

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

## **- Chapter 449.1: - 480**

### **A Fake General [Part 1] |**

#### **Chapter 449.1: A Fake General [Part 1]**

Explosions could be heard everywhere in the Marshlands as the two parties unleashed a barrage of spells against each other.

Lux and his Mercenary Group didn't participate and only observed the battle from a distance using telescopes.

General Phobus had told the Half-Elf that he could act in any manner that he liked as long as it didn't jeopardize their military operation.

In order to better understand how the skirmish was being conducted in the Marshlands, Lux decided to observe for now.

The Ammarian Soldiers were assembled into a unique formation where those who specialized in creating barriers served as the Vanguard.

They would hold their shields up for an extended period of time while the other spellcasters would hold their spells at the ready.

The moment a side didn't have any magical spells flying towards them, the barrier would be taken down, and it would be their turn to unleash a barrage of spells on the Yelan Defenders.

Lux wasn't familiar with this kind of fighting style, but seeing that the Ammar Army was able to advance little by little towards the Yelan Camp, he could tell that this strategy had its merits.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly, but that all changed when the Ammarian Soldiers were less than 500 meters away from the Yelan Camp.

When half of the army had managed to pass through a certain point, loud explosions erupted from the ground, taking the Ammarian Soldiers by surprise.

Panic immediately spread among the soldiers, destroying their formation.

It was at this moment when the Half-Elf heard a rumbling sound in the distance.

Thousands of light cavalry from the Yelan Army charged towards the Ammarian Army Soldiers, who had fallen into disorder, and started a massacre.

While this was happening, spells flew over these mounted soldiers and landed at the very rear of the Ammarian Formation, killing those who tried to flee.

"They got them good," Lux muttered as he looked at the slaughter that was happening on the battlefield.

He wasn't too proficient with war, and this exchange between the two armies taught him a lot. Fortunately, General Phobus' Vice General was quick to act, and immediately ordered their cavalry to advance, engaging the Yelan Cavalry with their superior force, while their infantry retreated.

Thousands of soldiers died that day, but the Yelan Army still managed to kill more than the Ammarians did.

It was a brutal clash, dyeing the water that flowed in the marshland red with the blood of the people that died.

After half an hour, both sides pulled their soldiers back, only leaving the thousands of dead bodies behind.

"With that many corpses, you can easily wipe out the Yelan Army using that same trick you did back then," Malcolm commented as he gave Lux a sidelong glance. "Why don't we ask General Phobus to gather the bodies, so that you can use them later on?"

The others who heard Malcolm's words didn't understand what he was talking about.

However, Lux's friends fully understood what the leader of the Skystead Alliance meant.

If Lux used his skill, Corpse Explosion [EX], and detonated all the dead people, a chain reaction would occur, which could easily wipe out thousands of soldiers in a matter of seconds.

Lux only shook his head after hearing Malcolm's proposal.

"Now is not the right time," Lux replied. "I'm still waiting for something to happen."

"Something to happen?" Malcolm arched an eyebrow. "Like what?"

"Sorry, but I'll keep it a secret for now," Lux stated. "However, the General on the side of the Yelan Army is good. Who would have thought that he had placed remote mines under the marshlands. This must be some kind of Gnome Technology."

There was also one thing that surprised Lux. He thought that Eiko would look excited after seeing the Remote Mines exploding in the battlefield.

However, the baby Slime's expression was calm, as she had recently learned how to properly use the Blast Bomb [EX] skill that she currently possessed.

Eiko could freely detonate the Blast Bombs or make them detonate upon impact. This gave this skill a certain degree of flexibility, allowing the baby Slime to attack and set a trap for her enemies at will.

An hour later, an angry General Phobus chastised his captains for their inability to react in time when the Yelan Army charged at them during their moment of confusion.

If not for the fact that he had sent reinforcements right away, the ten-thousand strong Vanguard would have been wiped out completely.

Out of the ten thousand soldiers, only a third of them remained.

Although this skirmish lasted for only about an hour, the Ammarian Army still suffered a great loss of manpower, which made General Phobus very furious.

