cai, Keane, Heidi, and Lilia, asking them if they wanted to join Lux's party.

A Normal Party could only have a maximum number of seven people. Raid parties consisted of anywhere from fifty to a hundred people, but this was only available to people who belonged to a Guild.

But this was enough. The Half-Elf didn't know if his plan was going to work in the first place, and he was just hoping that his theory would work.

"I will tell you in advance. We are going to a place that is very far from Human territories," Lux stated. "Also, the laws there are quite different from our laws. It will take some time getting used to, but I'm sure that all of you will be just fine... maybe."

"Maybe?" Cai asked. "What do you mean, maybe?"

Lux ignored Cai's question and put on the Mask of a Thousand Faces before opening his Soul Book. In the eyes of the dwarves, he was supposed to be dead already. Only the high-ranking members of the Leaf Village, the Stronghold of Norria, as well as the Kingdom of Gweliven, knew that he wasn't really dead.

However, in order to allow Scarlet to become a Slayer Candidate and break through the ranks of a Ranker, he still needed to lie low for a while until things were wrapped up properly.

Also, there was no point in answering the Boar's question because he still wasn't sure if he would be able to take them there by adding them to his party.

In truth, Lux was still debating whether he should bring Cai and Keane with him on his journey. But after everything the three of them had gone through together, he decided to trust that his two companions would be able to keep his secret.

Going to his ability page, Lux took a deep breath as he prepared to activate the skill called...

Eternal Guardian.

This was the skill that would allow Lux to return to Leaf Village anytime he wanted. Since he could no longer create a guild in the Human territories, he decided to take a chance and make a guild in the Kingdom of Gweliven.

"Everyone, get ready," Lux announced. "We will go in 3... 2... 1!"

Lux, as well as Cai, Keane, Bedivere, Heidi, and Lilia, were bathed in white light. A second later, all of them disappeared, leaving the Vahan Empire behind.

Plaza of Leaf Village...

A brilliant flash of light spread in the surroundings, catching the attention of the nearby dwarves in the plaza.

When the light receded, they saw a couple of Humans and a Boar, standing beside the Statue of the Eternal Guardian, which everyone in Leaf Village treated as their main attraction.

"Where are we?" Cai asked.

The Boar could instinctively feel that they were no longer in the Human territories because the scent and feel of the surroundings were a bit different from what it was used to.

"Dwarves?" Bedivere glanced at the people that had gathered around them and instantly recognized that they were Dwarves.

Even in the Western Regions of Elysium, other races such as Elves, Beastkin, Dwarves, Gnomes, and Half-lings could be found.

Bedivere had interacted with some of them in the past, making him familiar with the Dwarven Race, who were notorious for their passion for strong alcoholic drinks and stubbornness that put Humans to shame.

"Wow!" Heidi clapped her hands as she looked at the people around them.
"Look! Little People!"

"Heidi, they are not little people. They are Dwarves," Lilia immediately corrected her daughter because she was afraid that the Dwarves would take offense and get a bad impression of them.

Just like Lilia had thought, the Dwarves who heard Heidi call them Little People frowned. In order to correct this, Lilia used her eloquent skills to salvage the situation.

"Heidi, remember this," Lilia said. "Dwarves are very kind and gentle people. They are very hard-working and very dependable people. They say that if you have a Dwarf as your friend, you will have nothing to fear because they will stick with you through thick and thin."

The Dwarves who heard Lilia all nodded their heads in agreement, giving the pretty woman a thumbs up in their hearts for being a woman of culture.

In the past, the local Dwarves of Leaf Village might have panicked after seeing so many Humans in their Village, but after being around Lux for quite some time, their tolerance for seeing other races had increased.

Still, some of them looked at the new arrivals with wary gazes. Even though they had already gotten used to seeing a Half-Elf, Humans were still a different race from the hero that saved their Village.

"Everyone, please step aside."

A voice filled with authority said, and the people parted to allow an old Dwarf to pass through.

"My name is Cedwyn, and I am the Head of Leaf Village," Cedwyn stated.
"Please state your names, and how did you arrive here in Leaf Village?"

Several Dwarven Guards, as well as Riders of Norria, also appeared in the plaza. They were the defenders of Leaf Village, so they wanted to know if the people that had suddenly appeared in their village were friends or foes.

Lux immediately recognized Aron, who was the captain of the Guards of Leaf Village, and Boreas, the Captain of the Riders of Norria, which also served as the representatives of the Stronghold of Norria in Leaf Village.

"Village Head, it is me," Lux said as he stepped forward. "There are some matters that I need to discuss with you, and I would appreciate it if we could talk in private."

Cedwyn glanced at the chubby boy that he was seeing for the first time and frowned.

"You seem to know me, but I don't know who you are," Cedwyn replied. "What qualifications do you have to ask me to talk to you in private?"

"Um, I still remember you telling me that when you were young, you sneakily took Grandma Annie's pan..."

"Oh! My long lost friend! It's you!"

The Old Dwarf immediately grabbed hold of the chubby boy's hand and shook it vigorously, preventing Lux from continuing what he was about to say.

"I didn't recognize you right away because you've gained some weight." Cedwyn was sweating buckets, especially when he noticed Grandma Annie arriving at the scene with the two little girls, Laura and Livia, who were Sid's little sisters, by her side.

"Come. You must be tired from your journey. Let's go to my house so we can catch up with the old times." Cedwyn didn't even wait for Lux's reply and dragged him away. "Everyone, settle down. This is my friend..."

"Lucien," Lux said in a volume that only Cedwyn would be able to hear.

"Right! This is my friend Lucien," Cedwyn announced. "We go a long way back to when I was still an adventurer. Everything is fine. I can vouch for their identities. Everyone, please step aside. We're coming through."

The village head brute forced his way out of the encirclement, dragging Lux towards his house. Cai, Keane, Bedivere, Heidi, and Lilia followed behind because if they lost sight of Lux, things might get complicated when the other Dwarves start asking them questions.

"Should we follow them?" Aron asked Boreas who was standing beside him. "They look suspicious to me."

"It seems that Cedwyn knows him, but just to be sure, let's follow them," Boreas replied. "Just don't bring too many guards, so it won't cause a commotion."

To the surprise of the two Dwarves, Grandma Annie started to walk towards Cedwyn's house with the twin sisters in tow.

She had already suspected that the one that Cedwyn dragged away was Lux, who was wearing a disguise, so she decided to follow in order to confirm her suspicions.

It was not only her that started to move, Randolph, as well as the Elders of Leaf Village, were also walking towards the Village Head's house.

Just like Grandma Annie, they all had their suspicions as well.

Some of them even felt their blood boiling inside their chest in excitement because they had a feeling that the person that had saved their Village, whom they hadn't seen for several months, had finally returned to visit them.

Randolph, in particular, was more excited than the rest.

His heart was beating wildly inside his chest because, even though he didn't want to admit it, he had missed his one and only Disciple.

Lux had promised him that he would visit Leaf Village from time to time, but after not seeing him for several months, the old blacksmith thought that the Half-Elf had forgotten them.

Now that he was back, he was looking forward to hearing his tales of faraway lands and the adventures that he had taken part in during the time that he was away from the village, which the Half-Elf had already considered to be his second home.

Chapter 357: So You're Making A Guild? This Sounds Interesting

"Hahaha! Drink up, my boy!" Randolph laughed as he refilled Lux's cup with mead. "You really took your time to visit us. I really thought you forgot your Master."

"How could I possibly forget you, Master?" Lux replied. "There were just many things happening at the same time, and I didn't have the opportunity to visit everyone here in Leaf Village. How are you? And what have you been doing as of late?"

Randolph drank from his own mug and let out a loud burp before answering Lux's question.

"As you can see, I'm doing fine." Randolph smiled. "The kids these days are so motivated to become adventurers that they kept on visiting my shop to have their weapons repaired. Um, by the way, where is Little Eiko? Is she hiding somewhere?"

The smile on Lux's face disappeared, making Randolph, who was in a good mood earlier, feel as if he had stepped on a landmine.

"Eiko died protecting her Mama from someone who wanted to possess her," Lux replied. "But don't worry. She will be revived soon. Actually, I think she will revive in a few days."

Lux took out the Blue Egg from the special storage ring that Iris had given to him to store Monster eggs.

Randolph patted his chest as he looked at the Blue Egg in front of him. Everyone in the Village, especially the young Dwarves, idolized Eiko because she had accompanied Lux on his adventures.

This was the same reason why almost all of the Dwarves, including the Solaians who had arrived in Leaf Village, chose to have a Slime as their first Beast Companion after hearing the story about the Leaf Village's Hero and Guardian.

"Oh dear, can you tell us what happened?" Grandma Annie frowned. She was quite fond of Eiko, and hearing about the little slime's death made her heart ache.

Laura and Livia, who also had slimes of their own, wanted to know what happened. In fact, the two Slimes that belonged to the two girls had already

climbed up on Lux's body and were currently looking at the monster egg in his hands with great curiosity.

Both of them could feel that the monster inside the egg had this kind of royal presence, so the two Slimes acted like paying their respect to their Princess, who was still not born.

Lux nodded and told everyone the story of what happened while he was away from Leaf Village. After finishing his tale, a collective sigh reverberated inside the room as everyone gazed at the egg in Lux's hands.

"Eiko is a good child," Grandma Annie said softly. "Even though she's still young, she did her best to protect her Mama, which is very noble of her."

Laura and Livia nodded as they hugged their own Slimes. Both girls felt sad about what happened to Lux. The two girls knew how fragile Slimes could be, so they never allowed their contracted monsters to fight monsters stronger than them.

"Yes, she is." Lux smiled. "But I'll make sure that she gets stronger this time around, and that no one will be able to bully her that easily again."

Randolph chuckled and jokingly told Lux that he would create an armor specially designed for Eiko, which made both of them laugh.

Lux had never heard of a slime wearing armor before, so he didn't know if his Master was joking or not.

A while later, Cedwyn told Lux that he would personally handle the building of the house meant for Heidi and her mother, Lilia. Although they were Humans, he was sure that the Dwarves in the Village would get along well with their two new residents because he trusted that Lux wouldn't bring anyone with a bad character to Leaf Village.

"Sir Cedwyn, about the Recommendation Letters for making a Guild..." Lux broached the real topic of why he returned to Leaf Village. He explained to Cedwyn and the other Elders about his difficulty.

"Guild Creation? Is that all?" Cedwyn laughed. "Don't worry, just head straight to the Stronghold of Norria and register there. Do you need a Guild Token? I think I still have a silver token somewhere in this house."

"Um, what about the Recommendation Letters from the Guildmasters of the Adventurer's Guild?" Lux asked. "After that, I still need to take the Trial of Leadership..."

"Recommendation Letters? You don't need them," Cedwyn replied and brushed off Lux's worries about collecting Recommendation Letters. "As for the Trial of Leadership, you don't need to do that either. Just go to the Stronghold of Norria and find Sir Thoram.

"As the Commander of the Riders of Norria, he can vouch that you don't need to undertake the Trial of Leadership. That is only a test to see if the person applying to create a Guild has the capabilities to lead it. You, my boy, are more than capable of doing that."

Lux blinked as he processed everything that Cedwyn had told him.

"You mean, I don't have to go through all that to create a Guild?" Lux asked just to be sure.

"Nope," Cedwyn answered. "Ah. But there is one thing you should do. In order to create a Guild, you must have at least Twenty Members. You are supposed to be given twenty Member Tokens after you successfully clear your Trial of Leadership.

"You will then give those Member Tokens to the people who have agreed to join your guild. Once all of them receive the token, they will automatically be registered as your Guild Member candidates, allowing you to use a Guild Token to create your own Guild."

Cedwyn then rummaged through his storage ring and took out twenty Red Tokens, which were similar to Casino Chips.

"Back then, I wished to establish a guild of my own, but a lot of things happened..." Cedwyn explained before glancing at Grandma Annie and Randolph, who pretended to not hear Cedwyn's words and continued to drink the mugs of mead in their hands.

Seeing that the two intended to ignore him until the end, Cedwyn sighed as he handed the Member Tokens to the Half-Elf.

"Lux, inherit our dreams and wishes," Cedwyn said. "Create a guild, and make sure that it will become the best guild in the world. I will not settle for anything less, do you understand?"

"Thank you, Village Head," Lux replied as he gratefully accepted the member tokens.

"So do you have any guild members in mind?" Randolph asked. "You said that you only have a few days before the duration of your quest ends. If you don't hurry, you will not be able to reach the necessary quota."

Lux smiled as he handed one of the Member Tokens to his Master, Randolph.

"Master, please become my guild member," Lux said with a smile. "We will need your expertise as a Blacksmith."

"Excuse me?" Randolph tilted his head in confusion. "You want me to become your Guild Member?"

"Yes."

"Are you serious?"

Lux nodded. "Dead serious."

"Well... I guess you only want to reach the quota as soon as possible." Randolph shrugged as he accepted the Red Token that was handed to him by his Disciple. "Sure, I'll help you out. It's not like I'm doing this because I want to become part of your Guild, okay? Don't get the wrong idea."

Lux chuckled because he knew what Randolph was thinking. He was sure that his Master thought that he would leave as soon as the Guild was created, but Lux didn't want to let his Master go.

After all, expert Blacksmiths who were able to craft Mythical Armors weren't cabbages that could be plucked from just about anywhere. He would love to have Randolph in his Guild, so that the Dwarf could help him create some weapons and armor sets that would benefit his Guild Members.

"Grandma Annie, please join my guild as well," Lux said as he offered a Red Token to the old lady who would always be on the front lines whenever Leaf Village was under attack by Monster Outbreaks.

"I'm too old for this, Lux," Grandma Annie replied. "I will just hold you back."

"Nonsense." Lux shook his head. "Grandma Annie is an alchemist. Having someone like you around to create pills and medicines for the Guild will greatly boost its strength."

"Fine." Grandma Annie smiled as she accepted the Red Token. "I can't believe that at my age, I will be joining a Guild. I'll just babysit the young ones for you, okay? I won't go charging off to the battlefield for your sake."

"That's fine. I don't want Grandma Annie to get hurt either."

"Mmm. At least you know that my old bones can't take a beating."

Laura and Livia glanced at each other before raising their hands together.

"We want to join too!" Laura shouted.

"Me too!" Livia seconded.

"Um... this." Lux scratched his head. "I don't think your Brother will agree if I let both of you join the Guild."

"It's fine!" Laura stated. "Big Brother said that there will come a time when the Village Hero will need our help. We will join the Guild to help you."

"Yes!" Livia nodded. "You are Big Brother's benefactor, so you are also our benefactor. Please, let us repay you for helping our Big Brother, and bringing us to this wonderful Village."

Lux was still on the fence about allowing the two little Dwarves to join his Guild. He didn't know if Sid would agree to this because the Dhampir was overprotective of his little sisters and didn't want them to come to any harm.

The door of the house opened and Sid entered as he said, "Please let them join your Guild, Master. This is my wish as well."

Laura and Livia cheered in happiness when they saw their brother, then they ran toward him to give their Big Brother a hug.

The doting brother hugged his sisters back before patting their heads. Just as Sid was about to ask if they had been good girls while he was away, a shadow fell upon his body.

"So you're making a Guild? This sounds interesting."

From behind the Dhampir, someone whom Lux hadn't seen for a while had appeared.

It was none other than the Draconic Kobold, Cadmus, who was the Half-Elf's enemy when he had just started his journey in the world of Elysium.

Chapter 358: Guild Recruitment

When Lux first arrived in Elysium, there was one creature that was like an insurmountable mountain for him—that was none other than Cadmus.

When he first met the Draconic Kobold, the latter was a Rank 4 Alpha Monster, which was something that he had no hope of defeating at that time.

However, that was all in the past. After checking Cadmus' Rank, the Half-Elf found out that the Draconic Kobold was now a Rank 5 Alpha Monster. He was still stronger than Lux, but that was only if they fought one on one.

Now that he had his Undead Legion, and his first Knight of the Covenant, Bedivere, with him, he was confident that he could defeat Cadmus if the two of them were to fight. Fortunately, the two had gotten over their dispute with each other, and had even become friends after visiting Keoza's dungeon.

"It has been a while, Cadmus," Lux smiled as he fist bumped the Draconic Kobold, who mutually returned the gesture.

"Indeed," Cadmus replied. "And you have grown a lot stronger since we last saw each other."

"Hahaha. A lot of things happened. Almost died a couple of times as well."

"Sounds fun. Sid and I also suffered a few close calls, especially on our last expedition."

In order to reach the rank of a Ranker, Sid went with Cadmus on his exploration beyond the boundaries of the territories under the protection of the Stronghold of Norria.

The Stronghold was located on the outskirts of the Kingdom of Gweliven, and beyond it was a place they called the Savage Lands.

It was a completely uncharted territory, and because of the truce between the Kobolds and the Dwarves, Cadmus was able to undertake Quest Missions as a registered Adventurer in the Adventurer's Guild.

Since everything around the territory of Norria was no longer enough to challenge him, Cadmus decided to talk to Thoram, the Commander of the Stronghold of Norria, and asked the Dwarf to commission him to explore the Savage Lands.

Thoram thought that this was a good idea, and with the backing of the Royal Family, he formally assigned Cadmus as the Exploration Captain in charge of mapping out the Savage Lands.

Naturally, Sid accompanied him, and together, they went on an adventure, alongside a dozen Rank 3 Kobolds, to explore the unknown.

"You came at a good time," Lux smirked. "How about you join my Guild?"

"Joining a Guild..." Cadmus rubbed his chin. "I never considered joining a Guild before."

"Come on. It will be fun. I'll even make you one of my Officers, how about it?"

"Mmm... I'll think about it."

Lux smirked. "Okay, you can think about it while holding this Member Token. Just help me meet the minimum requirement to create my guild first, okay?"

Cadmus snorted as he accepted the red token that was handed to him. "You and your schemes. Fine, I'll help you out with this once."

The token merged with Cadmus' palm, which was a sign that he had accepted to become one of Lux's Guild Members.

The Half-Elf then gave Sid another token.

As one of his strongest subordinates, it was only normal for Sid to be part of his guild. As for Scarlet, it would be best if she stayed with Twilight Rain. That way, she could leech off of their resources, as well as supply him with valuable intel straight from the hornet's nest.

"Sir Lux, me, too!" Laura raised her hands to ask for a token.

"I want one as well, Sir Lux," Livia said.

Sid gave his Master a nod of affirmation, which meant that he didn't find anything wrong with his twin sisters joining Lux's guild.

"Okay," Lux relented and handed two red tokens to the two girls. "The two of you will assist Grandma Annie."

"Yes!" the two girls happily showed Sid their red tokens, and the latter patted their heads with affection.

"Here is a Token for you, Keane," Lux said. "Thank you for being willing to join my Guild."

Keane shrugged as he replied, "I figured that since I am free, I might as well help you out."

"Oh! Me, too!" Cai also approached Lux. "Hand the token over."

Lux eyed the Boar with a critical gaze. "Aren't you already in the Rowan Tribe Guild? Your Grandpa might get angry if you suddenly leave without asking for permission."

"It's fine!" Cai replied. "I'm just going to Guild Hop for a bit. Consider it as my way of helping you as well."

"... Are you sure we won't get in trouble with your grandpa later?"

"No worries. My Grandpa spoils me, so it's fine! Um. Let me leave my guild first."

Cai opened its Soul Book and went to its Guild Page. It then stated its reason for leaving the Guild, and half a minute later, the Boar successfully left its guild, leaving Lux, as well as Keane, speechless.

Rowan Tribe in Elysium...

While Xander was busy managing the affairs of the guild, several rows of text appeared in front of him.

"Hi Xander! I am leaving the Guild for a while! Relax, I'll be back later. I'll just Hop to My Daddy's Guild for a while then come back at a later time.

P.S - Don't tell my Grandpa! I'll be back soon!"

A moment later, after reading the reason why Cai left the guild, he pinched the bridge of his nose, pondering how he would explain it to their Great Chieftain after returning to Solais.

"I guess I'll tell everyone to keep mum about this for a few days," Xander thought as he scratched his head in helplessness. "High Priestess, you're making things difficult for me."

Back in Leaf Village...

"Okay. I left my Guild!" Cai stated. "Give me the token, My Daddy."

Lux sighed before handing the Token to the Boar, which melded with its hoof, proving that Cai had accepted becoming one of the Half-Elf's Guild Member Candidates.

With eight Member Tokens disposed of, Lux only had twelve more to hand out before he could make his guild.

"Well, I guess I'll look for other members now," Lux muttered, which was heard by the Village Head who was patiently waiting to be given a token as well.

However, it seemed that the Half-Elf was oblivious of Cedwyn's thoughts. Just as Lux was about to leave the house, Cedwyn cleared his throat, which caught everyone's attention.

"Lux, my Boy, aren't you forgetting something important?" Cedwyn asked.

"Have I?" Lux blinked. "What did I forget?"

Grandma Annie and Randolph, who could tell what Cedwyn wanted, only smirked after seeing Lux's clueless expression.

Clearly, the Head of Leaf Village wanted to join his guild because Grandma Annie, and Randolph had already agreed to join him. Since the three of them

had been good friends when they were still Adventurers, he didn't want to be left behind.

"Lux, why don't you give Cedwyn one of those tokens," Randolph said in a teasing manner. "It seems the old coot wants to join, so might as well let him join. He can handle the members who will join later on."

"That's right," Grandma Annie commented. "Cedwyn is good with administrative duties. Make him one of your Vice Guild Masters, so he can actively recruit here in Leaf Village."

After hearing Grandma Annie's words, Lux's body trembled as if he was hit by a lightning bolt.

Making Cedwyn a Vice Guild Master was a brilliant idea!

If he really made the Village Head one of his Guild Members, wouldn't that mean that he would get an endless supply of new recruits from Leaf Village?

It was Capitalism at its finest!

With such a wonderful arrangement presented to him, Lux didn't even bat an eye and handed Cedwyn a Token of Membership, which would make Leaf Village the Centerpoint of the Kingdom of Gweliven several years in the future.

Chapter 359: The Birth Of Lux's Guild

"Village Head, having you as my future Vice Guild Master is a blessing," Lux said with respect. "Please, take this token as well."