The next day, the General thought of another strategy, but each and every time, he was thwarted by the opposing General, lowering the morale of his

army, and making Lux understand why the Great General of the Ammarian Kingdom, General Rafael Watts, had sent them to reinforce the Marshland Camp in order to replenish the troops that were constantly being lost in the territorial battle.

'According to Diablo, the General of the Yelan Army stationed in this part of the battlefield is a middle-aged man named, Fahad Durnham,' Lux thought as he watched the retreating Ammarian Army, who had suffered another loss from the Yelan General's hand. 'It seems that he is winning this battle of attrition.'

After three days of consecutive defeats, General Phobus summoned Lux to his tent and asked the Half-Elf a very important question.

"Why aren't you participating in the battle?!" General Phobus growled as soon as Lux entered his tent. "Aren't you supposed to be a Mercenary Group working for us? Why are you and your group slacking off? If you just came here to spectate, all of you should just pack up and go home!"

The Half-Elf had already expected that he would receive this kind of greeting, so he ordered everyone to not accompany him and remain at their temporary accommodations inside the Ammarian Encampment.

Lux knew that the Ambassadors and other representatives of the other Factions, who were watching the progress through their scrying artifacts in the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen were also getting impatient about the lack of progress in their mission.

For the past three days, Lux had simply observed and done nothing, making Malcolm, Nero, and Enlil, the Elven Prince, feel as if they were just wasting their time.

Lux looked at the angry General in front of him and smiled internally.

"We have participated in many campaigns before, but this is the first time we are fighting in the Marshlands," Lux replied in a calm manner. "As you can see, our numbers are few, so I don't want them to participate in the skirmish without sufficient understanding of the terrain as well as the capabilities of our enemies. After observing the battle for three days, I've come to realize that the opposing General is a very formidable foe."

"Are you telling me that I'm inferior to him?" General Phobus asked, and his voice reeked of killing intent.

Lux knew that if he gave the wrong answer, the General might attack him in order to vent out his frustration.

having considered this, he made sure to choose his words wisely, so that the person in front of him would not strangle him to death.

## Chapter 450.2: A Fake General [Part 2]

"You're not inferior to him, Sir," Lux replied. "He was just able to take advantage of the terrain and set traps beforehand. His style of fighting is very cowardly. Because of this, your army has suffered great losses."

"That's right!" General Phobus slammed his fist on the table, breaking it apart. "The bastard only relies on these dirty tricks in order to chip away my forces! If he faced me head-on like a real man, the one who would be getting trashed would be him!"

"It is as you say, General. The Enemy is simply playing dirty like a street rat. This kind of strategy in my eyes is simply pathetic."

"Right! That's right! Finally, someone who understands me!"

Lux once again laughed in his heart as he looked at the General in front of him.

After observing for three days, he finally understood what kind of person General Phobus was, and it made him want to leave the Ammarian Camp as soon as possible.

In Solais and Elysium, they called Rankers with High Ranks and no substance Fake Rankers.

These were people who only relied on their family background to raise their ranks by buying Beast Cores to boost their stats.

This practice was quite common among the nobility, as well as the members of the Royal Family.

Such practice was frowned upon in Wildgarde Stronghold, and other places in the Six Kingdoms.

This was also why Gerald had set a rule that parents and relatives of the children, who had passed the Trial to enter Elysium, were not allowed to give the children Beast Cores to temporarily raise their ranks.

The reason was because this would give them a mindset that as long as their rank was high, they could easily overpower the Monsters around them as long as they had higher stats.

This kind of thinking prevented the children from honing their skills at an early age and simply rely on the stat boosts they receive from Beast Cores, making it so they lacked true battle experience.

Even if they became Rankers, they would be the first to die if they were to fight people of the same Rank as them.

In Lux's eyes, not only was General Phobus a Fake Ranker, he was also a fake General.

After having casual chats with the soldiers in the Ammarian Camp, the Half-Elf found out that General Phobus was born into a family of Generals that served the Ammar Kingdom since it was founded.

Because of this, they would always have one General on active duty and, this time, it was General Phobus' turn to represent their family.

Perhaps, understanding that the General, who was still in his early thirties, lacked the aptitude, his family sent him an aide that was proficient in warfare, who acted as his adviser and right hand man.

This man was the one who advised General Phobus about the military strategies that he used in the previous battles like setting up barriers as they advanced. However, as soon as something went wrong, the General would immediately lose his composure and issue the wrong commands.

If not for the fact that the Vice General whom his family had ordered to accompany him had been there, the losses they would have gained would have been much higher than the ones they had now.

"General, I propose that we let our soldiers rest tomorrow so that they can recover their strength," Lux proposed. "The Morale of the army is low due to the underhanded tactics that the enemy is using. Letting them fight in this condition will just increase our losses."

General Phobus nodded. "I know that even if you don't tell me. Just make sure that you and your Mercenary Group participate the next time my army advances to the enemy camp."

"Yes, Sir!" Lux replied as he pressed his right fist over his chest as a sign of acknowledgement.

When the Half-Elf exited the tent, he noticed that the Vice General, who was busy talking to some of their military officers, glanced in his direction.

A few seconds later, the Vice General gave Lux a brief nod, and the Half-Elf returned the greeting.

After that, Lux walked back to his camp where his members were waiting for him.

As he walked away, he could feel the man's gaze on his back, but Lux didn't make any attempts to let the other party know that he had sensed his scrutinizing gaze.

'He's starting to take notice of me,' Lux thought. 'Although I managed to delay the next battle for a day, I just hope that I receive a reply before we are ordered to join the assault on the Yelan Camp.'

Although he was given free reign to do whatever he wanted to do on the battlefield, this freedom could easily be revoked if General Phobus gave them the order to join them in their next battle.

At that point, Lux would have to show some impressive results, or else General Phobus would really do something reckless, like attacking him or his Mercenary Group because he deemed them to be useless.

Even though General Phobus was a Fake Ranker, his Vice General was the real deal.

One wrong move and the careful plan that he had set in motion would burn to ashes.

Fortunately, an hour before midnight, Lux received a report from Diablo, telling him that he should come to the Yelan Camp and personally talk to the commanding general.

Because of this, the Half-Elf left the camp under the cover of Darkness and used the Boots of Teleportation to teleport directly to where Diablo was.

The Boots of Teleportation was a Pseudo-Legendary artifact and was one of the rewards he obtained in Keoza's Dungeon.

This artifact allowed him to teleport directly to an ally, up to five miles from his location.

Since the Death Knight had told him that he could come, it meant that there was a positive response to the letter that he had sent to his two acquaintances, who were commanding the Main Army of the Yellan Kingdom, in the Great Plains.

## **Chapter 451.1: The Penalty For Breaking A Contract [Part 1]**

When Lux opened his eyes, he found himself inside a tent with Diablo, Ishtar, and Asmodeus standing beside him.

After acknowledging his Named Creature's greetings, the Half-Elf shifted his gaze to three other people inside the room, who were wearing military uniforms.

Judging from their looks, Lux assumed that one of the two older Military Officers was the one calling the shots in the defense against General Phobus' offensive in the Marshlands.

Aside from them, there was also a young man, whom Lux believed to be in his late teens, and serving as one of the assistants of the older military officers in front of him.

'Two Rankers and one Initiate,' Lux thought. 'It seems that the distribution of power between the high-ranking combatants of both sides are almost equal.'



While the Half-Elf was observing the three people in front of him, the three people were also appraising him.

It was Diablo who broke the silence and introduced the three Military Officers to his Master.

"Master, let me introduce to you General Fahad Durnham," Diablo said as he made a gesture to introduce the middle-aged man with blonde hair and blue eyes who stood in the middle of the three people standing in front of him. "He is the highest commanding officer in this camp, and is the one responsible for keeping the Ammarian Army at bay."

Lux smiled before giving the General a brief nod in greeting.

"I am awed by your tactics on the battlefield, General Durnham," Lux stated. "Because of you, the soldiers in the Ammarian Camp are always feeling anxious, fearing that their commanding officer, General Phobus, might order them to hang themselves due to his frustration for the successive losses he's had over the past few days."