"Mmm. Since you asked so nicely, I guess I can work these old bones of mine a bit," Cedwyn replied as he took the red token, making Randolph snort and Grandma Annie smile.

"Heidi will join as well!" Heidi exclaimed.

"Uh... maybe next time." Lux chuckled as he patted the head of the little girl who was feeling competitive with Laura and Livia, who was around the same age as her.

The other Elders of Leaf Village just exchanged glances with each other and shrugged. They felt like joining a guild at their age wasn't a worthwhile thing to do, so they didn't ask Lux to give them red tokens.

Half an hour later, Lux left the Village Head's house and went around Leaf Village to ask some people to join his guild.

"You want me to join your Guild?!" the Innkeeper, who owned the inn and tavern that Lux used to stay in while in Leaf Village, asked with excitement. "Of course I'll join. But I will just stay here in Leaf Village and look after the new members, okay?"

"That's fine, Mr. Jones," Lux replied. "Thank you for your help."

Mr. Jones was the innkeeper that asked Lux for his signature and treated it like a family heirloom. Of course, the Innkeeper didn't recognize the Half-Elf because he was wearing a disguise, but after a private talk and exposing his true identity, the Innkeeper happily agreed to join Lux's Guild.

"Me? Join your Guild?" Aron, the Captain of the Guards in Leaf Village, played with his beard as if deep in thought.

He was surprised to know that the true identity of the chubby boy was Lux, but after connecting the dots, he realized that the only one that could return to Leaf Village after stepping into the Apostle Grade was none other than their Eternal Guardian.

"Okay, but I won't be going anywhere," Aron replied. "My duty is here in Leaf Village. As long as you are fine with that, I don't see a problem joining."

"There's no problem, thank you, Mr. Aron," Lux smiled as he handed a member token to the Dwarf.

Just like what happened to Cadmus and the others, the token merged with the palm of his hand, signaling that he had now become his temporary Guild Member.

Lux had now gathered eleven guild members, and he just needed nine more to finish the quota needed to make a guild before he traveled to the Stronghold of Norria.

He wasn't just randomly inviting people—everyone he had tried to recruit were people whom he thought would play a crucial role in his guild.

The Innkeeper's role would be to give his guild members good accommodations and discounts whenever they decided to stay inside his inn.

This would give his guild members a feeling of exclusivity, which would entice the factionless Solaians who would appear in Leaf Village as their starting point in Elysium.

Aron was the Head of the Guards, whom people usually ask for help whenever a problem arose. If the Guard Captain was part of their guild, wouldn't that mean that they already knew a big shot from the beginning?

He also wanted to recruit the Captain of the Riders of Norria, Boreas, but they were directly under the management of the Stronghold of Norria, which was under the command of the Royal Family.

Lux thought that it might be taken as something offensive if he tried to recruit any of the Riders of Norria to join his guild, so he didn't look for Boreas while he was searching for guild members.

To his surprise, it was Boreas himself who came to find him and ask to become his Guild Member.

"Don't think too much about it," Boreas stated after taking the red token from Lux. "We will leave after you establish your guild. Think of this as a repayment for helping us deal with the Mutated Thunder Wolf King. If you didn't help us back then, I, as well as my men, might have all been buried six feet under by now, or worse, turned into monster poop. Isn't that right, boys?"

"That's right, Captain!"

"This is but a small matter. Just think of it as returning the favor."

"Compared to our lives, such a simple thing isn't even worth mentioning."

The Riders of Norria laughed as they told Lux of how much more comfortable their life had become since the barrier around Leaf Village appeared.

No more Monster Outbreaks befell the small village with the power of the Guardian Crystal.

This gave the Riders plenty of free time, and since they had nothing to do, they decided to escort Lux to the Stronghold of Norria to create his guild.

The journey towards the Stronghold wasn't long. Using the paths that were only known to the Riders of Norria, they were able to arrive at their destination in less than two hours.

They passed several checkpoints along the way, but since Boreas was escorting Lux and his friends, they were able to pass without too many problems.

After several more checkpoints, they finally made it to the Stronghold of Norria, and the first thing Boreas did was report to Commander Thoram that Lux had returned to Leaf Village, prompting the Commander of the Riders of Norria to come and meet the Half-Elf and even escort him towards the Adventurer's Guild in order to back him up.

"Thoram, you must hold this Human in high regards since you personally tagged along," the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild in the Stronghold of Norria, Keelan, said with a smile.

"Well, Lucien and I go way back," Thoram gave the chubby teenager a side-long glance before shifting his attention back to his acquaintance. "Can you help him complete his guild registration?"

Keelan grinned. "Since you have come to vouch for him, even without recommendation letters and the badge that indicates he has completed the Trial of Leadership, I guess I have no choice but to agree to your request."

"Good. I will forget about the drink you owe me from a month ago."

"What a petty Commander. You're still keeping tabs of such a simple thing?"

Keelan laughed as he guided Lux to the Altar Area where Guilds were created.

"Just place your Guild Token on top of the Altar and register the name of your Guild," Keelan explained. "Depending on the Rank of your Token, the Rank of your Guild will rise accordingly."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. He then took out the Dragon Token, which was also the token that he used to summon Keoza, and placed it on the altar.

The Dragon Token glowed faintly and hovered a meter above the altar, proving that it was a legitimate Token, approved by their organization.

"A Dragon Token?" Keelan rubbed his beard. "This is the first time I've seen a Dragon Token used to register a Guild. Maybe he will jump to a Silver-Ranked Guild from the get go."

"Well, I wouldn't be surprised even if it jumps to a Gold-Ranked Guild," Thoram commented. "The design of the token is quite unique. Maybe he found it in some ancient ruins after he left Leaf Village."

(A/N In case you guys forgot, the known guild rankings in Elysium are Bronze, Iron, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Mithril, Orihalcum, and Adamantite.)

The Guildmaster and the Commander of Norria made some small talk as Lux started to register his guild.

All he needed to do was write the name of the Guild on the altar, and the registration process would be complete.

As soon as Lux finished writing the name of his guild, a loud tolling of a bell reverberated in the surroundings, which made Keelan and Thoram wonder what was going on.

Wildgarde Stronghold...

"A bell?" Gerald glanced at the Bell of their Stronghold in the distance. It wasn't moving in the slightest, so he wondered where the sound he was hearing was coming from.

"Is someone casting a spell or something?" Natasha, who was with Gerald, and Rainer, who was performing their routine patrols around the Stronghold, frowned. "This prank isn't funny."

Rainer closed his eyes as he extended his senses throughout the entire stronghold. He was the one who had created the defensive mechanisms protecting their city, so he could easily detect if someone was using any spell that was making the sound of the bell that they were hearing.

"No one is casting a spell," Rainer stated. "This sound is not coming from inside our Stronghold."

The three Guardians were not the only ones who heard the sound. Several people inside the Stronghold were also looking around to see where the sound was coming from. But no matter where they looked, they were unable to see the person responsible for the tolling of the bell that they were hearing.

Barbatos Academy...

"What's that sound?" Alexander asked. "Do you have an event planned for today?"

"No, Headmaster," Alicia replied. "There are no scheduled events for today."

Iris, who was also inside the Headmaster's office, walked toward the balcony to see if someone was playing a prank on them. However, she saw no one in the immediate vicinity, which made her wonder what was happening.

As a Saint, it was very easy for Alexander to detect where the sound was coming from as long as he focused his mind on it, and the result of his investigation made him frown.

'It's coming from the sky?' Alexander thought as he gazed to the heavens. 'Just what is going on?'

Kingdom of Agartha found near the core of the Earth...

A pink-haired young lady, who was bound by several chains, raised her head to look at the ceiling above her head.

She didn't know where the sound was coming from, but the moment she heard it, she felt as if the power inside her chest was starting to fluctuate.

It was as if something from beyond the darkness of her prison was calling out to her, and it made her feel things that she had long discarded after being locked up for the last few years of her life.

"A change is coming," the pink-haired girl muttered as she slowly stood up to raise her hands towards the ceiling, making her chains give out clinking sounds. "A change that will sweep this world by storm."

Kingdom of Espoir Frieden, the Holy Land of the High-Elves...

A beautiful elf narrowed her eyes to look towards the South. The moment she heard the tolling of the bell, her heart started to beat wildly inside her chest.

She didn't know what was happening, but she knew that whatever it was, it would also have an effect on all the Elven Kingdoms, including the Holy Kingdom of the High Elves.

High Above the Skies of Elysium, the floating Island City of the Draconians, Karshvar Draconis...

The current Dragon King opened its eyes as the loud tolling of a bell reached his ears.

"Keoza..." the Dragon King muttered. "After hundreds of years, you have finally made your choice. Good. I look forward to seeing the person you have acknowledged."

The tolling of the bell could be heard in every part of Solais and Elysium. Every creature under the Heavens raised their heads in confusion as they tried to figure out where the sound they were hearing was coming from.

Seated on top of the highest peak of Elysium was the God of Games, Eriol.

A smile could be seen on his face, as he waited for the announcement to the world to be given.

< Worldwide Announcement! >

< Let it be known that on the 13th day of the Month of Death, in the year of the Crow, the first ever Mythical Guild in the World was created! >

< Spread the news far and wide, and welcome the coming of the Guild that will be known from this day onwards as... >

< Heaven's Gate! >

Chapter 360.1: Mythical Guild, Heaven's Gate [Part 1]

< Spread the news far and wide, and welcome the coming of the Guild that will be known from this day onwards as... >

< Heaven's Gate! >

" ... "

" ... "

" ... "

Lux, Thoram, and Keelan stood rooted to their spot when they heard the Worldwide Announcement.

Right in front of the three of them were two words, floating in the air, which spelled out the name of Lux's Guild.

Heaven's Gate.

Boreas, who was standing a few meters away from the three, looked at the name of the Guild that hovered in the air. It turned out that he wasn't just seeing things.

However, just to be sure, he opened his Soul Book and went to the Guild Page to confirm whether everything he had heard and seen was real.

< Heaven's Gate >

"Last Stand At World's End."

Guild Rank: Mythical

Guild Member Name: Boreas...

Profession: Captain of the Riders of Norria

Rank: Grade B Apostle.

< Active Guild Buffs >

300% Health Regeneration

300% Mana Regeneration

300% Stamina Regeneration

100% Chance to learn skills from Beast Cores

100% Immunity to Charm Skill

100% Increase in Experience Points when killing Monsters

25% Chance of getting better Monster Drops

25% Chance of resisting Status Ailments

20% Increase in Physical and Magical Attacks

20% Increase in Physical and Magical Defense

20% Bonus Success Rate in Crafting items

< Guild Facilities >

– Requirements not met. Please build a Guild Headquarters first and install corresponding facilities.

– You can only build your Main Guild Headquarters on the floating island, Karshvar Draconis.

– The Guildmaster may use the Token of Bahamut to go to Karshvar Draconis once every three days.

– Once the Guild Headquarters is built, all Guild Members will be able to teleport to the Guild Base once every three days.

< Guild Bestiary >

– Not installed

Guild Mount: Not Available

"Hyeok!"

Boreas almost choked on his saliva after reading the guild information in his Soul Book. He didn't expect that the Guild that he casually joined would be the first ever Mythical Guild in the whole world.

Originally, he planned to leave Lux's Guild as soon as it was created. Now, even if Lux were to kick him out of the guild, he would cry and hug the Half-Elf's thighs, begging to let him stay in his guild.

With so many benefits just by being part of Heaven's Gate, Boreas wouldn't leave it even if Lux insisted to get him out.

Leave the only Mythical Guild in the World?

Hah! Only dumb people would do that! I'm not dumb!

Thoram and Keelan, who finally regained their wits, looked up at the Half-Elf beside them in disbelief. If not for the fact that they were inside the Guild Creation room, and had watched Lux register his guild properly, they would still be doubting if they were right in the head or not.

"Lux, my boy, it seems like you made some of my Riders your Guild Members just to reach the quota for guild creation," Thoram cleared his throat. "Do you know what you have done?"

Lux snapped out of his daze and looked at the Commander of the Stronghold with an apologetic expression on his face.

"I'm sorry, Sir Thoram," Lux replied. "It was a bit selfish of me to ask your men to join me in order to reach the quota for creating the guild."

"Right." Thoram nodded. "But that is not the problem here. You invited my Riders to your Guild, but you forgot to invite me. Lux, my boy, it seems that you skipped some steps. Shouldn't you have invited me in as well?"

"Yes. I am very sorry that I—Um?" Lux, who was about to apologize again, caught himself right in time after hearing Thoram's words. He thought that the Commander was nagging at him for asking his Riders to join his guild without his permission.

"Sir Thoram, could you please repeat what you said? I think I didn't hear you right the first time."

"You're so young, and you already have trouble hearing? Well, you're in luck, boy. Since I can help you handle some of the guild affairs if you make me one of the officers of your Guild. Relax, I have plenty of experience managing people. My Commander title isn't just for show, you know?"

Keelan, who was just listening to the conversation, also cleared his throat.

"Being the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild, I have a keen eye on people. Hey~ the moment I saw you enter my Guild Branch, I knew right away that your future is bright," Keelan commented. "But I can tell that you don't specialize in handling human resources. Fortunately, the Adventurer's Guild is a free organization and doesn't keep their Guildmembers in a tight leash.

"We are able to join or form guilds of our own as we wish as long as it doesn't get in the way of our duties. I also have plenty of connections, so why don't you let me handle information gathering and the other small stuff? Thoram here can handle the rest. What do you say? I'm sure you will need someone like me in your Guild as well."

The two Dwarves flanked the Half-Elf and looked at him as if they were looking at a golden goose that they wouldn't allow to escape.

Thoram even gave Boreas a subtle gesture to make sure that the door was properly secured so that no one could come in or out of the Guild Creation Altar room and discover what was happening inside of it.

Thoram and Keelan were no fools. For the time being, the identity of Lux's Guild must be kept secret for as long as possible.

No one knew what a Mythical Guild was capable of, and even the Highest Ranked Guilds, which were Adamantite-Rank that had millions of members, didn't have the same perks and Guild Buffs that Lux's Guild currently had.

Actually, Adamantite Rank Guild only had the Guild Buffs, 100% Health, Mana, and Stamina Regeneration.

Compared to the special buffs that Lux's Guild possessed, the highest ranking guilds in the world looked like second rate guilds!

"Boy, what are you waiting for?" Thoram patted Lux's arm. "Invite us already."

"Hey~ I might change my mind, you know?" Keelan said while playing with his beard. "It is best to make me a guild member before I turn you down."

The two Dwarves were releasing auras that made Lux feel that they wouldn't accept no as an answer. So in order to get out of this tricky situation, he did what he had to do and added Thoram and Keelan as members of his guild. He immediately promoted them into Guild Elders.

Just like Boreas, Thoram and Keelan were surprised to see the amazing Guild Buffs that were available to the members of Lux's Guild.

Aside from the very high Health, Mana, and Stamina Regeneration, the thing that captured their attention the most was the increased experience points, as well as the 100% Chance to learn Skills from Beast Cores.

In truth, there was only a 30% Chance that you could learn a skill from a Beast Core, so learning High-Level skills from Deimos, Argonaut, Dreadnought, and Emyrean Ranked Beast Cores was a very costly thing to do.

With the Guild Buffs available to them, they no longer had to worry about such a thing.

But it didn't end there. For Manager and Commander Ranked People like Keelan and Thoram, the 100% Immunity to Charm and 20% Bonus Success Rate in Crafting items was something that made them look at their Soul Books in disbelief.

Although rare, there were a few people that had very powerful Charm Skills in the world. Once you were charmed by them, you would be unable to resist

their orders, so people seated in high positions were prime targets to be charmed.

The 20% Success Rate was also something that was much coveted by craftsmen like Blacksmiths, Alchemists, and other artisans who relied on luck to create anything with a rank above Mythical Rank.

"Lux, we need to talk about some serious issues concerning our guild," said Thoram, who clearly understood the consequences of such guild buffs. He knew that if word of this got out, Lux would be the target of people's envy and jealousy.

It might even put the young man's life in danger because some would aim for his life in order to erase his existence. His guild members wouldn't be spared either because the enemies' main goal would be to prevent Heaven's Gate from becoming strong.

In order to avoid such situations, Thoram and Keelan wanted to make sure that the Half-Elf fully understood the ups and downs of being the Guildmaster of the only Mythical Rank Guild in the world.

An hour later, Lux once again put on the Mask of Thousand Faces before leaving the Stronghold of Norria, alongside the dumbfounded Cai and Keane, who were looking at their Soul Books in disbelief.

Chapter 361.2: Mythical Guild, Heaven's Gate [Part 2]

Lux was personally escorted back to Leaf Village by Boreas and his men. All of them had been briefed by Thoram to keep their identities as Guild Members of Heaven's Gate a secret.

Naturally, all of them accepted their Commander's orders, knowing that now was not the time to make themselves known to the world.

Lux's Guild was still in its infancy stage, and his Guild Members were still weak.

Cadmus, Sid, Cai, Keane, Thoram, and Keelan were the strongest fighters at the moment. The rest of Lux's Guild Members were Grade B Apostles and

below, which was decent, but not strong enough to protect their Guild from the bullying of long established guilds in Elysium.

It was highly possible for Lux to be captured and be forced to hand over the Guild ownership of Heaven's Gate. That was something that they didn't want to happen. With this in mind, keeping a low profile—despite their Guild being the hottest topic of discussion across the entire world—was the best option they had.

"Don't worry, My Daddy!" Cai said as it ran beside Lux's mount, Jed, with a smile on its face. "I won't tell anyone about this! You can count on me."

"Good." Lux replied. "I know that I can count on you, Cai."

"Hahaha. But of course, um. I'll just brag to my Gramps that I'm a member of the only Mythical Guild in the world. Hahahaha! I'm sure that he will lose his marbles once I let him see my Soul Book. Xander too. I'm sure that he is very troubled right now because I left the Guild. I'm sure that he will understand why I left after letting him see my Soul Book as well."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

Boreas glanced at Lux and gave his Guild Master the "Can I roast this boar, please?" look, which the Half-Elf was almost tempted to approve of.

He was now regretting his decision to add the chatterbox Cai to his Guild, and wondered if he should really eliminate the Boar that might cause his downfall.

Cai, who felt something was wrong, glanced at the Riders of Norria who had already drawn their weapons and were looking at it as if they were going to skin it alive, making its heart tremble.

"Hahaha! I was just joking!" Cai said as beads of sweat appeared on its forehead. "You guys are too serious. Can't you see that I am just joking? Of course I am going to keep this a secret. I mean, I'm very good at keeping secrets~"

"Cai, please keep this a secret," Lux said. "We're not strong enough to protect our Guild. I hope you understand that this Guild is very important to me. You can brag about it in the future, I'm sure that everyone will look at you with admiration and even idolize you by then."

The Boar's pupils shook as it imagined itself standing on top of piles of gold coins and other treasures, as people worshipped it as one of the founders of Heaven's Gate.

"Don't worry, My Daddy," Cai said as if it was a general that was about to go to battle. "I'll keep this as a secret and surprise my Gramps when I become a Ranker. I'm sure that I'll be strong enough by then."

"Okay," Lux nodded. "You can tell your Grandpa after you become a Ranker."

Being a Ranker was the bare minimum when it came to having the power to protect oneself in Elysium. Anyone below that Rank, including Initiates, were just little kids in the eyes of adults and were simply asking for a beating.

"Man~ I can't believe that creating a Mythical Guild is this easy," Cai commented. "Maybe I should create a guild of my own. Knowing me, I'm sure that it will also be Mythical. Perhaps, even Legendary!"

"Just tell me when you want to resign from your position, okay?"

"Hahaha. This is still far in the future, okay? We still don't even have a Guild Base. Um? Why can't we build our Guild Headquarters in other places? Why is there a restriction?"

Cai was quite excited to see what their Guild Headquarters would be like. Usually, Guild Headquarters were built in Major Cities in order to have the opportunity to become the City's Protector, allowing them to gain great benefits throughout the duration of their term.

This was similar to the competition that was held in Whitebridge City, where the Guild that ranked the highest in the defense of the city would become its City's Protector.

Lux also didn't know where Karshvar Draconis was located. Fortunately, the Dragon Token, whose true name was the Token of Bahamut, was capable of bringing him to that place once every three days.

The Half-Elf was very tempted to go, but he still had some loose ends to tie up in Leaf Village. He also wanted to ensure that his Guild Members, especially his Master, Randolph, who was known as a braggart, would keep mum about the identity of their Guild.

It didn't take long before they arrived in Leaf Village, and the first thing that Lux did was gather his Guild Members and have their first Guild meeting.

Lux explained the things that Thoram and Keelan had told him, and asked everyone to not mention anything about the Guild for the time being.

After hearing the Half-Elf's explanation, Cedwyn put his plan on hold for the time being.

Originally, he wanted to open a Guild Branch in Leaf Village and directly recruit the Foreigners (Solaians) who had just arrived in their village. But since Lux had asked them to keep their Guild a secret for the time being, the Village Head postponed his plans and decided to focus on doing the groundwork for the future.

"We will do our best to hasten increasing our Rank so that we can walk proudly under the sun," Lux stated. "But until then, we need to lie low or else we risk being nipped in the bud before we can even fully grow."

Everyone agreed with Lux's words and, after an hour, their meeting ended.

Cadmus chatted with Lux before he left Leaf Village. He planned on adding the elite members of the Kobolds in the Guild, so that all of them could benefit in the Guilds Buffs, especially the 100% Increase in Experience Points.

Unlike Lux, who could only increase his stats by consuming Beast Cores, the Elysians and Solaians could only level up by killing monsters.

Because of this, the Experience Buff was a very important buff that the Draconic Kobold didn't want to waste.

The Half-Elf agreed with Cadmus' plan to let the Kobold Clan enter the guild. With Cadmus as their leader, he believed that the Kobolds would grow faster and become one of the staunchest vanguards of his Guild.

Sid planned to stay in Leaf Village for a week to spend some time with his sisters. He would rejoin Cadmus in the Savage Lands after his short vacation in order to get stronger.

Heidi's mother, Lilia, also went to have a private talk with Lux, asking if Bedivere could stay with her for a short while.

"You see, Heidi has been pestering me to let her have a little sister and little brother," Lilia said with a beet-red face. "I know that my husband had already pledged his sword to become your knight, but can you give him a few days off? I haven't seen him for years."

"Of course," Lux replied with a smile. "I'll give him a week's vacation. Please use that time to give Heidi a little brother or sister."

The blush on Lilia's face turned a red shade after hearing Lux's answer. In truth, she was worried that her husband would go with Lux right away after only being reunited for a short period of time. Now that she had gotten the Half-Elf's approval, she felt relieved. Bedivere would finally be able to spend some time with them and catch up on what had happened over the two years that he hadn't been home.

The next day, Lux, Cai, and Keane bid goodbye to everyone and embarked on their new journey.

Now that his Guild was created, it was now time for him to go back home to Solais. However, he didn't plan on going to Wildgarde Stronghold right away.

Right now, he was a hot potato, so he needed to talk to his Step-Father, Alexander, about the status of his Guild. He also needed to send a letter to Gerald, who was the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold, to meet with Lux in private within Barbatos Academy.

Since the matter of his Guild was quite delicate, he only wanted to inform the people he trusted, so that his secret would not spread in the world before he became strong enough to stand on his own.

Chapter 362: Finding A Reliable Ally

"Lux!" Iris jumped into the Half-Elf's arms and hugged him tight.

"I'm back, Iris." Lux returned a hug to the young lady who jumped into his arms. After half a minute of holding each other, the blue-haired beauty took the initiative to give the Half-Elf a kiss on the cheek.

Cai cleared its throat because it couldn't endure the PDA that the two forcefully fed it.

The Boar only volunteered to accompany Lux to Barbatos academy because it also wanted to see Iris. It had been a while since it had last seen her.

(A/N: PDA stands for Public Display of Affection.)

"Can't you wait until the sun goes down before the two of you tangle yourselves with each other like snakes?" Cai made its displeasure known, making Iris giggle.

"Welcome to Barbatos Academy, Cai," Iris said as she gave the jealous boar a hug. "I'm glad that you're here as well."

"This hug alone is worth the trip coming here," Cai replied, enjoying Iris' hug.

A moment later, the two started chatting with each other like old friends who hadn't seen each other for a long time.

Cai started to brag about its adventure in Elysium, which portrayed the scene of the Boar fearlessly charging towards thousands of Rank 4 Rat Monsters, in order to save Lux from dying.

Lux rolled his eyes at the Boar, who kept outrageously bragging non-stop. He decided to initiate a conversation with Alicia, who was standing not far away from them.

"Is the Headmaster busy right now?" Lux asked. "There is something important that I need to consult him about."

Alicia smiled as she looked at the Half-Elf who seemed to have grown a little taller since the last time she saw him.

"The Headmaster is always busy," Alicia smiled, "but he will always make time for you since you are his family."

Lux didn't know how to react to Alicia's words because he found out that this statement was indeed true. As the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy and one

of the most active Saints within the territories of the Six Kingdoms, Alexander was always busy.

However, he always made time to talk to Lux despite his busy schedule.

"Is he in his office?" Lux asked.

Alicia nodded. "Shall I guide you there?"

"No need. Please prepare a room for Cai and Keane. We will be staying here for a few days."

"Understood."

Lux bid goodbye to Iris, Cai, and Keane before heading straight towards the Headmaster's office.

There were only a handful of people whom Lux trusted with his life in Solais, and Alexander was definitely one of them.

Inside the Headmaster's Office...

Alexander calmly looked at Lux's Soul Book, reading the information about the Guild that he had created.

It was the Half-Elf that took the initiative to present his Soul Book to his step-father, so that the latter could better understand the guild that the Half-Elf had created.

A few minutes later, the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy sighed before glancing at the red-headed teenager who was looking at him with an anxious gaze.

"To think that the Guildmaster of the Mythical Guild that was announced to every corner of the World is my own step-son. It makes me feel as though Fate is playing a prank on me," Alexander commented. "Do you realize that the Six Kingdoms, as well as our neighboring kingdoms, are scrambling to look for any information regarding your guild?"

"Of course, it is not only them. This announcement was also heard in Elysium. The Xynnar War Pact and the Skystead Alliance are doing everything in their

power to find the identity of the Guildmaster who founded Heaven's Gate. The moment they find him, they will probably offer him lucrative deals or force him to submit to their rule."

Lux nodded. "I am aware. This is why I came to find you, Father. This matter needs to be handled discreetly. I would appreciate it if you don't mention this to Alicia for the time being."

"How about Iris?" Alexander inquired.

"She's family," Lux answered. "I plan to tell her after I discuss the matter of the guild with you."

Alexander nodded his head in satisfaction.

"Are you planning to inform the Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold as well?" Alexander asked.

"Actually, this is the reason why I came here first, Father," Lux replied. "I need your help to invite Sir Gerald here to Barbatos Academy, so we can have a private talk. I also need your help in forming a binding contract to prevent Sir Gerald from spreading the news."

Alexander lightly tapped his armrest before giving his reply. "Okay, I'll help you. Is there anything else you want to tell me?"

Lux took a deep breath before nodding his head.

"Actually, there is one more matter that I need to talk to you about," Lux stated. "I was given the opportunity to enter Elysium before the Tournament was held in Barbatos Academy."

Alexander arched an eyebrow after hearing Lux's reply. He had already heard from Alicia that Lux hadn't been able to pass the test that was given to him by the Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold, barring him from entering Elysium through their Stronghold's teleportation gate.

The Half-Elf then narrated his adventures in the Kingdom of Gweliven and also told him about the people he had met along the way. He also mentioned Eriol, but he made sure that he introduced the God of Games as a wandering healer who happened to appear in Wildgarde Stronghold and helped him with his condition.

When the tale ended, Alexander took some time to digest everything he had heard before voicing out his thoughts.

"I already had my suspicions, but I didn't expect that you would jump from zero to hero in just a few months by going to Elysium," Alexander commented. "Many who have come before you weren't able to accomplish the things you have. Even Iris, who had been in Elysium since she was twelve, is just in the middle stages of the Grade A Apostle.

"You, on the other hand, have almost overtaken her in just a short period of time. Not only that, you were able to defeat the strongest members of the young generation from the Six Kingdoms. Just what kind of juice have you been drinking? Make sure to give Iris some of that as well."

Lux almost chuckled after hearing his father's teasing remark. He almost joked that he would give Iris some juice later tonight, but he knew that if he really said that, Alexander might slap him silly, losing several of his teeth in the process.

"Still, I think that staying in the Dwarven Kingdom is a good idea," Alexander said with a very interested look on his face. "The Dwarven Kingdoms don't usually allow other races within their lands.

"This is a good opportunity to open connections, as well as initiate trade between our factions. However, this is something we will discuss further in the future when you are strong enough to protect your Guild, your Guild Members, and your Guild's interest.

"For now, focus on getting stronger. Learn your lesson from what happened with your fight with the Prince of the Kingdom of Ashina. Until you become a Ranker, make sure to keep the identity of your Guild a secret. Do you understand?"

Lux nodded his head in understanding.

Now that he'd had a proper talk with his Step-father, confessing his adventures in the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven, he felt a lot lighter. He finally found a reliable ally that would keep his Guild a secret and also help him clean up, just in case something unexpected were to happen in the future.

Chapter 363.1: Lux's Secret [Part 1]

Since Alexander had decided to fully support Lux, he took it upon himself to make the necessary arrangements to invite Gerald to Barbatos Academy in the fastest time possible.

Just hours after he had a heart to heart talk with the Half-Elf, the Commander of Wildgarde, Stronghold, Gerald, as well as the two High-Elders, Natasha and Rainer, arrived in Barbatos Academy, using the teleportation gate of the Academy.

Alicia led them to the Headmaster's office, where Lux and Alexander were already waiting for them.

"Lux, it's good to see you again," Gerald greeted with a smile. "Alexander, I apologize because I was not able to come alone as you mentioned in the letter. I had a feeling that the talk was going to be very important, so I decided to bring Natasha and Rainer with me. As you may already know, even if I am the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold, the decision making doesn't lay on my hands alone.

"I had a feeling that this matter concerns Lux, so I decided to have the two of them accompany me as witnesses, so the others won't say that I am showing favoritism to him. This is about his Guild, right? Did you ask your step-father to negotiate with me because you failed to meet the deadline? Is this how badly you don't want to join Nero's Guild?"

Gerald gave Lux a teasing smile that says "You little critter. You think I don't know what you're thinking? You're still too green, boy."

Natasha smirked because she came with Gerald to see how Lux would try to squeeze himself out of this predicament.

Rainer, on the other hand, remained calm and simply sat on one of the chairs and listened to the conversation with a faint smile on his face.

"I don't mind, Gerald," Alexander replied. "Also, I thank the three of you for coming in such short notice. I have already asked Alicia to prepare a sumptuous dinner for all of us later."

"Hahaha! I look forward to it!" Gerald laughed as he patted Lux's shoulder, who had his head lowered.

He thought that the Half-Elf was already feeling down because he wasn't able to accomplish his mission, and had no choice but to join the Storm Dragons and make peace with Nero. What he didn't know was that Lux was doing his best to keep his face straight, as he waited to see Gerald's reaction when he knew the real reason he was asked to visit Barbatos Academy.

Alexander nodded his head before diving into the main issue at hand.

"You are right," Alexander replied. "I am here in order to negotiate on behalf of Lux, concerning his Guild."

"Um, I'm just going to say this, okay? I am a very righteous person, you won't be able to bribe me," Gerald said. "Although I feel bad about forcing Lux to join Nero's guild, both of them are young and they can still settle their differences civilly. If Vera was here, she might disagree with me, but for the sake of a united front in Elysium, past grudges must be resolved in a peaceful manner."

Alexander nodded. "Before we start, I would like for the three of you to sign this binding contract. The contract states that whatever we would talk about in this room, stays in this room. If any of you divulge this secret to others, I will immediately take control of Wildgarde Stronghold, and bring it under my faction's umbrella."

When Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer, heard Alexander's words, all three of them immediately frowned because they weren't expecting the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy to act in such a bold and domineering manner.

"Aren't you over exaggerating, Alex?" Natasha asked. "This is just a simple matter, why are you acting like a bandit?"

"I'm afraid that this isn't as 'simple' a matter as you think, Natasha," Alexander replied. "This concerns Lux's safety, and my daughter's safety."

"Your daughter's safety?" Gerald asked. "What do you mean?"

Alexander passed the contract to the three adults before answering Gerald's question.

"My daughter is Lux's fiancée," Alexander replied. "Since the two of them are bound to get married in the future, I don't want my daughter to suddenly become a widow because some people aren't able to keep a secret."

Rainer glanced at the contents of the contract, and just like Alexander said, all that was stated in it was that they would have to keep everything they would hear a secret.

"Boy, it seems that I have underestimated your thick skin." Gerald ruffled Lux's hair as he tried to organize his emotions. "This is too high-handed. I will not agree to sign this."

The Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold returned the contract to the top of the table and crossed his arms over his chest.

"Our two factions have been good allies both in Solais and Elysium," Gerald stated. "I can't believe that you would go as far as to use your status as Saint to make us submit, Alexander. I really didn't see this coming when I came here to meet you. Everyone, let's go. We're going back to the Stronghold. As for you, Lux, don't let me see you anywhere. Even if Vera is around, I'll give you a good spanking!"

Gerald was quite angry because he had a bottom line.

He would not allow others to make him forcefully submit, and even if his opponent was a Saint, he would not lower his head, and would fight till the bitter end.

That was his principle in life, and not even Alexander's Rank would change his mind.

Natasha also stood because she supported Gerald's opinion. Deep inside, she felt betrayed because she had taken good care of Lux when he was young. She didn't expect that the kindness they had given him, while he stayed inside Wildgarde Stronghold, would be repaid in this manner.

Rainer, on the other hand, casually took out his Quill Pen from his storage ring and signed the contract.

"Will this do?" Rainer asked as he passed the contract to Alexander.

After signing the contract, the white paper glowed faintly, which proved that the binding agreement had now taken in place.

This contract was made by a Saint, so the moment Rainer broke his word, Alexander would know it right away.

"What's the meaning of this, Rainer?" Gerald asked. "Are you mad?"

He couldn't believe that Nero's Master, who was always stern with Lux, would sign the contract as if it was nothing.

That was a binding contract made by a Saint. If Rainer broke it, a tracker would be placed on his body, making it impossible for him to escape, even if he ran to the ends of the world.

Chapter 364.2: Lux's Secret [Part 2]

"Calm down, Gerald," Rainer replied as he eyed the Half-Elf who still had his head lowered and was looking on the carpeted floor. "Do you really think that Alexander is so petty as to use this method to force us to cancel our agreement with Lux to join Nero's Guild? I highly doubt it. This matter must be quite serious for him to go as far as to make a binding contract.

"I am very interested to hear his reason, so if the two of you aren't going to sign, please leave the room immediately. I want to know why a Saint would intervene with our agreement with Lux and take this matter into his own hands."

Gerald frowned, not expecting that Rainer would decide to take a gamble that placed him in a great disadvantage.

"Oi, boy, tell me the truth," Gerald said as he looked at Lux. "This is not about your conflict with Nero, right?"

Lux, who had his head lowered, finally raised his head and looked at Gerald with a determined gaze.

"No," Lux answered. "This is not about me and Nero."

"Is this something that might affect Wildgarde Stronghold?"

"In a way, yes. But, if no one says anything, everything will be fine."

"On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how serious is this matter that you and your step-father wanted to talk about?" Gerald inquired.

After learning that this meeting was not due to Lux's conflict with Nero, he felt as if his curiosity was piqued due to how seriously Alexander was handling this issue.

Lux spread his two hands and showed Gerald all ten of his fingers, causing the latter's brows to furrow.

Half a minute later, the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold scratched his head as he pulled the contract on the table and signed it with a huff.

"Okay, there." Gerald handed the contract to Alexander before sitting with his arms crossed. "This better be good!"

Natasha sighed and signed the contract as well. Since Gerald and Rainer had already accepted the agreement, she had no other choice but to follow suit. Also, she was quite curious about what the big secret was all about, which made the atmosphere inside the room very tense.

The High-Cleric noticed that Alexander's secretary, Alicia had left the room after Rainer signed the contract. It seemed that this matter was highly confidential that even the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy refused to have his trusted secretary participate in the discussion.

After all three contracts were signed, Alexander waved his hand, and the white papers turned into particles of light, flying towards Gerald's, Natasha's, and Rainer's chest. This was the proof that the discussion was about to start.

"Everyone, please don't be surprised by what you are about to see," Alexander said before glancing at Lux. "Show them."

Lux nodded and summoned his Soul Book. He then opened it and flipped to the Guild Page of his Soul Book and gave Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer permission to view it.

The moment the three of them saw what was written in Lux's Soul Book, a curse escaped Gerald's lips from surprise.

Natasha had completely lost her calm and her mouth hung wide open, making her unable to close it due to shock.

Rainer, who was the most curious of them all earlier, felt cold sweat forming on his forehead. He had already suspected that Lux and Alexander were about to show them something big. But, he didn't expect it to be THAT big.

"Dear God," Natasha muttered after she finally regained a bit of her senses. "J-Just how did this happen?"

Natasha felt scared for the Half-Elf because this matter was simply too heavy to ignore. As people who held influence among others, she knew more than anyone else the significance of having a secret this big.

"It hasn't even been a day since we heard the announcement," Gerald said weakly as he stared at the red-headed teenager, who was looking at him with a smug expression on his face. "You little critter. What kind of token did you use to create your guild?"

Lux didn't hesitate and took out the token that he received from Keoza. He passed it to the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold.

The token was now Soul Bound to him. All he needed was a single thought for it to instantly return to his hands. It couldn't be stolen no matter what, so it didn't matter if he allowed someone to hold it.

Rainer, who was observing the token in Gerald's hand, gasped after recognizing some of the runes written in it.

"Draconian Runes!" Rainer exclaimed. "This token was made by a Dragon!"

As a craftsman who specialize in armor, weapon, and accessory crafting, Rainer was well-versed in runes. Depending on the quality and power of the rune embedded on a piece of equipment, their ranks and power would be increased.

Because of this, he had studied many ancient languages, as well as the runic inscriptions that they had inscribed in their items. One of the languages that Rainer studied was Draconian, allowing him to recognize the runes that were inscribed on the token's surface.

"Where did you get this?" Rainer asked Lux with bloodshot eyes. "How did you come to possess this item?"

Lux and Alexander had already discussed this matter beforehand, and had come up with a fool-proof excuse to explain the Dragon Token's existence.

"I found it on the Gate of War," Lux replied. "It is one of the items that the army general dropped when we were fighting him."

"You found it in the Sacred Dungeon?" Rainer heaved a deep sigh before shaking his head. "To think that something so precious could be gained inside the Domain of the Fallen. I thought that the Sacred White Lotus was the only prize that could be found there. We have truly underestimated the dungeon's significance."

Rainer felt regret that the representatives they had sent to explore the Sacred Dungeon returned with so little resources. Compared to what Lux gained after clearing the two Dungeons, the gains of the Storm Dragon Guild lost its significance.

Chapter 365.3: Lux's Secret [Part 3]

"Now that our quota has been reduced because of the agreement between the Six Kingdoms, Xynnar War Pact, and the Skystead Alliance, the chances of forming a sizable force to challenge the three remaining gates is practically nil," Natasha commented. "Lux, I guess we will have to rely on you to help gather resources for the Stronghold."

Gerald rubbed his chin as he glanced at the Guild Buffs that were enabled in Lux's Guild. The more he looked at it, the more he felt his liver itch.

If not for the fact that he was the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold, he might have asked the Half-Elf to let him join his Guild as well!

In fact, it was not only Gerald who was thinking about this matter. As a craftsman, the buffs inside Lux's Guild were simply too good to be true.

Anyone who had a profession would be willing to pay a hefty price for the opportunity to use the 20% Bonus Success Rate in Crafting items that was available in Lux's guild.

"Hahaha! That's my boy." Gerald said as he patted Lux's shoulder with a big smile on his face that made the Half-Elf shudder. "The times when I had to change your loincloth when you were young weren't in vain. Um, you know, our Stronghold is suffering difficulties as of late. Could you perhaps help gather these..."

Gerald gave Lux a list of items that the Stronghold was currently in short supply. Some of them could be taken from Dungeons, while some could only be bought in Elysium.

Seeing that the list wasn't that excessive, the Half-Elf agreed to keep an eye out for the items and hand some of them to the Stronghold as his way of repaying the kindness they had given to him since he was young.

"Now I understand why you went to such great lengths, Alexander," Gerald said after talking with Lux. "Don't worry. I promise that I will keep this a secret."

"I will keep this a secret as well," Natasha replied.

Rainer looked at Lux with a serious expression on his face before voicing his thoughts.

"I have signed the contract, so I plan to keep this secret as well," Rainer stated. "However, Lux, you already know that I am a craftsman. If there comes a time when I need your Guild Buffs to craft an item, will you allow me to join your Guild to increase my chances of success?"

Lux nodded. "Of course. Sir Rainer, although Nero and I have our conflict, you never intervened and allowed us to settle it amongst ourselves. Also, your role in the Stronghold as our Blacksmith and Craftsman is a very important position. I am very happy to let you join my Guild, and contribute to the Stronghold in this manner."

Gerald laughed after hearing Lux's magnanimous declaration. However, deep inside, he was very tempted to jump ship. If not for the fact that he needed to keep his reputation, he would have used his thick skin and asked Lux to allow him to transfer all of the members of their Guild, into Heaven's Gate.

Their meeting lasted for two more hours as they discussed the manner of the cooperation they would have with Lux's Guild. Overall, the meeting went quite

smoothly, and all sides were quite happy with the arrangements they had created.

After that, they all went to have dinner together.

Iris and Cai couldn't help but stare at Gerald, whose smile almost reached his ears, as he talked to Lux in a very friendly manner.

Alicia, who was excluded in the meeting, could feel that Gerald's, Natasha's and Rainer's attitudes towards Lux were no longer that of adults dealing with a child. In her eyes, it seemed that the three Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold were treating Lux as their equal instead of someone that was under their command.

The dinner ended without too much fuss, and everyone went to the rooms that had been prepared for them. Naturally, Lux went to Iris' bedroom, as they talked about everything that happened that day.

Just like Lux had promised to Alexander, he told Iris everything. Contrary to what he expected, Iris remained calm during his narration, which made the Half-Elf wonder if he didn't explain it properly.

Seeing his confusion, Iris just smiled and kissed his cheeks.

"I am indeed very surprised with the story that you have told me," Iris explained. "But, when the announcement was made, I had a feeling that it was somehow connected to you. I didn't know where this confidence of mine was coming from, but I knew then and there that the one who created Heaven's Gate was no one else but you."

Lux gazed at the blue-haired beauty beside him and lightly squeezed her hand. He felt very blessed to have a smart, loving fiancée like Iris, who made him feel like he was the luckiest man in the world.

A minute later, he moved closer to her and kissed her lips, making the beautiful lady close her eyes and cling to his body.

Soon, the sound of rustling clothes echoed inside the room, as Lux undressed his fiancée, who was eager for his love.

After another round of kissing and sensual touching, sighs of pleasure escaped Iris' lips, fanning the burning desire that had ignited inside Lux's chest.

When he finally reached the limit of his patience and endurance, he spread Iris legs and lowered his hips to become one with her.

Although she was quite wet and ready to receive him due to his ministrations, her tightness almost made Lux release his seed as soon as he entered her.

Both of them missed each other terribly, and it could clearly be felt through the burning desire that was spreading in their bodies like a flame that couldn't be put out, unless it found the release they were looking for.

Waves upon waves of pleasure washed over Iris' body, until finally, her body arched like a bow, as her heart and womb were filled to the brim with Lux's love.

As the blue-haired lady panted for breath, she looked up at the man whom she loved dearly.

"I love you, Lux," Iris said as she reached out to cup his face. "I've loved you for a very long time."

"I love you too, Iris," Lux replied as he lowered his head to kiss her lips. "More than you'll ever know."

The two of them shared one more kiss before Lux once again moved his hips to start their second round.

Lux had a very strong body and a lot of stamina, giving Iris the sweet taste of passion that she had missed during the time when they were away from each other.

The two only stopped making love when Lux felt that Iris finally reached her limit.

Not wanting to put too much strain on her young, soft, delicate body, the Half-Elf decided to stop after doing it five times.

He gently carried her to the bathroom and washed her properly. The Half-Elf did his best to resist the temptation of making love to her again then and there as he held her waist to hold her in place inside the bathtub.

"Will you stay with me for a while before returning to Elysium?" Iris asked.

She wanted to spend more time with Lux because she believed that he would be incredibly busy once he returned to Elysium—especially now that her fiancé was the Guildmaster of a Mythical Guild, which was the first of its kind in Solais and Elysium.

"I will stay for a week," Lux replied as he playfully drew circles on Iris' lower abdomen. "I have a feeling that Grandma or Eiko will return to us by then, so I want to stay here and ensure that there is nothing wrong with them before returning to Elysium."

Iris smiled. "I miss them both."

"I miss them, too," Lux commented.

"Let's go on a picnic—just the four of us, after they've revived," Iris proposed.

Lux chuckled and nodded his head. "Sounds good."

The Half-Elf wanted to treasure the precious moments he had together with his loved ones. Although he was a Necromancer, he didn't want to see any of them dying anytime soon.

He could still remember how happy Heidi and Lilia were after being reunited with Bedivere. Deep inside, he was glad that he was able to give the family of three a happy reunion.

Lux wanted everyone to have a happy ending, which is why he made another vow that he would do everything in his power to save Solais from destruction, so that the future generations, including those of his future children, would be able to live in a world that was not headed down the path of ruin.

Chapter 366: The Name of Lux's Guild

Two days had passed since Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer had a meeting with Lux and Alexander in Barbatos Academy.

After resting for a night, the three returned to Wildgarde Stronghold and had a high-level meeting with the other Guardians.

The agenda of their meeting was on what they must do in order to maximize the benefits they could reap once the Hidden Domain opened again next year.

After seeing the rewards, and resources that the conquerors managed to bring back home after their adventure, the rulers of the various kingdoms was now very eager to explore the secrets of the Domain of the Fallen, as well as conquer the Sacred Dungeon.

Since Lux, Cai, Keane, Xander, Einar, and Vall, were the only people who could access the Sacred Dungeon at any point in time, the slots in their possession were very valuable.

All of these teenagers had managed to gain a lot after they sold their slots to both Skystead Alliance and Xynnar War Pact.

Due to the delicate balance of relations in Elysium, the Six Kingdoms had no choice but to let the Xynnar War Pact monopolize the 15 slots that belonged to Xander, Einar, and Vall.

Cai and Keane didn't particularly care about their slots, but they had already jumped on Lux's ship. Whatever the Half-Elf wished to do, the two would follow along and do the same.

Due to what happened between Lux and the Vahan Empire, the Half-Elf decided to leave the Skystead Alliance and focus on his Guild for the time being.

Emperor Andreas was quite displeased about how things turned out in Lux's Trial of Leadership. He had already prepared a stage where he would come to save the Half-Elf at the last minute and offer him the opportunity to create a Guild as a compensation.

However, before he could even do that, Vera appeared and made short work of the Rankers that bullied her grandson. The Emperor of the Vahan Empire didn't even have time to properly talk to Lux and work things out because the Half-Elf disappeared without a trace.

Because of this, only the Xynnar War Pact would be able to explore the Sacred Dungeon, while the Skystead Alliance had no choice but to wait for Lux to appear in Elysium, so that they could negotiate and reach a compromise.

Lux, on the other hand, had other plans for the slots available to him, Cai, and Keane.

What he did was to offer the 15 slots to the Six Kingdoms, so they could create an elite party to challenge the Sacred Dungeon. However, he didn't allow Iris to participate in this dangerous mission.

Alexander didn't reject this proposal because he doted on his daughter quite a lot.

The Guild that represented Barbatos Academy in Elysium, Serenity, would send two representatives to participate in the mission.

One was the Guildmaster, Henrietta, and the other was the guild's strongest Shield Warrior.

The other members would consist of two elite members from each of the Six Kingdom, while the last slot was given to Nero.

"Nero, do your utmost to the best of your capacity," Rainer said as he patted his Disciple's shoulder. "This trip to the Sacred Dungeon will be a joint effort by everyone in the Six Kingdoms, so the leader of the expedition will also be decided by the Six Kingdoms. No matter the outcome, obey their orders without fail."

"I understand, Master," Nero replied. "But, if you don't mind, can I ask a question?"

"Okay."

"Did Lux really manage to create a guild? How did he do it?"

The brown-haired teenager was paying close attention to the news regarding Lux's quest to create a guild in Vahan Empire. The last thing he heard was the battle in the Coliseum, which ended in a battle between Rankers.

He hadn't heard if Lux was allowed to create a Guild after that, but after Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer returned to the Stronghold, they announced that Lux had successfully created a Guild within the time frame allocated to him.

Although the other Guardians had their doubts, they still accepted Gerald's explanation.

The Half-Elf knew that the other Guardians would act this way, so he threw something to them as a bonus.

Lux promised Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer that he would allow the Storm Dragon's Guild to have fifteen slots in order to enter the Sacred dungeon, a month after the joint expedition between the Six Kingdoms was over.

This news made the Guardians quite satisfied, so they no longer bothered to check whether Lux had really made a guild or not. However, just for the sake of appearances, they still asked what the name of Lux's guild was, and it was none other than...

"Twilight Rain. That is the name of Lux's guild," Rainer replied. "As for how he did it, he had his ways. If you're still doubting whether it exists, you can just ask the Adventurer's Guild to check their records."

All the Guilds in Elysium were managed by the Adventurer's Guild. Once a Guild Name was created, it could never be used again.

No one could gather information on who the Guildmaster of a Guild was, the rank of the guild, nor the number of its members.

All of this information was confidential.

Perhaps, the only one who could access this information was the founder of the Adventurer's Guild, whom no one had seen since the first Guild Branch was created.

"Twilight Rain," Nero muttered. "Master, where does Lux plan to build his Guild Headquarters? Will the Wildgarde Stronghold provide him with a good location?"

Rainer shook his head. "The Guild has just been founded. Lux is still looking for a good place to build his Guild Headquarters. Also, stop worrying about him. Worry about your own guild, do you understand?"

Nero nodded. "Of course, Master. I won't let you down."

Rainer smiled and once again patted Nero's shoulder before heading towards the Conference Room. The Guardians still had other matters to address.

He just asked for a short break in order to leave some reminders for Nero since the latter was going to participate in the joint expedition with the Six Kingdoms and Barbatos Academy.

After seeing his Master disappear from the hallway, Nero frowned.

'I'll ask the Information and Merchant Guilds in Elysium to collect as much information as they can about Twilight Rain,' Nero thought.

After losing to Lux in the tournament, the brown-haired boy no longer underestimated the Half-Elf and treated him as a real rival.

Nero was confident that no matter what the Half-Elf did, he wouldn't be able to accomplish the things he managed to do with the Storm Dragon's Guild, which he had upgraded to a Silver-Rank Guild with his own efforts.

What he didn't know was that no matter who he asked, he would get no information on the whereabouts of Lux's Guild.

After all, Twilight Rain was the Dark Guild that belonged to the organization that wanted to overthrow the Royal Family of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Since the distance between the territories were tens of thousands of miles apart, Lux wasn't worried in the slightest even if all the Kings and Emperors in the Eastern Regions of Elysium were to use everything in their power to look for traces of the Guild he was using as a cover.

Barbatos Academy...

Iris hummed as she held Eiko's egg that was resting on her lap.

As a Monster Breeder and Tamer, she was quite sensitive to when an egg was about to hatch.

Right now, she could sense that the baby Slime was about to hatch from her egg at any time, so she decided to wait until Eiko revived again.

Lux was also in the room with her, but he was busy communicating with his Guild Members through a guild chat that was only available to them.

The Half-Elf's guild was the only guild in Elysium that had this function. When Cai found out about this function, she became addicted to chatting with Laura and Livia, who were Sid's sisters that resided back in Leaf Village.

The two little Dwarf girls were quite happy because they had someone to talk to aside from Grandma Annie and their friends in Leaf Village.

The only downside was that if people saw the Boar talking alone to itself, they would think that it had gone crazy because it was laughing about something without anyone around it.

Chapter 367: The Birth Of The Fairy Princess

"I'm very tempted to join your Guild, Lux, just for the fact that we can communicate even though we are miles apart," Iris said as she looked at the Half-Elf who was experimenting with the functions of the Guild chat.

"I also want you to join my Guild, but if I were to do that, Henrietta will kill me," Lux replied helplessly. "She's quite overprotective of you."

"She's not my best friend for nothing."

"Mmm."

Lux and Henrietta were friends as well, but their relationship wasn't as close when compared to how she treated Iris.

"Hey, My Daddy! When are we going to return to Leaf Village?" Cai asked using the Guild's chat function. "I want to play with Laura and Livia."

"Do you want to stay in Leaf Village for a bit?"

"Can I?"

"Why not?" Lux replied. As he sent Cai a telepathic message. "Come to the Academy in two hours. Keane, do you want to accompany Cai in Leaf Village?"

"No. I'd rather stay here where it is nice and quiet."

Lux heard Keane's uninterested reply inside his head and couldn't help but chuckle internally.

After experimenting with the chat function, the Half-Elf was surprised when he discovered that there were two modes of communication available to them.

One was to talk out loud, just like what Cai was doing with Laura and Livia, and the other was talking through thought.

The second method was more convenient, but there was a catch.

Talking to the Guild members through thought consumed mana. After experimenting a bit, Lux found out that every word that was said using this function consumed 5 Mana.

If used properly, this function would allow them to communicate similar to telepathy, allowing them to coordinate without letting anyone know what they were talking about in public.

Suddenly, the egg on Iris's lap started to shake.

The Half-Elf and the blue-haired beauty glanced at each other before they shifted their attention to the blue egg that was shaking left and right on Iris' lap.

The two waited with bated breaths as the egg continued to shake. A moment later, a small cracking sound was heard.

The side of the egg broke, and something peeked at them from the inside. A moment later, a giggle could be heard from the egg, which remained motionless after a minute had passed.

"Someone is being naughty," Iris said with a smile.

"Mmm." Lux agreed. "She wants to play hide and seek."

Another giggle was heard inside the egg. However, this time, Iris lifted the cracked shell and exposed the baby slime, who was looking up at her with a smug look on her face.

"Ma!" Eiko shouted before jumping on Iris's shoulder and moving close to her cheeks, giving her a kiss.

Lux looked at the baby Slime with a smile before using his appraisal skill to check Eiko's stats.

He was already prepared to see all of Eiko's stats and reset back to square one because according to the records of the Monsters who had a similar rebirth ability, they would start from scratch after they were revived.

One of Iris's Guardians was a Phoenix, and because of this, she studied a lot about Monster species that had the ability to resurrect themselves even after their former body had died.

However, when Lux looked at the stats of the baby Slime, he almost choked on his saliva because the changes in Eiko's Status Page was something he didn't expect.

< Eiko >

"The world is my oyster!"

– Named Slime Monster

– Princess Slime

– Rating: E

– Progress (0 / 30,000)

Health: 17,600 / 17,600

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, Queen's Majesty, Ten Thousand Promise

Titles: Mama's and Papa's Girl, Treasure Hunter, Fairy Princess

Note: Rimuru is that you?

< Queen's Majesty >

- All slimes below Eiko's Rank would obey her command without fail.
- Any slime above Eiko's rank would treat her favorably.

< Ten Thousand Promise >

- Grants additional 10,000 points to Eiko's health. These ten thousand health points will not be affected by debuffs or any health decreasing ability.

< Fairy Princess >

– As a Fairy Princess, Eiko is immune to any kind of attacks that would cause instant death.

After taking any type of damage that could possibly kill her, her health will not decrease past 1 Health Point, and she will gain an invincibility buff that would protect her from any further damage for the duration of ten seconds.

– Eiko would gain complete immunity to any kind of status ailments, including petrify, and similar debilitating conditions.

– Any Fairy Type Creature, including Elves, will treat Eiko in a favorable manner.

Eiko's Rank had indeed returned to scratch, however, her stats remained the same.

Also, she gained some additional passive skills, as well as a new title that made Lux wonder if it was influenced by the Beast Core of the Queen Slime that he had given Eiko, as a catalyst to help her recover faster.

'Either way, these skills will help Eiko become stronger,' Lux thought as he gazed at the changes in Eiko's Status Page. 'The only downside is that her rating progression has increased again. Still, I'm glad that she's back.'

Lux assumed that the higher rating progression was due to the changes to Eiko's identity.

Back then, she was just a regular blue Slime, but now, she was a Slime Princess. An ordinary person and a Princess had different status, which explained why the rating progression suddenly went up.

"Pa!" Eiko happily jumped on Lux's head and even playfully ruffled his hair, as if taking advantage of the fact that she would not be scolded for doing so.

Iris giggled from the side because Eiko had turned Lux's hair into a bird's nest, making the mother and daughter pair giggle again at the same time.

Lux raised his hands to grab the mischievous little slime and tickled her body, making her squirm.

"How is her status?" Iris inquired after she finished laughing. "Did everything reset?"

"See for yourself." Lux smirked as he passed his Soul Book to Iris so that she could check Eiko's Status Page.

Iris still had a relaxed expression before she took a glance at Eiko's status.

The corner of Lux's lips rose as he watched her expression change from being relaxed, to serious, to disbelief.

Iris knew that it was impossible to fake Eiko's status inside Lux's Soul Book, so she didn't bother asking if what she saw was real or not.

She had no choice but to accept it as reality, which made her look at the giggling slime on top of the Half-Elf's head in shock.

Iris knew that although Eiko looked harmless right now, there would come a time when she would be a force to reckon with, as she commanded a legion of Slime Monsters that were willing to do her bidding.

Chapter 368: He's Not My Friend

After regaining her composure, Iris read Eiko's information in Lux's Soul Book one more time to make sure that she didn't miss anything.

A few minutes later, she returned the Half-Elf's Soul Book to him before grabbing the baby Slime who had fallen asleep in the bird's nest, which she had made and placed on top of Lux's head.

Eiko didn't even open her eyes when Iris held her. Clearly, she knew that she was safe in her Mama's hands, so she continued to rest.

She had just been born, and she still had to adjust for a few days so she could fully adapt to her new body. Although she still looked like an ordinary baby Slime on the surface, her status information was beyond ordinary.

Suddenly, a loud knock was heard on the door followed by Cai's voice inside Lux's head.

"My Daddy, can I go now?" Cai asked. "Laura and Livia said that they are planning to pick up some herbs. I plan to go with them!"

The Half-Elf smiled as he opened the door, allowing Cai, who had shrunk to a meter-tall boar, enter Iris room.

The moment Cai spotted the sleeping Eiko in Iris' hands, the Boar immediately went over to look at the adorable Slime, whom it had met in the past.

"Did she revive just now?" Cai asked. "Awwww. She's still as cute as ever."

"Don't be too loud, Cai," Iris said softly. "You'll wake her up."

As if to prove that she was right, Eiko yawned before opening her eyes to look at the Boar with a sleepy gaze.

"Cai?" Eiko asked.

"Yes!" Cai answered. "It's me, Eiko! I'm very happy that you are revived again! I'm going to Leaf Village now. Do you want to come?"

Eiko shook her head before closing her eyes to sleep again. Right now, she wanted to be with Iris, so she didn't plan to go anywhere for the time being.

"I'll be out for a bit," Lux said to Iris, who only nodded her head in understanding. "Are you ready, Cai?"

"Of course I am ready. Let's go!"

"Okay."

Lux pressed his fist over his chest as he activated the power of the Arondight Ring in his finger.

"Open! Heaven's Gate!"

Leaf Village...

Lux and Cai appeared at the plaza where the statue of the Eternal Guardian was located. As soon as they arrived, both of them were immediately welcomed by Laura and Livia.

However, there was one more person waiting for them, and it was none other than Heidi, whom the twins had also invited to go to the plains with them.

Just like the two Dwarves, it didn't take long for Heidi to follow the newest tradition in Leaf Village—having a Slime as a Beast Companion.

Heidi's baby Slime was pink, and she named it Pink as well. Cai laughed when she heard about it, making the golden-haired little girl go pink in embarrassment.

For some reason, the baby Slimes liked to perch on top of their Master's head, imitating the baby Slime in the statue, who had helped Lux defend the village from the Monster Outbreak that almost wiped it off from the map.

"I'm tempted to get a baby Slime too...", Cai looked wistfully at the cute Creatures on top of the little girl's heads.

"That's a good idea!" Laura said. "Come, let's go to the Slime Paradise, so we can pick a Slime for you. Follow the Leaf Village's tradition."

"It's decided then," Livia stated. "Cai is now one of us. Let's go!"

"I'm also curious to know what kind of Slime would fit Cai's personality," Heidi commented. "It's still early, and we have plenty of time to look for herbs. Let's go to Slime Paradise first."

Seeing that its three new friends decided to invite it to the Slime Paradise, where baby Slimes were being raised, Cai didn't resist and happily went with them.

Lux on the other hand, stared at the Boar, who was happily chatting with the three little girls. For some reason, he felt like Cai was a lonely person. He didn't know where this feeling came from because it was hard for him to believe that the chatty Boar would ever be lonely.

'I might just be imagining things,' Lux thought before returning to Solais.

He had promised Iris that he would stay with her for a week, so he returned as soon as he could.

As soon as the Half-Elf left Leaf Village, a plain carriage, which was escorted by several Riders of Norria, arrived at its entrance.

"It's been a while since I've been here," Robin muttered as he disembarked from the carriage and looked at the rustic Village that was located on the very outskirts of the Kingdom of Gweliven. "Are you sure that he is here, Nevreal?"

The middle-aged Dwarf, who always accompanied Robin whenever he wasn't doing any field work, nodded his head.

"He is here," Nevreal replied. "Thoram would not lie to me."

Robin frowned. "We need to find him as soon as we can. We don't have much time left."

"Understood." Nevreal nodded as he led Robin towards the Village Head's house.

Their purpose for coming to Leaf Village was to talk to Lux. Although the Half-Elf was currently hiding his identity, the Riders of Norria, as well as the Order of the Griffin, had worked together to keep his identity hidden, preventing the Dark Guild, Twilight Dynasty, from getting suspicious.

Now that more Humans had appeared in Leaf Village, the Order of the Griffin was sent by the Kingdom to determine whether they were friends or foes.

"I sure hope they will not be a threat to our kingdom," Robin stated. "If they are friends with him, then we can give them preferential treatment."

Nevreal nodded his head in agreement. "Naturally, we still have to test them and see if they are trustworthy. Our friend no longer needs to be tested, but his acquaintances are a different matter. Also, the Young Master needs to gain more allies. We've already talked to the Eternal Guild, but Aina's stance remains the same. She doesn't plan on joining the kingdom's politics."

"That's fine," Robin replied. "I don't really want to drag Colette and my other friends in this mess."

"You're fine not dragging them, but you want to drag him into your family's struggle?"

"Why not? He's not my friend."

Nevreal chuckled after hearing Robin's reply.

'I almost feel sorry for Lux now,' Nevreal mused as he looked at his Young Master's back, who was determined to beat his brothers in a battle of wits, in order to achieve his goal of making the Kingdom of Gweliven the mightiest kingdom in the Southern Regions of Elysium.

Chapter 369: Can I Meet With Your Master?

"He's not here?" Robin frowned. "Where is he?"

"He returned to Solais," Cedwyn replied. "He said that he has some important matters to attend to."

"When will he be back?"

"I'm not really sure. However, his subordinate is currently staying here in the village. We have given them one of the non-occupied houses that we built after the village was destroyed by the Monster Outbreak."

The frown on Robin's face deepened, but he knew that there was no point in making things difficult for Cedwyn, who had no way of contacting the Half-Elf that he was looking for.

"Understood," Robin felt relieved after knowing that he could at least talk to Lux's subordinate. As long as the message would be passed along, his trip to Leaf Village wouldn't be in vain.

He had traveled in secrecy just to prevent his brothers from knowing where he was. Since he couldn't stay for long, he wished that he would be able to personally talk to the Half-Elf, but since it was not possible, his subordinate would have to make do.

"By the way, I noticed that almost all the Dwarves here in Leaf Village have Slimes accompanying them," Robin commented. "Is this some kind of trend?"

Cedwyn chuckled. "At first, we decided to raise slimes for fun after seeing how Eiko accompanied Lux. We even asked Commander Thoram to help us catch them, since Slimes are not native to this region.

"But, to our surprise, after catching a dozen of them, the slimes multiplied at a rapid pace. Also, we discovered something interesting. These Slimes are

somehow evolved. Perhaps, this is the side effect of the Guardian Crystal, allowing them to become stronger than regular Slimes."

Nevreal tilted his head in confusion. "Slimes are just Slimes. They're one of the weakest monsters out there. Are you sure you want the villagers to have Slimes as their first Beast Companion?"

Cedwyn only smiled at Nevreal and glanced outside the window of his house. From there, he could see the statue in the distance, which had become the main attraction of their old rustic village in the countryside.

"You're forgetting that Eiko is also a Slime," Cedwyn replied. "Have you seen her unleash a Dragon's Breath? I have. It was the most surreal thing I've witnessed in my lifetime."

The Village Head of Leaf Village could still remember the Monster Outbreak as if it was just yesterday.

Even though he and Grandma Annie had retreated to a safe distance, they were still able to witness the battle that made his blood boil in excitement, allowing him to regain the feelings that he had forgotten due to his old age.

"Also, all of the Slimes that are born in our Village can use magic." Cedwyn turned around to look at Nevreal and Robin with a smug look on his face. "I'm sure that one day, our village will be known throughout the Kingdom of Gweliven for fostering the future heroes of the world."

Robin and Nevreal exchanged a glance before shaking their heads helplessly. They didn't want to say that Cedwyn was being delusional because they didn't want to hurt his feelings.

What they didn't know was that someday, what the Village Head had said would become a reality.

The young Dwarves, alongside their Slimes, who had started their adventures in Leaf Village, would rise up to protect the Dwarven Kingdom, and their legacy would be immortalized for centuries to come.

Of course, this was a story for another time.

Cedwyn led Robin, Nevreal, and their bodyguards to the house where Bedivere, Lilia, and Heidi, were staying.

Bedivere, who was at the side of the house and chopping firewood, noticed Cedwyn approaching him and stopped his work.

He was quite grateful for the accommodations that were given to him and his family by the Elders of Leaf Village. Because of this, he told them that if there would come a time that they would need his help, he would gladly lend it without asking for any repayment.

"Bedivere, I brought some guests who are looking for your Master," Cedwyn said with a smile. "This person is Sir Nevreal, and he had helped your Master a couple of times in the past. This young Dwarf, on the other hand, is Robin. He came here because he wanted to discuss something important with your Master. Do you know when he will be back in Leaf Village?"

"Is it important?" Bedivere didn't answer when Lux would be back to Leaf Village because the Half-Elf could come anytime. However, he was not willing to pass on just any kind of information to his Master and disturb the red-headed teenager's quality time with his fiance.

As a married person, Bedivere knew how important it was to spend some time with your lover. He would not allow anyone to pester his Master, unless it was a very pressing matter.

"It is important," Robin replied. "Can I meet with your Master?"

Bedivere glanced at Robin before shifting his gaze to the bodyguards that were escorting him.

Ten of them were Grade A Apostles, while two of them were Initiates.

In his peak, Bedivere had been a Ranker. Even though he had regressed to a Grade A Apostle to match Lux's current Rank, he was confident that he could take out half of Robin's bodyguards before they could overpower him using their numbers.

Naturally, this was only referring to his own strength without asking for his partner's help, which was a Wind Dragon, whose rank was the same as him.

A Rank 4 Dragon was very different from a Rank 4 Horned Rabbit. If the two were to fight, the rabbit would become the dragon's lunch with plenty of energy to spare.

"Tell me the details," Bedivere replied. "If it is important enough, I'll let him know. But, it will be up to my Master whether he will come here or not. He is a very busy person, and there are many things that he is handling at the moment."

Robin glanced at Nevreal because he didn't know if it was fine to tell Bedivere why they had come to Leaf Village.

After pondering for a minute, Nevreal found an easy solution to their problem.

"Tell your Master that Nevreal is looking for him so we can have a serious discussion," Nevreal said. "We will only be staying here in Leaf Village for two days, so I hope that I can talk to him before we leave."

Bedivere nodded. "Okay. I will send the message to my Master. Where can he find you?"

"We'll be at the Prancing Pony Inn," Nevreal replied. "Please pass the message along as soon as possible."

"Okay." Bedivere smiled.

In truth, he had already passed the message—that Nevreal was looking for him, to Lux. As a seasoned veteran, Bedivere could faintly feel that Nevreal and Robin were troubled by something.

He just didn't know what it was nor did he care about it. If Lux wanted to help them, then he would go and help them.

As one of the Half-Elf's Knights, he would be there to lend his hand, even if it meant that he would fight in a foreign land, where no one knew who he was and what kind of past he carried.

Chapter 370: Eiko's Upgrade

When Lux heard Bedivere's report, a frown appeared on his face.

The middle-aged dwarf was his middle-man between the Order of the Griffin, who once helped him evade the eyes of Twilight Dynasty, as well as some high-ranking officials in the Kingdom of Gweliven.

His relationship with Nevreal was similar to that of a business partner. Both of them benefitted when the two of them collaborated, so Lux was quite curious why the Dwarf Official was looking for him.

Also, a name that he hadn't seen for a long time had popped up, which made his curiosity increase even further.

'Robin,' Lux thought. 'He is a friend of Colette and the others. I already have a suspicion that the kid isn't someone simple...'

The Half-Elf wasn't naive. Now that Nevreal came to find him, even though the Half-Elf was supposed to keep a low profile, it meant that something important had happened.

"Inform them that I'll meet them tomorrow," Lux said to Bedivere using their Guild Chat Function.

"Understood, Master," Bedivere replied.

Lux could have met Nevreal and his entourage right away. But, he didn't want the middle-aged Dwarf to think that he would rush to his side, if the Dwarf called for him at any given time.

He wasn't Nevreal's subordinate, nor was the Dwarf his employer. The two of them worked together on mutual benefits, so it would look bad if he had the wrong impression of him.

"Did something happen in Elysium?" Iris, who saw the frown on Lux's face, asked.

Lux nodded and explained to her what just happened. After hearing everything that Lux had to say, the blue-haired beauty nodded her head in understanding.

"It seems that your vacation will be cut off short," Iris said as she finished feeding Eiko a Beast Core.

Lux had left her his stash of Beast Core from the tournament to ensure that Eiko would rank up at least once.

He was quite curious about what kind of abilities she would gain after an upgrade. Also, the Beast Cores she had eaten were from high-ranking

Monsters, allowing the baby Slime to learn nearly 50 new skills, which made Lux, and Iris quite happy.

(A/N: I don't want to flood this chapter with Eiko's skills, so I will just go over them as we continue the story.)

< Eiko >

"The world is my oyster!"

– Named Slime Monster

– Princess Slime

– Rating: E+

– Progress (0 / 40,000)

Health: 19,100 / 19,100

Mana: 40,000 / 40,000

Strength: 122

Intelligence: 800

Vitality: 182

Agility: 122

Dexterity: 122

Passive Skill: Uncanny Dodge, Very Tough, Guts, Queen's Majesty, Ten Thousand Promise,

Titles: Mama's and Papa's Girl, Treasure Hunter, Fairy Princess,

'The changes are evident,' Lux mused. 'All of her stats, with the exception of Intelligence, rose by 30 points. She has also gained an additional 150 points in Intelligence, which is a big deal compared to her previous self. It seems that being a Princess Slime allows her to gain massive benefits. The only downside is that every upgrade needs a lot of resources, but the trade off is worth it.'

Eiko's monster rating was E+. However, her current stats made her a Rank 4 Monster, which was very strong for a newly born Slime.

Clearly, the baby slime who was in a good mood after eating so many Beast Cores was a cut above the rest of her peers.

Eiko's upgrade did not affect her stats alone. Lux was currently looking at the rows of words that notified him of the options that he could choose from, to complete her upgrade.

Back then, Lux chose to give her the ability to summon Slimes, as well as some life saving skills that gave her the ability to keep herself safe.

If not for the fact that she had protected Iris during the battle at the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen, it would be very hard to kill the baby Slime, who could dig underground, and teleport a short distance away from her enemies.

'Perhaps, this is also a blessing in disguise,' Lux mused as he looked at the options that were available to Eiko. 'If this was a novel, Eiko would be the real protagonist instead of me.'

< Please choose one of the Special Abilities available here. Once you have made your decision, it will be final, so make sure to choose wisely! >

– Elemental Affinity.

If you choose this passive skill, Eiko will gain the ability to be unharmed by that particular element. For example, if you chose the Elemental Affinity of Fire, Eiko will be able to play and swim in a pool of Lava without suffering any damage.

– Slime Party Festival

For every slime under Eiko's command, she would gain a 1% increase to her physical and magical attacks. Physical and Magical damage increases will not go over 1,000%

– Wonder Guard

Decrease all damage taken by Eiko by 60%

– Shadow Tag

Eiko will be able to travel through the shadows of her allies within a mile radius around her.

– Cute Charm

Wild Monsters up to 3 ranks above Eiko's Rank would not attack her, unless she attacks them first.

Some Creatures were born with Special Abilities, similar to Bedivere's Wonder Guard after he became a Dragon Rider.

When the handsome Knight was still a Living Armor, he had a unique special ability called Invincible Body, which made him practically invincible unless he was hit by the elemental weakness associated with it.

'Basing on previous upgrades in the past, no matter which of these options I choose, the possibility of them popping up again in the future is high,' Lux thought as he gazed at the passive skills in front of him.

'We will not be traveling with many Slimes, so the Slime Party Festival is not ideal at this point in time. Perhaps, this is an End Game special ability, but Eiko won't get a significant boost with it if I choose it now.'

If Lux just wanted to make things simple, he would just choose Elemental Affinity, and allow Eiko to become invincible in one particular element.

However, it lacked the flexibility that the other special abilities had.

Wonder Guard is a no-brainer, and was a good choice if anyone wanted to decrease any kind of incoming damage, including Abyssal Damage.

Shadow Tag on the other hand is an all around ability, allowing Eiko to slip into the shadows of her allies, allowing her to pop anywhere in the battlefield. This could also become another life saving skill for the baby Slime, whom they didn't want to see die for the second time.

'I guess I'll go with Shadow Tag,' Lux thought as he chose the Shadow Tag option to become Eiko's Special Ability.

Special Abilities were similar to Passive skills. Some Creatures had more than one Special Ability, while others had many more.

Dragons were said to even have dozens of them, with Wonder Guard as one of their permanent abilities, allowing them to fight against Abyssal Monsters on equal footing.

< Special Ability Shadow Tag has been chosen. >

< Congratulations! Eiko now has Shadow Tag as her Special Ability! >

< Adding bonus skills as part of Eiko's Rank up! >

< Eiko's Skill, Mimicry [EX], can now copy up to six skills. >

< Eiko's skill, Storage [EX], can now store items and living creatures. Up to six living creatures can be stored inside it for the duration of a day. >

– Maximum weight of items that can be stored inside her body is ten tons.

< Eiko's Treasure Hunter skill is now upgraded to Treasure Hunter [EX] >

– Eiko can now detect treasures in a mile-wide radius around her.

< Upgrade Completed! >

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

– Since the skill Shadow Tag is not learned from a Beast Core, it will automatically be upgraded to Shadow Tag [EX].

< Shadow Tag [EX] >

Eiko will be able to travel through the shadows of her allies within a two-mile radius around her.

Lux sighed internally because Eiko's Rank Upgrade was finally completed. The baby Slime had gained many benefits after her upgrade, making her a lot stronger than before.

It was not an exaggeration to say that the Half-Elf was looking forward to the baby slime's next upgrade with anticipation.

Naturally, Lux shared his Soul Book to Iris, allowing her to see the upgrades that Eiko had received after she ranked up.

"Maybe I should stop being surprised when I look at Eiko's stats in your Soul Book," Iris could only smile bitterly after seeing the skills that the baby Slime had gained.

Although her Guardians would also receive amazing abilities every time they ranked up, she had a feeling that Eiko would surpass them easily after her Monster Rating reached Astra's current Rating, which was B+.

Chapter 371: I Look Forward To A Jolly Cooperation!

The next day, Lux returned to Leaf Village and went to look for Nevreal and Robin in the inn they were staying at.

He still wore a disguise, of course, and Cedwyn had already informed Nevreal about this matter.

"It's good to see you again, Lux," Nevreal said with a smile. "It has been several months since we last saw each other."

"Indeed, Sir Nevreal," Lux replied. "Let's get down to business. Why have you come to look for me?"

The Half-Elf didn't want to make small talk and decided to take the initiative to get straight to the point. This way, he would have a better understanding of the real reason why the middle-aged Dwarf was looking for him.

"Getting straight to the point as soon as we meet." Nevreal smirked after hearing Lux's words. "Well, I don't really mind. But, before that, allow me to introduce you to Robin. He is my current employer, and we need your help in order to do a few things for us. Naturally, the rewards will be sufficient, so you don't have to worry about the proper compensation for your services."

Lux gave Robin a side-long glance before shifting his attention back to the middle-aged dwarf.

"Can't you just ask the 'Order' about it?" Lux asked.

Nevreal shook his head. "The Order of the Griffin answers only to the King. No one can command them except him."

Lux blinked as he pointed at his face. "Um, are you forgetting that I am also part of the Order?"

"It's fine, you are still considered a Trainee." Nevreal waved his hand, as if to brush away Lux's claim as one of the official members of the Order of the Griffon. "You're still not a full-fledged member of the Order. Do you really think it's that easy to become one of them?"

"Only when all the members have agreed that you have met the necessary qualifications would you be able to meet the King and officially take an oath of loyalty. Then and only then will you become an official member of the Order."

Lux pondered before nodding his head in agreement. Since the Order of the Griffon was the Dwarf King's personal secret forces, it was only natural to swear an oath of loyalty to him before officially becoming one of its members.

'Well, it's not like I'm keen on swearing an oath of loyalty to the Dwarf King,' Lux thought. 'I guess being a trainee is good enough.'

After settling this issue aside, Nevreal then told Lux why he came to find him.

"Right now, Robin's father is looking for the one who will inherit his position as an official in the future," Nevreal explained. "Because of this, he set up a Merit System for his four sons and two daughters. All of them are eligible to inherit his position as long as the accomplishments they make benefits the Kingdom of Gweliven as a whole. Do you follow me so far?"

Lux nodded to acknowledge Nevreal's question.

"Because of this Merit System, Robin's siblings have set out to the various parts of the Kingdom in order to accumulate Merit Points. Unfortunately, the Young Master is currently in last place because he has not been able to rack up achievements during this period of time."

The Half-Elf glanced at Robin and gave him the "Bruh, why are you so useless?" stare, which the brown-haired Dwarf ignored.

Robin just looked at Lux, as if trying to check whether the Half-Elf was really capable of getting him sufficient Merit Points to stay in the game.

Lux rubbed his chin as he pondered whether he should accept Nevreal's proposal or not.

In truth, what Lux wanted to do at the moment was to go to Karshvar Draconis and start the construction of his Guild Headquarters, as well as add the other guild facilities like a Smith, Bestiary, etc. He had only set this agenda aside for now because he promised Iris that he would stay with her for a week while waiting for Eiko and Vera's revivals.

"I'll think about it," Lux replied after pondering for a few minutes. "I am currently dealing with important things on my side, so I can't agree to your request right away."

Robin, who had expected Lux to accept Nevreal's offer right away, looked disgruntled after hearing the words "I'll think about it".

For the brown-haired Dwarf, this was as good as telling him "I'm not interested", making him feel that he had wasted his time coming to Leaf Village.

"I see." Nevreal played with his beard as he observed the Half-Elf who looked disinterested in his proposal. "How about I throw in another bonus for you? You just made a guild, right? How about I give you enough funds to help build your Guild Headquarters? How does that sound?"

This time, Lux's interest was piqued. In truth, building a Guild Headquarters required a lot of money.

As of the moment, Lux only had a little over 2 million gold coins in his possession. This was a high amount of money, enough for him to go to auctions to buy a few Mythical Grade Items. However, this amount of money wouldn't be enough to support a big guild, especially if he were to hire workers to install facilities like the Smith and Bestiary.

After checking his Elysium Compendium to know the cost of building one of those facilities, Lux's wallet itched.

500,000 gold coins.

That was the price for building a Smith or a Bestiary.

The Guild Headquarters, on the other hand, could be made from cheap materials, making it less expensive. Even so, the cheapest was 500,000 Gold Coins, and it was just made of wood!

Lux could afford it, but he owned a Mythical Guild.

If there came a day when the members of other guilds visited his headquarters, they might find his cheap headquarters laughable.

Colette's sister, Aina, who was the Guild Master of Eternal, had their headquarters built in marble, which cost her around 3 million gold coins.

Such expenditure wouldn't have been possible if Aina didn't have a strong backing, indirectly showing how prominent her family was.

Nero's Headquarters, on the other hand, was made from bricks. Although it was the second cheapest option available, it still showed that he had the capability to gather enough funds on his own without asking the Guardians for help.

This also earned him the recognition of his Guild Members, as well as the Elders of Wildgarde Stronghold.

Lux didn't treat Nero as his rival, so he didn't mind using the funds of others to build his Guild Headquarters. Since Nevreal had presented him with such a juicy option, why would he reject his offer?

"It's a deal!" Lux grabbed hold of Nevreal's hand and shook it. "I look forward to our jolly cooperation!"

"I knew you were a very sensible lad," Nevreal smiled as he shook Lux's hand. "Let's discuss the price for the construction of your Guild Headquarters after you finish the mission that I will ask of you first. As long as you manage to do this, I'll shoulder the construction of your Guild Headquarters."

If the middle-aged Dwarf only knew that Lux would demand almost half of his fortune, he would definitely crush the hand of the Half-Elf that he was shaking right now, and spit on Lux's face for trying to scam him in broad daylight.

Fortunately, he didn't know, preventing a blood bath from happening in Leaf Village at that point in time.

Chapter 372: Not All Treasures Are Silver And Gold

After finalizing the details of Nevreal's proposal, the Half-Elf went to look for Cai.

He had left the Boar to stay in Leaf Village because it was getting bored of Barbatos Academy. The Boar didn't like to be confined indoors and preferred being out on the fields, enjoying the sights and sounds of the scenery around her.

Since a day had already passed in Elysium, the Half-Elf deemed that it was time to check on whatever Cai was doing and ensure that it wasn't causing trouble for the villagers.

Fortunately, Lux didn't need much effort to search for the Boar. He could hear its laughter from miles away.

"Just what have you been up to, Cai?" Lux asked as soon as he saw the Boar, who was currently surrounded by several Dwarf children.

"My Daddy! You came at the right time," Cai said as it made a gesture for Lux to hurry up. "Come! Look at her. Isn't she the most adorable creature ever?"

The Boar lowered its head and showed Lux the sleeping baby slime who rested on top of the Boar's head.

'A Gold Slime?' Lux blinked once then twice before shifting his gaze back to Cai. "Where did you steal this child? There are no Gold Slimes in Leaf Village."

"Hehehe!" Cai lifted its chin up, almost making the baby Gold Slime, who was sleeping on its head, fall off. It was quite obvious that it was feeling very happy about its latest companion.

"What you say is true," Cai said with a smug look on its face. "There has never been a golden slime in Leaf Village. However, all of that changed today! Fei Fei was just born, and it just so happened that she was born from the egg that I chose! This must be fate at work. I'm destined to become rich!"

Lux just smiled at Cai's bragging before appraising the golden slime. He was quite curious about what its ability was because this was the first time he was seeing one.

< Fei Fei >

"Not all treasures are silver and gold."

- Named Slime Monster
- Golden Slime
- Rating E

Progress (0 / 1000)

Health: 500 / 500

Mana: 500 / 500

Strength: 3

Intelligence: 10

Vitality: 10

Agility: 3

Dexterity: 3

Special Abilities: Treasure Hunter [EX]

Active Skill: Dig, Payday

Passive Skill: Golden Body

Title: Golden Girl

Note: Do you know Da Wae?

< Payday >

- Fires a golden coin at a target, dealing +100 physical damage.

– If the target is carrying gold coins, Fei Fei would steal a random amount between one gold coin to a hundred gold coins.

< Golden Body >

– Gives Fei Fei immunity to Status Ailments.

< Golden Girl >

– Doubles the experience gained when eating a Beast Core

Lux, who had just finished reading Fei Fei's information, felt that the golden slime was literally born as a money making creature.

'For some reason, I feel that she fits Cai perfectly,' Lux mused.

Cai liked to collect treasures, and even went as far as to shamelessly ask others to give it items, just like what it did to the gnome, Sherlock, when they challenged the Gate of War in the Sacred Dungeon.

"Isn't she so adorable?" Cai asked. "I'm sure that Eiko and her will become the best of friends. Just like me and Iris, who are the bestest friends ever."

Lux just smiled and didn't make any comments. Deep inside his heart, he also wished that Eiko and Fei Fei would become good friends. After all, Cai was part of his guild and would be traveling with him most of the time.

"By the way, Cai, there is someone who commissioned me to go on a quest," Lux said. "Do you want to come?"

"Um? A commission?" Cai's interest was piqued. It had long wanted to explore the Kingdom of the Dwarves, but it didn't want to go alone.

The Boar was too embarrassed to trouble Lux to give it a tour of the Dwarven Kingdom. Because of this, it wanted to look for a traveling buddy, but unfortunately, they were few and far in between.

Cai wanted to drag Keane with it, but the skinny swordsman preferred to stay in a peaceful and quiet places to meditate, in pursuit of the peace he was looking for.

Now that an opportunity had presented itself in front of it, Cai readily accepted Lux's invitation without batting an eye.

"So, where are we going?" Cai inquired. "Fei Fei, we are going treasure hunting. Time for you to wake up."

The Gold Slime opened her eyes and scanned her surroundings before yawning.

"Da Wae?" Fei Fei asked.

"Yes! We are going treasure hunting!" Cai replied. "We're going to look for treasures!"

Once again, the Gold Slime looked around her. Seeing that there were no treasures around, she once again closed her eyes to sleep.

Lux, who saw the sleeping baby Slime, chuckled.

"Fei Fei has just been born," Lux said. "Give her a few more days to adjust before you go treasure hunting."

The Half-Elf had already experienced taking care of a sleepy Eiko when she was just hatched from her egg, so he was more than happy to impart his knowledge to the Boar, who was trying to coax the sleeping Slime to wake up.

"Fine." Cai sighed. "So, when do we leave?"

"We leave in three days. That will be enough time to make the necessary preparations.

"Three days? Got it! I'll stay here in Leaf Village for three days."

"Okay." Lux smiled. "I'll go back to Barbatos Academy and ask Keane if he wants to accompany us."

The Boar nodded. "Make sure to drag Little Swordy with us. That guy hasn't gotten much sunshine these past few days."

Lux chuckled. He was amused to see Cai treating Keane like some kind of plant that it was taking care of.

Before Lux left the village, he turned around to look at Cai in the distance, who was now surrounded by Dwarf children who wanted to ride its back.

Cai had fallen in love with the small Dwarf village and had gotten chummy with a few of its residents.

Perhaps the Dwarves also felt that Cai didn't mean any harm, so they accepted this strange and chatty Creature into their village, allowing it to freely roam wherever it pleased.

Chapter 373: The Fairy Princess Of Leaf Village

"Grandma still hasn't come out of the coffin," Iris said while resting her head on Lux's chest.

Lux tilted his chin down and kissed the blue-haired lady's head before wrapping his arms around her.

"Perhaps, she needs more time," Lux replied. "She forcefully broke her recovery to help me against the Ranker who bullied me. It would be best if she rested more in order to recover as much as possible."

Iris nodded and allowed Lux's warmth to wrap her in a loving embrace.

The two of them had just finished making love with each other, and both were still naked. Iris felt a bit sad because she knew that when morning came, Lux would have to return to Elysium again in order to carry out his responsibilities as a Guild Master.

Although she would miss him, she understood that this was something that the Half-Elf needed to do.

Eiko slept peacefully in the basket that they had placed on the table beside the bed.

At first, Lux and Iris only wanted to kiss and cuddle with each other. But, before they knew it, their clothes were already strewn on the floor. The two

sought each other's warmth and love, and Iris had to cover her lips, not wanting to wake the baby Slime by her pleasure-filled moans that were about to escape her lips.

"When do you plan to return here to Barbatos Academy?" Iris inquired.

Lux pondered for a bit before answering Iris' question. He didn't really have any specific timeline in mind, but in order to give his fiance some peace of mind, he decided to set a schedule of when he could visit her in Barbatos Academy.

"A month from now," Lux answered after making a rough estimate inside his head. "I will first deal with the mission that Nevreal has given me. After that, I will create my Guild Headquarters. This will take a lot of time, so I won't be able to return right away."

Iris hummed as she lightly patted Lux's chest with her soft and delicate hand.

"To think that you would be able to become a Guildmaster in just a short period of time," Iris said softly. "I'm very proud of you, Lux."

Lux sighed before thanking Iris for her praise.

He, too, didn't think that he would be able to become a Guild Master of his own guild. However, his guild wasn't just an ordinary guild, but the one and only Mythical Guild in the world.

The Half-Elf then moved his hand to caress Iris' back, moving downwards as if to trace her young and beautiful body that belonged only to him.

"Since we won't be seeing each other for a month, shall we..."

Lux smiled mischievously as he gave Iris' backside a light squeeze, making the blue haired lady raise her head to look at him with a face filled with injustice.

"What are you going to do if Eiko wakes up?" Iris lightly pounded Lux's chest, but deep inside, she was very tempted to say yes to her fiance's invitation.

"Then I guess you will just have to do your best to not wake her up," Lux whispered directly to her ears.

"Don't worry, I'll make sure to plug both of your lips, so Eiko won't hear a thing," added Lux, his forehead against hers.

Iris sighed in her heart before raising her head to offer her soft lips to the man she loved.

A second later, the Half-Elf pressed his lips over hers. While making sure that Iris' upper lips were occupied with his own, he lifted her leg with his right hand and slipped his... inside of her.

Soon, muffled sounds escaped Iris' lips. Fortunately, it was not loud enough to awaken the sleeping baby Slime.

The two continued to make love under the blanket, doing their best to enjoy their last night to the fullest, while hiding from Eiko's gaze, who was resting peacefully inside her basket.

"Well then, I'm off," Lux said while hugging Iris. "Don't miss me too much, okay?"

"I'll try not to," Iris replied with a smile. "You too, Eiko. Take care of yourself, okay?"

"Ma!"

Iris kissed the baby Slime's cheek, to which the latter returned with a big smile on her face.

"Keane is waiting for me in his room," Lux patted Iris' head like he used to do every time he left. "I promise to return as soon as I can. I'm sure that the next time you see me, Grandma is already back."

Iris nodded. "That is for the best. When that happens, we can have that picnic we have in mind."

"Sounds like a plan."

"Mmm."

After giving his fiance one last kiss, Lux reluctantly left her room and went to look for Keane, whom he had informed beforehand that they would be leaving today.

Eiko, who had finally adapted to her body after a few days of being born, was quite excited to go back to Elysium.

Although she would miss her Mama, the baby Slime wanted to become stronger than ever. In order to do that, she must go with her Papa to Elysium and get as many Beast Cores as she could. With her own strength, she would take revenge on the Ranker that killed her, while protecting one of the most important people in her life.

Just like always, Lux, Eiko, and Keane, arrived at the plaza of Leaf Village.

The sun had just risen, and the faint smell of freshly baked bread could be smelled in the air.

"Pa!"

Eiko happily looked around from the top of Lux's head. This was her first time in Leaf Village after a few months.

She gazed at her statue, which was also perched on the head of Lux's statue, making her feel giddy.

Since Eiko was in a good mood, she started to sway from left to right on top of Lux's head while singing a song.

"La~ Lalala~ Lalalalala~"

The Half-Elf chuckled as he walked towards Grandma Annie's house, which he assumed to be the place where Cai was currently at.

Along the way, several Slimes poked their heads out of the houses along the way and looked at the blue Slime on top of Lux's head.

All of them were the Slimes that were born in Leaf Village, and they could vaguely feel a sense of majesty radiating from Eiko's body, who was still singing on top of Lux's head.

A moment later, the sound of singing resounded in Leaf Village as the baby Slimes, who heard Eiko's singing, started to sing as well.

Chapter 374: Do You Know Da Wae?

"La~ Lalala~ Lalalalala~"

""La~ Lalala~ Lalalalala~""

""La~ Lalala~ Lalalalala~""

Everyone inside Leaf Village was quite surprised that all the Slimes started singing.

It was similar to listening to a choir singing at the same time. This was the first time they saw and heard the baby Slimes singing together, so it made everyone wonder what was happening.

After hearing the Slimes singing along, Eiko giggled as she jumped up and down Lux's head. She didn't expect the other Slimes to sing with her, and this made her very happy.

Lux, on the other hand, already had a suspicion on what caused that to happen, but he kept it inside his heart. It would not be good to expose Eiko's current ability to anyone because it might cause chaos inside the Village. He would keep his lips shut tight and act oblivious to what was happening around them.

When they neared Grandma Annie's house, the singing stopped, making the villagers think that the Slimes were just in the mood to sing together, and left it at that.

After entering the candy store, the Half-Elf immediately heard Cai's words that were filled with excitement.

"Um? Why did you stop singing Fei Fei?" Cai asked. "Go on. Sing more. I'd love to hear you sing again. You too, Cora, Nora, sing together with Fei Fei! The more the merrier!"

The three baby Slimes giggled together as if they found Cai's words very funny.

Laura and Livia, who were also in the store, picked up their Slimes and urged them to sing as well. However, Cora and Nora simply smiled at their Masters and swayed their bodies left and right, as if they were dancing, making the two little Dwarves giggle.

Because the three were too occupied talking to their Slimes, they didn't notice that Lux, Eiko, and Keane had already entered the store.

"Good morning everyone," Lux said. "It's fine weather to go on an adventure, isn't it?"

"Good morning, Sir Lux," Laura greeted the Half-Elf with a smile. "Are you planning to go on an adventure today?"

"Yes," Lux replied. "I might also take your Big Brother with me, so if he doesn't come back anytime soon, you and your sister shouldn't worry too much, okay?"

"Un!" Laura nodded her head in understanding.

Livia, who was paying close attention to the discussion on the side, also nodded her head.

The Half-Elf was their benefactor, so the two girls trusted him unconditionally.

"Eiko! Allow me to introduce you to my new friend," Cai said with a smile. "This is Fei Fei. Say hi to your big sister, Eiko."

The golden slime looked up at Eiko that was perched on top of Lux's head. Cai usually minimized its size whenever it was indoors, so it was only around a meter tall at the moment, making it shorter than Lux.

The blue slime and the golden slime stared at each other for a few seconds before Eiko took the initiative to greet Fei Fei.

"Hello!" Eiko said.

Fei Fei, who felt Eiko's special characteristics, smiled and greeted her back.

"Sis!" Fei Fei replied.

Cora and Nora, who were also seeing Eiko for the first time, greeted the Fairy Princess as well.

"Eyah!"

"Eyah!"

Eiko giggled as she also replied to the two Slimes with an "Eyah!"

Soon, the sounds of "Eyah! Eyah!" was heard inside the Candy Shop as the baby Slimes chatted with each other.

(A/N: Eyah is the universal language of babies.)

"I don't really know what they're talking about, but since they look happy, it's fine!" Cai, who was closely observing the adorable Slimes, wanted to join the conversation, but since it couldn't speak baby language, it only listened to the happy chatter between them.

"Well then, it's time to go," Lux said after giving the Slimes a few minutes to talk. "Say goodbye to your new friends, Eiko."

Eiko nodded and looked at Cora and Nora with a smile. "Bye bye!"

"Bye Bye!"

"Bye Bye!"

The two Slimes also bid their farewell to their new friend. Although Eiko wanted to talk to them more, she was also excited to start her adventure with her Papa.

"Let's go, Fei Fei," Cai said as it urged the golden slime to perch on top of its head.

Fei Fei nodded and crawled up, until it was perched on Cai's head.

Several minutes later, the group finally left Leaf Village before heading North East to visit the Barony of Wolfpine.

According to Nevreal, this location was currently suffering from an unnatural drought. It had been a year since it last rained, and the ponds and rivers had

all dried up, affecting not only the farmers, but also the people who lived in the barony as well.

The middle-aged man insisted that if the matter was not handled soon, the people would have no choice but to migrate and look for another settlement, leaving the Baron who ruled the lands behind.

Lux wasn't an expert in this stuff, but since the funds of his Guild Headquarters were at stake, he decided to give it a try.

Nevreal had a suspicion that someone was manipulating things from behind, making the people of the Barony of Wolfpine suffer.

The Half-Elf's job was not to only investigate the cause, but to also capture anyone who might be responsible for making such a thing happen.

Since he was holding the Emblem of the Order of the Griffin, the red-headed teenager had the authority to ask the Baron to allow him to command the guards that kept the law and order of the city that was currently facing a challenging decline.

"Let's go, everyone!" Cai shouted excitedly as it took the lead. "We're off to another adventure. Right, Fei Fei?"

The Golden Slime pondered for a bit before voicing out her thoughts to her Master.

"Do you know Da Wae?" Fei Fei asked.

This was the only phrase that it could say at the moment, but it was more than enough to make Cai's body stiffen.

"Actually, I don't know Da Wae," Cai replied as it scooted back beside Lux, who was seated on top of his Thunder Warg King, Jed. "Do you know Da Wae?"

"Of course." Lux smirked.

With the Elysium Compendium in his possession, he could even know the shortest route to arrive at their destination.

Even so, according to his estimate, it would still take them two days before they arrived at Wolfpine Barony since the nearest Teleportation Gate available to them was a dozen miles away from the drought-stricken town.

They had no choice but to travel on their mounts until they arrived at the nearest city after using the Stronghold of Norria's teleportation gate.

Chapter 375.1: Whisper Of Ruin [Part 1]

Two days later, Lux and his friends arrived at the Wolfpine Barony, where they were tasked to help with the investigation of the cause of the drought, which Nevreal believed was an unnatural one.

On their journey, Lux and Keane received suspicious stares from the Dwarves they met on the way.

Since Lux was wearing the Mask of Thousand Faces, he looked like a chubby Human teenager. As for Keane, he was simply Human, which was quite rare within the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven.

In the Dwarves' eyes, Lux and Keane were like rare creatures that they were seeing for the first time. This was also why, on their way to the Wolfpine Barony, the patrolling guards of villages and towns they had to pass through would stop them almost every time.

Fortunately, Thoram and Keelan had given them letters of identification, similar to passports, allowing them to pass through the territories along the way.

To the Half-Elf's surprise, none of the Dwarves thought that the talking Boar that was traveling with them was strange. It seemed that for the Dwarves, a talking Boar was more normal than two Humans on a sight-seeing tour within the Kingdom of Gweliven.

"We finally arrived," Cai said as it looked at a city from atop a cliff. "That's the Wolfpine Barony, right?"

Lux nodded. "Yes."

"It's a lot worse than I expected," Keane commented.

Cai and Lux both agreed with Keane's statement. When they neared the Barony, the ground was so dry that cracks could be seen everywhere.

It was as if they were looking at a vast expanse of wasteland. Clearly, none of them believed that anybody would be able to live in such conditions.

According to Nevreal, the Wolfpine Barony used to be a very beautiful place. It was a city that had many rivers, ponds, and lush greenery. But now, all of those had dried up.

"Let's go," Lux said as he urged Jed to run towards their destination. "Let's get to the bottom of this."

It didn't take long for them to arrive at the entrance of the walled city. Just as they expected, all of them were stopped at the entrance by the City Guards, who found them suspicious.

However, after seeing the recommendation letter and knowing that they, the Humans, had come to investigate the source of the drought, the Dwarves reluctantly allowed them to pass through the gate to meet with their Baron.

"What can these Humans do?" one of the Dwarf Guards asked as they looked at Lux from atop the city ramparts. "The Mages from the Capital have already come here and conducted an investigation, yet none of them found anything suspicious and declared this drought to be a natural phenomenon."

"Just let them do what they came here to do," another Guard commented. "We won't lose anything by having people investigate. Who knows? These Humans might be able to do something that our Mages weren't able to accomplish."

"Do you really think that's possible? Those are royal court Magicians. If they can't do anything about this drought, no one can."

"Well, the moment those Mages weren't able to do anything about this drought, I stopped thinking of them as a big deal."

"Shhh... did you forget that they left four of those Mages here to constantly replenish our water supply with Water Magic? Be more cautious about what you say."

"You have a point. It will not happen again."

Lux, who had a good sense of hearing, was able to hear the conversation of the guards on the ramparts.

'I see, that is smart,' Lux thought. 'Replenishing the water supply with the help of four magicians is good. Now I understand why they have been able to survive this long.'

Due to the current lack of water, each family was given a quota of water that they could use everyday. They would line up every morning carrying wooden buckets, while the Royal Mages filled the fountain in the plaza with water, allowing the Dwarves to take a few buckets back home.

This was not a long-term solution for the problem, but it was enough to allow those who chose to stay in the Barony to survive until the Mages returned to the capital city to resume their duties.

After entering the city, the three didn't go straight to the Baron's residence, but instead, went to the Adventurer Guild first.

Keelan had asked Lux to pass a letter to his acquaintance in the Wolfpine Barony. The Dwarf told the Half-Elf that it would make things easier for the latter's group to gain the support of the Adventurer's Guild since they knew more about the surrounding territories than they did.

"So, your names are Lucien, Keane, and Cai. Well then, since Keelan sent you guys, I guess you're capable enough to not die here, right?"

Lux, Keane, and Cai, looked up at the Bearkin that towered above them.

"I'm sure that Keelan had already mentioned my name to you guys, but allow me to introduce myself formally," the Bearkin said with a smile. "My name is Pan De Monium. Since it is a mouthful, just call me Boss."

"Okay, Boss," Cai replied. "Boss, can you tell us what happened here? Even rumors are fine too."

"Hah! Feeling chummy with me from the get go?" Boss gave Cai a thumbs up. "I like! Okay everyone, please sit. This will be a long story."

Perhaps due to the fact that he barely had anything to do, especially since most of the adventurers had left the Barony to go to more prosperous locations, the Bearkin happily engaged Lux and his friends in conversation.

"Actually, before this drought started, there was an incident in the city that I think is related to the current dilemma we are facing," Boss said with a serious expression on his face. "It was said that a pregnant Dwarf came to the city to look for the Baron's second son to ask him to take responsibility for getting her pregnant. The Baron's son denied it and even accused the lady that she was just spouting nonsense.

"When the pregnant lady was forcefully dragged away from the property, she had a miscarriage which caused quite a stir in the city back then. The next day, the lady went to the plaza to make a declaration. She said that since the Baron's son killed her child, she would make sure that this Barony would cease to exist.

"After that, no one saw her again. Some say that the Baron's son hired mercenaries to kill her, while others said that she was last seen in the Dark Plains, directly North from here. That place is said to be a cursed land, and everyone who had gone there never returned again. I don't know whether these rumors were true, but the lady losing her child was a fact, and her cursing this Barony was real as well."

Cai, who was listening to the story, ground its teeth in irritation.

"What a scum," Cai scoffed. "I don't feel like helping this Barony anymore. Come, Let's go back to Leaf Village."

Lux was tempted to say yes to Cai's declaration, but he had a job to do, so he coaxed the angry Boar to wait until the Bearkin finished his story.

Clearly, this story was still not finished, so he wanted to know everything before he made a decision.

Chapter 376.2: Whispers of Ruin [Part 2]

"Well, I do understand that this is not a good story, but there is more to it," Boss stated after seeing the reaction of his guests.

"When the rivers and ponds within the territory started drying up, the people of the Barony feared that a curse had befallen the land. Although the people weren't superstitious, everything was going south, so they started putting

blame on the Baron's second son, forcing the Baron to take the matter in his own hand.

"He ordered his son to go to the Temple to confess all of his sins to the Clerics and be cleansed from his filth. However, all the rivers and other sources of water continued to dry up. Things started to become chaotic then.

"The fields became barren, and even if Water Magic was used, the land remained dry and cracked. The forest surrounding the barony slowly lost its lushness, until the trees have turned into dry husks.

"The way things happened was very unnatural. Even if there was a drought, the trees wouldn't die like that. The animals migrated, leaving nothing for the people to hunt. With no food and water to sustain the Barony, many people decided to leave.

"All of them cursed the Baron's second son for what was happening, making the latter unable to step foot outside their residence in fear that he would be mobbed by the townspeople. Even the Guards turned a blind eye whenever the Baron's son was getting attacked. Truth be told, the respect that people had for the Baron is gone. Even I don't give a damn if their entire family were to suddenly kick the bucket."

Cai, who had been keeping quiet, stomped its foot in excitement. It was very tempted to charge at the Baron's Residence to demand justice, but after hearing the story, it felt a bit better knowing that the Baron had lost everyone's respect.

"This is what you call Karma!" Cai stated. "This is what you call Divine Retribution! Hah! Serves them right. Those bastards deserve to get mobbed!"

Just as Lux was about to voice out his opinion, a series of words appeared in front of him, making him hold back the words that he was about to say.

< Emergency Quest! >

< Whisper of Ruin >

Mission Rating: SSS

– A bereaved mother left the Wolfpine Barony to take revenge on the people that killed her child. She knew that she was powerless to do anything on her own, so she decided to seek the help of a powerful Warlock who lives in the Dark Stepes, located in the Dark Plains.

– The Warlock agreed to her request. But, in return, she has to help him break the seals that bound a creature that had been locked away for centuries.

– You and the members of your group that have entered the Wolfpine Barony are now under the influence of the Curse of Ruin. Until you clear this mission, this Curse will follow you until death.

< Quest Objective >

– Find the Baron's second son and stop him from leaving Wolfpine Barony within the next 72 hours.

– Do not attack the Creature of Ruin. The quest will automatically fail if you, or any of your members, harmed the creature in any way possible.

< Mission Rewards >

– The Curse of Ruin will be lifted.

– Your lives will be spared.

< Curse of Ruin >

– An unnatural drought will follow you wherever you go.

– You will not be able to sire any children for life.

– You will be fated to die a dog's death.

< Will you accept this Quest? >

< Yes / Yes >

< P.S If you don't accept this, you will die, so Yes is chosen as the default answer. >

"...Sh*t," Lux muttered as he looked at the unreasonable quest that was in front of him.

"That's right!" Cai nodded its head because it thought that the Half-Elf was agreeing with its statement earlier. "The Baron's second son is sh*t! Um? Why did your face suddenly become pale? Are you okay?"

Lux used both of his hands to rub his face in order to calm himself. This was his first time receiving an SSS-Rating quest, which meant that this was a very serious mission, which also meant that this was a matter of life and death.

He had faced many close calls in the past, but nothing compared to this one. Each mission gave him the option to reject it. But, this time around, refusal meant death.

How could he possibly choose death?

Lux ignored Cai's question as he spent a few minutes regaining his composure. When he felt that he was calm enough to talk, he gazed at the Bearkin in front of him and asked him the one question that mattered the most.

"Boss, do you know a monster called the Creature of Ruin?" Lux asked.

The Bearkin's body stiffened when he heard Lux's inquiry.

"Creature of Ruin? Isn't that just a fairy tale?" Boss replied, but if one were paying close attention to his words, a trace of anxiety could be heard in them. "It's just a story to scare little kids when they're not listening to what their parents say."

Lux smiled bitterly after hearing the Bearkin's reply.

'What Fairy Tale? That creature will soon come here!'

The Half-Elf was very tempted to shout out loud, but he grit his teeth and endured the urge.

"By the way, where did you hear about this Creature of Ruin?" Boss asked. He no longer had an easy-going attitude and it had been replaced by a solemn expression that made Cai feel as if the Bearkin would suddenly attack them without warning.

Lux could tell that the Bearkin was hiding something, so he started to weigh the pros and cons of whether he should share with him the information he just received from the quest.

"Boss, let me ask you a hypothetical question," Lux replied.

"Oh? I like hypothetical questions," Boss stated while showing his canines. "Go on. I promise to give you a hypothetical answer as well."

The Half-Elf stared at the Bearkin, whose eyes had locked onto his body, waiting for him to ask his question.

"What if I tell you that the Creature of Ruin is real?" Lux asked. "And if we don't do something, you, I, and probably all of the people in this Barony will die. My question is this, will you help me keep this calamity from happening?"

Boss laughed after hearing Lux's question. A moment later, he reappeared in front of the Half-Elf and grabbed his robe before raising him high up in the air.

The Bearkin pulled Lux closer to him until their faces were only inches apart from each other.

A bestial growl escaped Boss' lips before he bared his fangs at the red-headed teenager, who was struggling from his grasp.

"Who are you, and how do you know about the creature of Ruin?" Boss asked with bloodshot eyes. "Did HE send you?"

The Half-Elf didn't know if he made the right decision by telling the Guildmaster about the Creature of Ruin. However, one thing was sure.

The Bearkin knew something about the Creature of Ruin, and he needed to pry the answers from the Guildmaster's mouth, before he faced the monster, who was about to bring ruin, not only to him, but to the entirety of the Wolfpine Barony.

Chapter 377.1: Curse Of Ruin [Part 1]

The Bearkin's grip on Lux's clothes was so tight that no matter how much he struggled, he couldn't break free.

Eiko, who was perched on Lux's head, glared at the Bearkin and then spat a Water Ball on the Bearkin's face, making the latter lose his balance which, in turn, allowed Lux to drop on the ground, coughing.

"Oi! What do you think you're doing?!" Cai, who had been frozen due to shock earlier, finally regained its senses and stomped its feet in anger. "If you want to fight, let's fight!"

Keane frowned and remained on his spot, but his hand was now gripping the handle of his sword. If the Bearkin attacked any of them again, then he would no longer hold back and draw his blade.

Boss growled, but Cai and Keane didn't back down. Eiko was already glaring daggers at the Bearkin, and tendrils of crimson flames escaped her lips. She was on the verge of unleashing a Dragon's Breath, not caring whether the Adventurer's Guild would be destroyed by her attack.

"Everyone, please calm down," Lux stated after he regained his breath. "Boss, I think we should all sit down and discuss this in a civil manner. If you don't want to cooperate, that's fine. But, I would appreciate it if you don't get in our way later. "

The Bearkin's rank was that of an Initiate. Although he was stronger than Lux and the others, the Half-Elf and all of his comrades were not afraid of a showdown.

After all, Lux could easily summon two Initiate Assassins of his own, and when that happened, even the Bearkin would find it hard to defend against their all out assault.

Boss then took a deep breath before taking the chair that was blown away and sat down on it. His table had been destroyed when Eiko blasted his face with a Water Ball since his body crashed on top of it.

"First tell me, Did HE send you?" Boss asked. His gaze never left Lux's face, looking for the slightest change in his expression.

"First, who is this HE?" Lux asked. "I was sent here by Sir Nevreal to investigate the cause of the drought. I don't know if he's the one you are referring to, but I'm here because of his request."

The Bearkin heaved a sigh of relief after hearing the Half-Elf's reply. He was referring to a different person. If that person was the one that sent Lux, then the Bearkin would definitely start packing and flee the Wolfpine Barony in haste.

"Then, how did you know about the Creature of Ruin?" Boss inquired.

Lux crossed his arms over his chest before he held the Bearkin's inquiring gaze.

"I'm a Foreigner, we have records of this stuff," Lux replied.

Cai, who was listening by the side, glanced at Lux in surprise.

"We do?" Cai asked.

"Yes," Lux replied. "You're just too lazy to ask your Elders for information."

Cai pondered for a moment before nodding its head. It was too lazy to read any information regarding Elysium and preferred to just explore at its own pace.

The Half-Elf was just b*llsh*tting his way through this because he just wanted to get this mission over with. But, deep inside, he wanted to slap his pig teammate who didn't know how to support the people on its own side!

The Bearkin still looked at Lux with suspicion, but since he didn't know much about Foreigners, he decided to put the matter aside for now.

"Okay, what do you know about the Creature of Ruin?" Boss asked.

Lux shook his head. "I don't know anything about it. However, I have a feeling that it is an incredibly strong creature."

"Hahaha. Incredibly strong creature?" Boss laughed out loud after hearing Lux's reply. "You have no idea how strong this creature is. There's a reason why it is sealed in the first place in the Dark Plai—"

The Bearkin immediately shut his mouth because this was an information that he didn't plan to say. He just got carried away when he found out that Lux thought that they were just dealing with an ordinary strong monster, like a World Boss.

Lux knew that the Bearkin still held a lot of information, so he tried to try a bluff to make the latter spill the beans.

"I already know that the Creature of Ruin is sealed in the Dark Plains," Lux replied as if it wasn't a big deal. "Actually, the seals have already been destroyed. The Monster is even on his way to this town as we speak. However, even if we leave, we are already under the Curse of Ruin, so even if we run to the ends of the world, nothing can save us. However, the situation can still be salvaged if you cooperate with us."

The Bearkin's face became extremely pale after he heard the words "Curse of Ruin".

He immediately took something out of his storage ring and held it in the palm of his hand. The thing he took out was a purple orb and, at first, there was no immediate change on its surface, but several seconds later, a golden eye appeared in its depths, and started to look around, making the Bearkin drop it in shock.

"It's true!" the Bearkin exclaimed as the purple ball rolled on the floor until it hit Lux's foot. "I am cursed!"

The Bearkin covered his face with both of his hands, as he started to mutter something very quickly in a language that Lux was unable to understand.

Although he had no idea what the Bearkin was saying, he felt like it was a prayer to protect him from harm.

A few minutes later, the Bearkin sighed before looking at Lux with a fearful gaze.

"Is there a way to break this curse?" Boss asked.

Clearly, he knew from the start what this curse was about, and he wanted to break free from it as soon as possible.

"I know how to break it," Lux answered. "But, before that, tell me everything you know about the Creature of Ruin. make sure to not miss a single detail, or none of us will be able to make it out of this alive."

The Bearkin clenched his fists as if he was fighting a great internal struggle inside his heart.

However, this lasted only for a few minutes before he finally unclenched his fists with a sigh.

Now that he had confirmed that he had indeed been cursed, he had no choice but to believe the Half-Elf's words, or else, he would risk receiving the entire condemnation of his Clan for failing to do his duty as the Guardian of the Seals of Ruin within the territory of the Wolfpine Barony.

Chapter 378.2: Curse Of Ruin [Part 2]

"First, the Creature of Ruin is one of the Four Calamities in the Arondight Territory," Boss replied. "My clan is in charge of protecting the seal in the Dark Plains. However, a year ago, there was this weird Dwarf that suddenly appeared in the Dark Stepes.

"He seemed pretty harmless and just stayed quietly in his hut, so I didn't bother him much. However, after the incident with the pregnant Dwarf, things started to change for the worse. I thought that it was because of the seal, so I went there to check on each of their locations.

"The seals were still in place, but I could vaguely feel that the Creature of Ruin was starting to wake up from its slumber. If that thing really broke free, then we have no place to hide in this world.

"Perhaps you foreigners can escape, but we can't. This is why this Monster was sealed hundreds of years ago by my ancestors. The monster was that destructive. It can suck the life force out of the land it walks on, leaving only a vast wasteland where nothing can grow."

Lux who was listening to the Bearkin's narration frowned.

"If such a creature did exist, why seal it when you can just kill it?" Lux inquired. "I find it hard to believe that this kingdom didn't have the means to kill a monster of that Rank."

Boss shook his head before telling Lux why the Kingdom of Gweliven couldn't send anyone to fight it.

"This Creature of Ruin's Rank is on the Calamity Level," Boss explained. "You need at least a dozen Saints in order to beat it. And even if it is defeated, all those who fought against it would be cursed, making them unable to sire any children and an eternal drought would follow them wherever they go."

"But, that is not the worst part. The worst part is that this creature is able to revive itself after three years. Once it revives, it would appear randomly within the Arondight Territory. Only one creature of its kind can exist at a time, so once it is killed, a new Creature of Ruin will take its place."

"This is why, although it can be defeated, it can never be killed. That is why everyone decided to seal it, along with the three other Creatures of Ruin, using the full might of the Kingdoms within the Arondight Domain. Now that one of them has been freed, the Kingdom of Gweliven and its allies must mobilize their Saints, in order to seal it once again."

Lux finally understood why the mission rating for the quest was SSS.

'The quest rewards said that if I managed to fulfill the requirements, the Curse would be lifted and my life would be spared,' Lux thought. 'I am fighting against a Calamity-Rank Monster, and even if the Saints of the Kingdom of Gweliven mobilized, it was still a creature that even they didn't dare to kill no matter what.'

The other warning on the quest about not attacking the monster in any way, now made sense.

If one dared to attack a Calamity Ranked Monster, a calamity would fall upon their heads, in a literal manner.

"Boss, I have a plan, but you will not like it," Lux said as a primer before telling the Bearkin what they should do in order to lift the curse that had been placed on their bodies.

Just as he expected, hesitation appeared on the Bearkin's face after hearing the thing that they must do.

"Kidnapping or killing the Noble of a Kingdom is a very serious offense," Boss stated. "Even if we succeed in capturing the Baron's second son, we will be butting heads with the Nobility, and this will definitely not end well."

Lux nodded his head because he had already expected something like this to happen. However, he also knew that the Bearkin would agree to his plan in the end.

When one's own life was threatened, they would definitely prioritize their own. Also, if they told the aristocrats that all that was needed to appease the Creature of Ruin and prevent it from destroying the entire Kingdom of Gweliven was to hand over the Baron's second son who committed a crime in the first place, would they object?

The Half-Elf was sure that if the King were to choose between his Kingdom and the life of one scum, he would definitely choose the former and ensure that his citizens wouldn't have to worry about the Creature of Ruin that was currently headed to the Wolfpine Barony.

While Lux was trying to convince the Guildmaster to cooperate with him, several carriages, which were escorted by mounted guards, entered the gates of the city.

The emblem embedded on the side of the carriage held the crest of the Royal Family of Gweliven.

"Did we finally arrive?" a young lady with light-brown hair and green eyes asked.

One of her maids nodded her head in affirmation.

"We have arrived, Your Highness," the Maid replied. "This is the city that belongs to the Baron of the Wolfpine Territory."

"Well, it's about time. My brothers are already racking up achievements, and I need to catch up no matter what."

"Don't worry, Your Highness. We have brought experts in the field and hired the best Adventurer Party in the kingdom. With their help, we might be able to solve the drought problem, allowing you to gain favor in His Majesty's eyes."

The pretty princess smiled like a flower because she felt as if she had gotten her second wind. She was one of her father's favorites, which was why she was allowed to participate in the battle for succession.

Now that a golden opportunity had arrived, she would be a fool to not take the chance to get ahead of his brothers, who were currently competing with each other.

"Send a rider to the Baron's Residence," the pretty Princess ordered. "Inform them of our arrival. Make sure to tell them who I am, so that they will prepare the welcome I deserve."

The maid bowed respectfully before replying to her Master's orders. "Yes, Your Highness."

Chapter 379.1: A Variable Has Appeared [Part 1]

"As an individual, I would like to help you kidnap the Baron's second son. Unfortunately, I can't do that," Boss stated. "I am a Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild, and I can't ruin my organization's reputation because of my personal desires. But, that doesn't mean that I can't help you in other ways."

The Bearkin knew how serious the situation was, so he had already thought of a way to help Lux without jeopardizing the organization he belonged to.

"I promise that I and the other adventurers remaining in this city will not get in your way," Boss said. "Also, if the Baron ever asks us to pursue you, we will accept his orders on the surface, but we will not act on it."

Lux nodded. "That's fine. As long as the Adventurer's Guild doesn't get in our way, then that is already a big help to make it easier for us to reach our goal."

The Bearkin rubbed his chin as he looked at the Half-Elf. Now that they had both exchanged information, all that was left to do was to decide on what both of them would be doing next.

"All we need to do is keep the Baron's second son here in the Wolpine Barony for three days, right?" Boss inquired.

"Yes," Lux replied. "It is my guess that if he leaves Wolpine Village during those three days, the Creature of Ruin would chase him, and in turn, it would pass through villages, towns, and even cities, leaving a trail of destruction behind. We must not allow such a thing to happen."

Boss sighed as he nodded his head in agreement. The Kingdom of Gweliven only had two Saints at the moment.

These two Saints had lived their lives away from politics, and didn't meddle with the affairs of the Kingdom of Gweliven, but during times of need they would appear to lend their hand.

However, even if they worked together, just the two of them would not be enough to stop the Creature of Ruin that had only been sealed by the combined might of all the Kingdoms within the Arondight Territory.

"I will also inform the Main Headquarters of the Adventurer's Guild in the capital city," Boss stated. "They will be the one to relay this information to the King's ears, allowing him to act accordingly. But, I just want to confirm one thing. Are you sure that the Creature of Ruin has broken the seals that bound him?"

"I'll be perfectly honest, I'm not really sure," Lux replied. "But I assume that it is so."

He only assumed that the Creature of Ruin had broken free due to the information about the quest that was available to him.

Boss frowned as he contemplated whether he should send word to the capital or not. He had only met Lux lately, and he didn't know if he could be trusted. Nevertheless, this news was simply too big to ignore, so he decided to only send a message to the capital after he personally checked if the seals were really broken or not.

"Okay, I will take my men to check the seals in the Dark Plains," Boss said. "This will also be a good excuse so that the Baron won't be able to contact me."

"Sounds like a plan. We will be staying at the White House Inn," Lux commented. "If the seals are broken, make sure to inform us as soon as possible."

"Okay. That sounds reasonable."

"Thank you."

After reaching an agreement, Lux and his friends went to the White House Inn to book three rooms.

Since they needed to stay for three days in the Wolfpine Barony, that also meant that they had plenty of time to investigate and snoop around the Baron's Residence to look for the whereabouts of the Baron's second son.

When Lux was in the privacy of his own room, he summoned Ishtar to give her an order.

"Ishtar, scout the Baron's Residence and check how many guards they have," Lux ordered. "Make sure to include detailed information about how strong they are. Look for possible escape routes while you're at it. We will need this information if we are to sneak in inside their residence and kidnap the Baron's second son."

"Understood, Master," Ishtar replied before opening the window of the room.

A moment later, she turned into a black mist and disappeared completely.

This was the first time that Lux and his friends had been to Dunspear City, so after two hours of rest, they went out to explore the city to get a better understanding of the current situation of the people that lived there.

"As a Nomadic Tribe, we've seen many places," Cai said as it walked beside Lux. "But, I've never seen something as tragic as this."

Lux agreed with Cai's statement because everyone in the city was currently living pitiful lives. No matter where they went, they could only see the exhausted faces of the people that lived in the city.

No smiles could be seen and no laughter could be heard anywhere.

Simply put, the Wolfpine Barony was simply surviving due to the support of the Royal Family.

There were food supplies that were transported to the Barony from the nearby territories, but it was not enough to allow the people living here to eat properly.

Even the Tavern where they stayed didn't give out nor sold any food. The only way to eat was to hunt, but hunting was also extremely hard due to the current circumstances.

After strolling for a few hours, the three returned to their tavern to rest. They brought plenty of supplies with them, so they weren't worried about food and water.

Just as they entered the Tavern of the Inn, they heard people chatting with each other while eating peanuts.

"Have you heard? A Royal seems to have arrived in the city today."

"Really? Do they have that much free time to visit this desolate place?"

"It's true. I saw their carriages earlier and they were headed to the Baron's Residence."

"Weird. I don't see any good reason why a member of the Royal Family would visit that bastard Baron who raised a scummy son."

"Hush... you already know what happened to the people that opposed the Baron's son. If you don't want to disappear mysteriously, you will keep your opinion inside your head and deal with it accordingly."

Lux frowned after his ears picked up the gist of the conversation.

'A variable has appeared,' Lux thought as he made a gesture for Cai and Keane to sit at a table near the Dwarves, who were happily chatting about the new arrivals in their city. 'This is bad. If a member of the Royal Family had arrived, that meant that they brought Elite Guards with them.'

Lux had to consider this matter carefully because the appearance of a member of the Royal Family could ruin the plan he had in mind.

As if proving that his thoughts were right, the connection he had with Ishtar suddenly broke, making the Half-Elf's face turn pale.

Before his Nightstalker died, Ishtar was still able to say a few words to him, and those words made Lux curse internally.

"Master, be careful. A Ranker is here!"

Those were the last words that Ishtar said to him before their connection was cut. Clearly, it spelt bad news to the Half-Elf, who didn't expect that someone that powerful would suddenly arrive in the city, before he could think of a way to kidnap the Baron's second son.

'Great, how else could this possibly get worse?' Lux sighed in his heart.

It was at that moment when the door of the Tavern suddenly opened. A Dwarf with green hair and red eyes, who could be considered a mature beauty, walked up to Lux's table and pressed a hand on his shoulder.

"I just killed an Undead earlier, and I followed the faint connection it had with its Master," the green-haired Dwarf said as the grip she had on Lux's shoulder tightened, holding him in a vice grip.

She then lowered her head and whispered in a voice that only Lux could hear.

"Give me one good reason why I shouldn't tell the Baron that a Necromancer is snooping around his residence," the green-haired Dwarf said. "If I don't like your answer, I will break your limbs and drag you to Baron, so he can personally punish you for trespassing on his private property."

Chapter 380.2: A Variable Has Appeared [Part 2]

Murphy's law states that anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

When people think that things couldn't possibly get any worse, it would get worse.

Lux wanted to slap himself silly for raising a flag for himself, which happened just minutes after Ishtar died.

The rowdy Tavern descended into silence the moment the Dwarf appeared.

The green-haired Dwarf was wearing the coat of arms of the Gweliven Royal Family, indicating that she was one of the personal guards of the Royal.

For most people, this was the highest form of honor, and to some, their uniform was a symbol of power and prestige because only the best would be able to wear the uniform that the green-haired Dwarf was wearing.

"Um, I think you have misunderstood something here," Lux replied. "I am not a suspicious person."

"That is what suspicious people always say," the green-haired Dwarf commented. "Also, even though I've had the opportunity to see Humans in the past, I've never seen one that has ventured this far within our Kingdom. In my eyes, you are the most suspicious people that I have come across, so you better stop spouting nonsense and answer my question."

The Dwarves in the Tavern looked at Lux and his friends with vigilance. Just like the green-haired Dwarf said, having Humans this deep in their territory was not a common occurrence.

Although they didn't make it too obvious earlier, they were quite wary of Lux, and his friends, because they were all Foreigners.

(A/N: Just in case you all forgot, Foreigners is the term Elysians used to describe Solaians.)

Just as Lux was about to take something out of his storage ring, the green-haired lady's grip on his shoulder tightened, making Lux cry out in pain.

"Don't do anything stupid," the green-haired Dwarf said icily. "This is your last warning. If you do something suspicious I'll snap your neck."

Lux wanted to rebuke the Dwarf lady, but since she was a Ranker, he decided to play it safe and just use the lifeline that was available to him.

"I am going to take a golden locket out of my storage ring," Lux said. "After you see it, you will know who I am. So, do you mind if I take it out to show you?"

The green-haired Dwarf pondered for a bit before nodding her head. However, her grip on Lux's shoulder remained firm.

The Half-Elf took out the Golden Locket of the Griffin, and showed it to the green-haired lady, who immediately frowned after seeing it.

Without asking for permission, she took the locket from Lux's hands and observed it with a critical gaze. She rolled it over in her hands, opened it, and looked at it from different angles.

After confirming that the locket was authentic, she handed it back to Lux and removed her grip from his shoulder.

"Let's talk outside," the green-haired Dwarf ordered as she made a gesture for the red-headed teenager to stand and follow her.

"Stay here," Lux said to his friends. "I'll be fine."

Cai and Keane nodded their heads. They had already sensed how strong the green-haired lady was, so they didn't do anything reckless when Lux was being held in a vice grip.

The two knew that even if they worked together alongside Lux, it would be impossible for them to beat the Ranker, who seemed to be employed by the Royal Family.

As soon as Lux stepped outside of the Tavern, a strong gust of wind blew over him, wrapped him up securely, which prevented him from moving. A second later, he found himself flying through the air at great speeds.

"Good, let's talk here," the green-haired Dwarf said after finding a suitable place to talk that was far away from the city. "First, I don't believe that you are a member of the Order of the Griffin. I've met all of their members, so I am sure that you are not one of them.

"Also, I highly doubt that His Majesty would make a Human, especially a Foreigner, part of his private force. You made one mistake, Human. Not all Dwarves, especially those who sit in high positions in this nation, know the existence of the Order of the Griffin. You can't just flash your golden locket thinking that anyone who saw it would recognize it right away."

"E-Eh? But I was told that I should just show it to the guards and members of the military if I ever needed their assistance when dealing with a difficult mission," Lux replied with a face filled with injustice.

"Fool, you are supposed to show your emblem to the secret service that would then contact the authorities to get the support you need," the green-haired Dwarf replied in an annoyed manner. "Didn't they even tell you something so

basic?! Who was the one that gave you the golden locket? Was it Galileo? Was it that bastard Charles? Or that snot-faced Nevreal?"

Lux, who had been called a fool, wasn't able to defend himself from the one-sided nagging that was being hurled in his direction.

"Miss, can you calm down first?" Lux asked. "How about we talk like civilized people? Also, why are you so familiar with how the Order of the Griffin works? Are you one of its members?"

The green-haired lady suddenly stopped talking as she glared at Lux, making the latter feel that he was being stared down by a giant, when in fact, he was the one who was taller than the Dwarf, whose glaring red eyes made him feel as if he had stepped on a landmine.

A minute later, the green-haired Dwarf snorted.

"I am not a member of the Order," the green-haired dwarf replied. "But my Master is one of them. This is why I know how they do things from the shadows."

Lux had a feeling that the green-haired Dwarf wanted to become part of the Order, but lacked the qualifications to get the role. He didn't know how the King decided who got to be one of the members of his private organization, so the Half-Elf had no idea why a Ranker like the green-haired Dwarf wasn't one of its members.

"I see." Lux narrowed his gaze. He didn't know if what he was about to do was going to work, but it was worth giving it a try. "Then, since you know of my identity, isn't it about time that you release me? I am on a very important mission, you know? Your interference is making it hard for me to do my job properly."

The green-haired Dwarf once again snorted after she heard Lux's words.

"Like I said earlier, I don't recognize you as one of the members of the Order," the green-haired dwarf replied. "Now, tell me why you are here in the Wolfpine Barony, or else, I'll take you to the Mayor's Residence tied up like the pig you are."

"Sorry, but I can't tell you that. If you want to know why I am here, you should get in touch with Nevreal. He is the one that requested that I come to this place."

"Nevreal? So it's that snot-nosed old man who doesn't know when to call it quits. I see... so this is about the merit system. Now I understand your purpose for coming."

The green-haired Dwarf then smiled evilly as she approached Lux.

"You are here to get in the way of Her Highness' ascension," the green-haired Dwarf said coldly. "Since that is the case, I should deal with you right here, right now."

Chapter 381: Whatever Means Necessary Without Breaking The Law

"You are here to get in the way of Her Highness' ascension. Since that is the case, I should deal with you right here, right now."

The green-haired Dwarf smiled evilly as she grabbed hold of the Half-Elf's robe. Of course, she was just scaring him, so that he would back away and leave the Wolfpine Barony. Her purpose was to make sure that the Princess she served would be able to focus on the task at hand, without thinking of variables outside of her control.

Unfortunately for her, there was someone that didn't like her bluff, and she made her opinion known in a rather unexpected manner.

The body of the green-haired Dwarf who had just grabbed hold of Lux's robe immediately stiffened and then hurriedly backed away, putting a good distance between herself and the Half-Elf.

Behind Lux, a black coffin radiating a crimson aura hovered in the air. Although the coffin was closed, there was a presence inside it that told the green-haired Dwarf to not push her luck, or else she would regret it.

'As expected of someone that was recognized by the members of the Order of the Griffon,' the green-haired Dwarf thought. 'He has some tricks hidden in his sleeve.'

The wind that was holding Lux in place disappeared, allowing the Half-Elf to have full control of his body once again. At first, the Half-Elf wasn't sure what happened, but after seeing the hovering black coffin behind him, an "Oh!" escaped his lips, making him understand what had just transpired.

This time, it was Lux's turn to look at the green-haired Dwarf with a devilish smile plastered on his face.

"Hehehe, looks like the tables have turned, missy~" Lux said in a teasing tone. "Since you plan to get in my way, I guess I should deal with you right here, right no-ouch!"

The black coffin behind the Half-Elf lightly knocked his head as if reprimanding him, making the red-headed teenager rub his head in helplessness.

Clearly, Vera didn't like Lux using her as a means to bully others, which made the Half-Elf toss his plan to give the green-haired Dwarf a punishment for what she had done to him aside.

"I am here on an important mission," Lux replied. "I don't care who you are helping in order to gain some points, but I would appreciate it if you don't get in my way. Something sinister is going to arrive in this city soon, so it would be best if you and your master left as soon as possible."

Lux glanced in the direction of Dunspear City before summoning his Thunder Warg King, Jed, to bring him back to the city.

Fortunately, the green-haired Dwarf hadn't taken him that far, so he easily reunited with his friends in just a few minutes.

The Dwarf, who was left behind, stared at Lux's back with a contemplative look as she headed back to the city.

'What does he mean by saying that something sinister will soon arrive in the city?' the green-haired Dwarf thought. 'I must inform the princess right away.'

A gust of wind blew, as the Dwarf flew back in haste to the Baron's Residence to tell the Princess what just happened.

Back at the White House Inn...

"Hmph! It's a good thing that Little Swordy stopped me earlier," Cai said. "If not, I would have slapped that green-haired Dwarf silly and sent her flying. How dare she bully us? Tsk! She's lucky that I am a pacifist. I like to talk things out first before charging head-first to battle. Isn't that right, Fei~ Fei~"

"Da Wae?" Fei Fei tilted its head in confusion.

Clearly, the baby Gold Slime didn't believe that its Master had what it takes to follow through with what it was saying.

The Half-Elf rolled his eyes on the 'pacifist' Boar's words. Cai was someone who liked to bully the weak and fear the strong. If it really went to fight with the green-haired Dwarf, the one who would be slapped and sent flying would be none other than the Boar, who was lying through its thick skin.

"Don't worry, for the most part, I don't think that she will hinder us again," Lux stated. "But, I can't say the same for the Master she is serving. If I didn't mishear her words, her employer is a member of the Royal Family of this Kingdom. Best not to cross swords and words with them, or we might find ourselves being treated as an eyesore by the Kingdom."

Keane, who was clearing his sword with a piece of oiled cloth raised his head to look in their direction.

"So, what are our plans?" Keane asked. "Since they are now keeping tabs on us, do we still kidnap the Baron's second son, knowing that they are staying in the same residence?"

Actually, this was the new problem that Lux had to deal with. He didn't know how to handle this matter effectively because he was quite confident that the green-haired Dwarf would get in his way if he attempted to kidnap the Baron's second son by force.

"Our mission is simple," Lux stated. "We need to keep the Baron's second son here in the city for three days. We don't have to kidnap him, we just need him to remain here. As long as this condition is met, we will be safe... probably."

Cai and Keane glanced at each other before nodding their heads. Lux had explicitly told them that they shouldn't attack the Creature of Ruin no matter what.

Now that they knew that it was a Calamity-Ranked Monster, they would do their best to not provoke it in any way possible. Even a dozen Saints hadn't been able to defeat it completely and had no choice but to seal it.

A couple of Grade A Apostles simply didn't stand a chance against a Monster of that rank.

"So, how are we going to monitor the Baron's second son?" Cai asked. "Do we just take turns watching their residence?"

Lux firmly shook his head "That won't work. Since a member of the Royal Family is staying there, the Elite Guards that escorted her here will be guarding the perimeter, not allowing any potential threats to get near her. We already met one Ranker, it's quite possible that there are more."

The room descended into silence because they were stuck on what to do next.

"If my Grandpa was here, we wouldn't have to worry about anything," Cai grumbled. "We could just walk in through the front door and demand that they treat us as VIP guests."

Lux, who was wracking his brains about what he should do to enter the Baron's Residence, looked at the Boar as if it was a freaking genius.

"That's it!" Lux suddenly got an idea for what he should do next. "You're a genius, Cai!"

"I am?" the Boar tilted its head in confusion. "Oh right! I am a genius. Hahaha! Um, why am I a genius again?"

Lux smirked before stepping out of the room in haste.

He didn't answer Cai because he wasn't sure if what he thought would work.

However, after summoning his Soul Book and using the Map Function of the Elysium Compendium, he was able to find the location of the secret service of the Order of the Griffon that was stationed in Dunspear City.

Galileo had mentioned in passing that they had their agents in every city in the Kingdom of Gweliven. Since that was the case, all that Lux needed to do was

find them using the map function of the Elysium Compendium that was able to pinpoint allies and neutral people on the map.

Since he was a member of the Order of the Griffon, his allies would naturally turn green on the map, which meant that he could go directly to them and ask for their help in letting him enter the Baron's Residence through whatever means necessary without breaking the law.

Chapter 382: Everyone Has A Price

Baron's Residence...

"A member of the Order is here?" the Princess asked. "Is father taking this matter into his own hands? Were you aware of this, Millie?"

The green-haired Dwarf shook her head.

"Your Highness, I am not aware of how the Order operates because they only take orders from the King," Millie replied. "However, I am very doubtful whether that Human is really under the order of His Majesty or not. After all, he mentioned that the one that sent him here was Nevreal."

"Nevreal? That old man really doesn't know when to just mind his own business." The Princess wrinkled her nose after hearing Nevreal's name. "I see. So, that person is here on behalf of my dear brother. Looks like we have some competition in our hands, Millie."

"It is as you say, Your Highness."

"Heh~ now this has suddenly become interesting. Millie, find that Human and tell him that I want to talk to him in private."

Millie thought that she had heard the Princess wrong, but knowing what kind of person the third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven was, she already had a hunch about what the Princess was up to.

"You want to bribe him to join our side?" Millie asked with a doubtful expression on her face.

The Princess looked at the green-haired Dwarf with a devilish smile before nodding her head.

"Everyone has a price, Millie," the Princess said. "No matter what amount of wealth or favor my brother promised him, tell him that I will double it. Naturally, there will be some conditions attached. However, I'm sure that we can smooth the details out once we meet."

Millie groaned internally. Just because the third Princess had been spoiled by His Majesty, the King, she thought that she could get away with everything she wanted using her father's backing.

The Princess had just turned fifteen this year, and she had already gained a lot of favors from possible suitors. This is quite understandable because she was someone who could easily make people like her with her irresistible charm.

Her long brown hair and hazel eyes had already won the hearts of many young nobles, who wished for her to become the Crown Princess of the Kingdom.

This also boosted her confidence, making her think that she was the one favored by the heavens to rule the land.

"As you wish, Your Highness," Millie reluctantly agreed to the Princess' orders.

Although she didn't like working with others, as long as the one she served became the monarch of the Dwarven Kingdom, she wouldn't mind turning a blind eye.

"I look forward to the good news, Millie."

"I will do my best, Your Highness."

Just as Millie was about to leave the Baron's Residence to look for Lux, she heard a commotion outside, which made her frown.

"It seems that we have some unexpected guests, Your Highness," Millie said as she stood up to walk towards the window.

The Princess' interest was piqued, so she also went to the window to look at what was happening outside.

A black carriage had arrived at the Baron's Residence, bearing no insignia whatsoever.

But, the thing that surprised Millie and the Princess the most was that two of the four Water Mages, who had been supplying the water supply of the city, emerged from the carriage.

A moment later, a chubby teenage Human came out of the carriage, which made Millie's body stiffen. It was none other than the Human that she had talked to an hour ago, making her wonder what the chubby young man was up to.

"Is that him?" the Princess asked as she looked at the chubby boy in the distance. "This is the first time I'm seeing a Human. Do all Humans look like him?"

Millie firmly shook her head. "No."

"Well, isn't this great?" the Princess smiled sweetly. "He saved us the trouble of looking for him."

Millie didn't make any comments and just simply nodded her head. Now that the one she was supposed to look for was already here, it was now up to the Princess to make the chubby human join her side.

The two watched from the window of their room, and they saw the Baron come out to personally meet the Human, who was said to be a supervisor sent by the King, to see if there were any changes in the drought that was plaguing his Barony.

"You must have had a long journey, Your Grace," the baron said with a flattering smile. "Please, come inside so that you can rest. We don't have much to offer, but we will do our best to make your stay as comfortable as possible."

Lux nodded his head like the important person he was and allowed the Baron to escort him inside the Residence.

Lux was the one who would be keeping an eye on the Baron's second son, while Cai and Keane were left at the inn because he needed them to handle a few things.

True to his word, the Baron made sure that Lux was treated like a VIP guest. He was introduced to the members of the Baron's family, allowing him to see the person he was looking for.

'Dark-brown hair and green eyes,' Lux thought. 'He does fit the description that Boss gave me.'

The Baron's second son was quite a handsome fellow. His good looks and curly hair had a certain appeal that could make any lady look at him fondly.

'But, that doesn't change the fact that he's a scum.' Lux picked up his tea cup and took a sip.

Since he had confirmed that the Baron's second son was indeed inside their residence, he didn't need to do anything reckless but simply ensure that he stayed inside the Wolfpine Barony for the duration of his mission.

Mission Time: 67: 24: 08

'This is going to be a long wait,' Lux thought as he contemplated what he should do during his stay.

Just as the Half-Elf was about to place his cup back on the table, his eyes landed on a young lady who was walking down the stairs of the mansion.

The lady's aesthetics bordered between being adorable and being beautiful, which made the Half-Elf wonder how old she was.

However, after seeing the green-haired Dwarf that was walking a few steps behind the young lady, the Half-Elf immediately realized who this person was.

"Good day to you, Inspector," the young lady said with a smile. "This is the first time that we've met, so please, allow me to introduce myself."

The adorable Dwarf did a curtsy, before saying her name.

"My name is Anastasia Von Gweliven," Anastasia said while keeping the angelic smile on her face. "The third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven."

Chapter 383: A New Kind Of Thrill

"What an adorable Slime! Is that perhaps your pet, Sir Lucien?" Anastasia asked after she and Lux had greeted each other, and gotten to know each other's names.

She had seen many Slimes before, but for some reason, the blue Slime that was perched on top of the chubby human's head, made her feel like it was very different from the regular Slimes that she had seen in the past.

"She's not my pet, Your Highness." Lux replied. "She's my daughter, Eiko. Eiko, say hello to Her Highness."

Eiko looked down at the adorable Dwarf from the top of her Papa's head and smiled.

"Hello!"

"Hello to you, too, Eiko. It's nice to meet you."

"Un!"

Eiko giggled as she continued to look at the adorable Dwarf, who was looking at her and her Papa with a critical gaze. In her eyes, the Princess was no different from Heidi, Laura, and Livia, so she greeted Anastasia like she did other people.

While the baby Slime was observing the Princess from the top of her Papa's head, Anastasia's thoughts wandered, thinking about the mysterious organization that directly served her father.

Of course, she had already seen a few of its members and even had the opportunity to chat with them.

However, there was one thing that the Princess understood while talking to these people—it was that they hid themselves deeply.

All of them were Dwarves and had different traits and attitudes, but they shared the same goal—ensuring that the Kingdom of Gweliven would continue to prosper and grow as a powerful nation.

She didn't understand why her father would allow a Human to become part of the Order of the Griffin, who served as his personal sword and shield.

'Why did Father ask this Human to join the order?' Anastasia mused. 'Maybe he has some hidden abilities that caught father's fancy?'

Lux, who was under the Princess' scrutiny, decided to take the initiative to gauge the Princess' character, in order to get a better understanding of her.

He really didn't care about the members of the Royal Family of the Kingdom of Gweliven, but since Anastasia was already here, he thought that it wouldn't be bad for him to form some connections.

Perhaps this meeting would help him in the future, so he decided to get to know the adorable Princess, whose gaze never left his face.

"For you to come to this desolate place is proof that you care for the suffering people of your Kingdom, Your Highness," Lux said. "This Kingdom is very lucky to have a Princess such as you."

The Baron, who was standing not far away, smiled from ear to ear because he also didn't expect that a member of the Royal Family would pay him a visit.

Although Anastasia's arrival was unannounced, he still found this a good opportunity to flatter the spoiled Princess of the Royal Family and gain her favor.

"You overestimate me, Your Grace," Anastasia replied. "I am simply here to offer whatever aid I can give. My strength is limited, so I don't know if I will be able to do it on my own. Perhaps, if His Grace decided to cooperate with me, then we might be able to restore the Wolfpine Barony to its former glory."

"A cooperation?" Lux arched an eyebrow. He didn't know what the Princess was hinting at, but he had a feeling that this proposal would be advantageous to his goal. "Can you tell me more, Your Highness?"

Anastasia's smile bloomed like a flower, making everyone inside the living room of the Baron's Mansion look at her with fondness.

"Of course!" Anastasia replied. "How about we talk about it in great detail inside my room? I don't want to get in the way of the Baron's work, so it might be better for us to talk in private."

Lux nodded in agreement. "Sounds like a good plan."

The Half-Elf followed the Princess back to her room, leaving the Baron's family behind. Because all of them had their backs to the Baron's second son, they didn't notice the faint smirk that appeared on his face.

His green eyes followed the Princess as she walked up the stairs, not because of her budding beauty, but because of the opportunity she presented to him.

He had long wished to leave the Wolfpine Barony because ever since the incident with the lady, whom he had accidentally gotten pregnant, came to light, his family had restricted his movements, to the point of even banning him from leaving the house without several guards to supervise his actions.

In the past, he was able to get away scot-free with his actions because he had always carried some medicine with him to prevent the girls whom he made love with from getting pregnant.

It was truly an unfortunate incident that he had gotten someone pregnant on the day that he had forgotten to take his medicine from home.

For him, getting chaste maidens to lift their skirt for him was like a game. He enjoyed the thrill of plucking their innocence and making them sigh in pleasure as he plowed their fertile fields with his seed, leaving his mark inside their most important place.

He would then spend a few weeks with them, as he trained them to become ladies that suited his taste. Only when he got bored of them would he toss them aside, leaving them with a few hundred coins to allow them to live their life comfortably, while he looked for new prey to feast on.

'Perhaps I can ask the Princess to take me with her when she returns to the capital city,' the Baron's second son thought. 'It's quite unfortunate that she's still too young. Perhaps, I can do it with her sister. It would be a great challenge to seduce a Princess of this kingdom.'

The Baron's second son smiled as he thought of pinning Anastasia's older sister on his bed, and making her moan like the prostitutes that served in the brothels.

'If only that girl hadn't gotten pregnant,' the Baron's second son frowned. He had been accused by the people in the Barony for bringing the drought into their city, and he had even gotten mobbed at one point in time due to the people's increasing frustration about their current hardships.

Fortunately, the hired guards he always brought along with him were all strong, and they managed to fend off the angry mob, allowing the Baron's second son to escape unharmed.

Since then, he had been put under house arrest by his Father, preventing him from leaving the house unless over a dozen guards were to act as his escort.

'I guess I'll talk to her tonight,' the Baron's second son mused. 'I still have a bag of that special incense that I acquired from the Black Market. I'm sure that my negotiation with the Princess will go more smoothly if she has taken a whiff of that special drug.'

The Baron's second son chuckled internally as he hatched a plan inside his head. As long as he was able to get the Princess agree to sneak him out of the Barony, he was confident that his father would be unable to stop him.

After all, who would defy a member of the Royal Family, especially the spoiled Princess whom the King loved dearly?

No matter how brave his father was, he would have no choice but to take a step back and allow his problematic son to leave his Domain. For that to happen, he would first need to get under the Princess' umbrella. This would serve as his key to the capital city, where a new kind of hunt was waiting for him.

Chapter 384: You're Telling Me To Leave?

As soon as Lux was properly seated inside the Princess' room, the brown-haired princess immediately got down to business.

"How much did my brother offer to pay for your services?" Anastasia asked. "If you work for me, I promise to double it."

The Half-Elf blinked once, then twice, before finally understanding what the Princess had just said to him. In short, Anastasia wasn't bribing him—she was poaching him.

"Really?" Lux was moved because doubling the required coins to build his Guild was a very tempting offer.

A day after his Guild was created, his Elysium Compendium received an update, and it notified Lux that more information was now available about his Mythical Guild.

There, he saw the required number of gold coins needed to build his Guild Headquarters, Bestiary, Alchemist Shop, Smithy, and other facilities.

Lux almost felt sorry for Nevreal when he saw that building his Guild Headquarters alone required him to pay ten million gold coins.

Of course, his pity for the middle-aged Dwarf only lasted for a few seconds before it was replaced by relief, knowing that the Dwarf would be shouldering the expenses of building his Guild Headquarters.

Lux and Nevreal had both signed a contract that was managed by the Will of Elysium.

This contract was similar to how duels were initiated, requiring the agreement of both parties before it was approved.

Since the Will of Elysium was supervising the agreement, Nevreal would have no choice but to pay for the exact cost of the creation of the Half-Elf's Guild Headquarters, even if the Half-Elf didn't succeed in solving the problem of the Wolfpine Barony.

"Let me get this straight," Lux said as he eyed the Dwarf Princess as if he was looking at a golden goose that was about to lay a golden egg. "You are going to double the amount that Nevreal promised to me?"

Anastasia nodded. "Not only will I double it, but I will also give you more benefits. For example, I can allow you to lick my feet as a reward for doing a good job."

"I see." Lux smiled. "So does that mean you're willing to give me twenty million gold coins? Okay, I agree to this deal."

He pretended not to hear the part about licking the Princess' feet as a reward because he didn't have that kind of hobby. The only thing that mattered to him was the funds, so he happily accepted the Princess' generosity with open arms.

As for his deal with Nevreal?

He would just break it!

The red-headed teenager didn't really care if Robin, his brothers, or sisters, became the Crown Prince or Crown Princess. But, while he had already known that Robin was someone with a big background, he didn't expect him to be part of the Royal Family.

He only managed to piece together the clues after his meeting with the green-haired Dwarf, as well as Princess Anastasia's opening remark. Now that he knew that this Merit System imposed by Anastasia's father was his way of deciding who had the right of succession, he might as well join the side of the one with the deepest pockets!

"Good. It seems that you are very sensible. I will immediately send you twenty millio—" Anastasia wasn't able to finish her sentence before her eyes widened in shock.

"D-Did you say twenty million?" Anastasia asked because she thought that she had misheard Lux's words.

"Yes," Lux replied. "Nevreal is offering me ten million to solve the problem in this town. Since you plan to double that amount then you will be giving me twenty million, right?"

"Twenty million is a bit..."

"What? You can't even afford twenty million? What kind of Princess are you? Even that old fart, Nevreal, has more money than you."

Anastasia was speechless because she wasn't expecting the chubby teenager and Nevreal to have this kind of deal.

Even if she was a Princess, she didn't have that much money in her personal account. At most, she only had two million, and even then, she thought that this was already a very big amount.

People usually did what she wanted, so she never had a need for money. Even the funds for this expedition, her escorts, as well as her other necessities, were paid for by her father.

"Can we settle this in some other matter?" The Princess was doing her best to act calmly in order to salvage the situation. "How about I give you a Knight Title? You can be my own personal Knight if you want?"

Lux snorted after hearing the Princess' statement.

Knight Title? Would that pay for his Guild Headquarters?

Thanks but no thanks!

"Okay, let's put the matter of you trying to poach me aside for the time being," Lux said. "Actually, I have something very important to tell you in regards to this drought that this Barony is experiencing."

Princess Anastasia's and Millie's interest were piqued because the chubby teenager took the initiative to tell them about his findings.

"I have every reason to believe that this is not a natural phenomenon," Lux stated.

Princess Anastasia nodded. She also thought that there was something unnatural about the drought, which was the reason why she had come here. She planned to solve the mystery and gain her father's praise in the process.

"Have you heard about the scandal of the Baron's second son?" Lux asked.

"Yes," Princess Anastasia replied while wrinkling her nose. "A very tragic story, but are you telling me that this drought is linked to the curse that the pregnant lady announced before leaving the city?"

Lux nodded. "I'd like to tell you more, but I'm afraid that you will think that I am crazy if you heard everything."

Princess Anastasia frowned because the person in front of her spoke in a very confident tone. It was as if he had already figured out the true cause of the

drought, and it was only a matter of time before he shared this information with her brother, allowing the latter to gain the Merit Points for solving the mystery.

"I'll pay you a million gold coins if you share the information you know about this drought," Princess Anastasia said with a solemn expression on her face. She had come this far in order to solve the problem with the Wolfpine Barony because this was the most pressing matter of the kingdom as of this moment.

Lux almost smiled after hearing the Princess offer, but he caught himself before the grin appeared on his face.

'Should I really collaborate with her in order to make this mission easier?' Lux pondered. 'Boss wasn't too keen on sharing this information with anyone because he knew that no one would believe him. Should I take a gamble here?'

Lux knew that if he were to really tell Anastasia about the Creature of Ruin, the Princess would definitely not believe him. Even the Bearkin, Boss, who was responsible for maintaining the seals in the Dark Plains, was very doubtful of his claim that the sealed monstrosity had broken free from its shackles.

"You don't need to pay me anything, Your Highness," Lux said after organizing his thoughts. "Because, even after knowing the cause of the drought, there is still nothing I can do about it. However, let me give you a piece of advice. You should leave the Wolfpine Barony as soon as you can."

Princess Anastasia arched an eyebrow. "You're telling me to leave?"

"Yes. It is for your own safety."

"Very funny. Why would you worry about my safety when I have Rankers protecting me?"

Lux picked up the word Rankers because it hinted that the green-haired Dwarf beside the Princess was not the only Ranker under Princess Anastasia's envoy. This also meant that she had enough manpower on her side to keep her safe against normal circumstances.

Unfortunately, what they were dealing with was beyond the norm, and he knew that even Saints found it hard to contain what they faced.