The corner of General Fahad's lips rose ever slightly after hearing that his opponent was having a bad time as of late.

"Likewise, Sir Lux. I am also awed by the accomplishment you made for the defense of our Kingdom many months ago," General Fahad said. "Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock had nothing but praise for you. Because of this, I was quite interested in meeting you face to face and, after seeing you in the flesh, I find that you are younger than I expected. Please, just call me Fahad, or General Fahad."

The young man beside General Fahad was surprised after hearing his words. He didn't expect one of the most fearsome Generals of the Yelan Kingdom to treat the Half-Elf in a courteous manner, making him feel a little jealous.

Because of this, he stared at Lux as if he was seeing his Rival for the first time, which the Half-Elf completely missed because his attention was focused on the General in front of him.

"The circumstances back then were quite dire, General Fahad," Lux replied. "I only managed to turn the tide by sacrificing the bodies of those who have died in battle, leaving nothing behind to give them even a proper burial."

The corpses that were detonated using his skill, Corpse Explosion [EX], would explode similar to a grenade, dealing Necrotic Damage, as well as sending their body parts flying like shrapnel, injuring and potentially killing those around them.

"I'm sure that our brave men and women who died back then would have been more than happy to have their bodies used for a greater cause," General Fahad stated. "The soldiers of the Yelan Kingdom are prepared to die in battle, so do not think that their sacrifices were in vain. In fact, what you had done saved countless lives. Meeting you here today is truly a great honor."

Lux was quite impressed by how eloquent General Fahad was. The middle-aged man was a true example of those that were expert in the way of the blade, as well as in the way of words, using both of them to their advantage on the battlefield.

"As much as I'd like to have a proper chat with you General, I can't stay for long," Lux said. "I only snuck out of the Ammarian Camp and if they realize that I am gone, they might find trouble for me later on."

General Fahad nodded in understanding.

"Before we start our talk, I want to introduce my right-hand man, Sir Benjamin Olsen," General Fahad said as he patted the shoulder of the man standing on his right.

"Pleasure to meet you, Sir, Olsen."

"Benjamin is fine. We're all friends here."

Lux and Benjamin exchanged courteous greetings before General Fahad rested his hand on the shoulder of the teenager boy by his side, who had features similar to him.

The only difference was the color of the young man's eyes which were green, instead of blue.

"This is my second son, Leo." General Fahad smiled. "He's here serving as my aide in addition to getting some field training."

Leo took a step forward and reached out his right hand towards Lux for a handshake.

Naturally, the Half-Elf accepted the gesture and shook the young man's hand twice before letting go.

'How childish,' Lux mused as he felt the slight pain in his hand after being squeezed by the Initiate in front of him.

Clearly, Leo's strength stat was higher than his, allowing the latter to have more gripping power.

Leo's mood became a bit better as he looked at the Half-Elf with a smug look on his face.

For a brief moment, Lux was tempted to summon his Jade Golem, Orion, and have the latter smack the blonde-boy silly for trying to crush his hand.

However, this thought lasted for only a brief moment because something else happened.

Eiko, who saw what Leo did to her Papa, glared at the blondie with annoyance before summoning a blast mine.

If not for the fact that Diablo had reacted quickly and snatched the bomb from Eiko's hand, things might have escalated quickly, and a misunderstanding might have occurred.

"Eiko, calm down," Lux said through telepathy as he tried to pacify the baby Slime who summoned another blast mine that she was planning to throw at Leo. "I'm not hurt, okay?"

"Mumumumu!" Eiko replied through telepathy, which showed how annoyed she was after seeing someone hurt her Papa.

In the end, Lux was able to pacify the baby Slime, but Eiko continued to glare at Leo, which the latter ignored completely.

General Fahad gave an awkward chuckle as he tried to salvage the situation. He saw what his son did to Lux, but it was too late for him to stop it.

Also, seeing how Lux reacted, he understood that the Half-Elf didn't want to make a big deal of it, so he decided to set this matter aside for the time being and chastise his son after his meeting with their guest had ended.

"Let's get down to business, Sir Lux," General Fahad said as he took out a box from his storage ring.

He then placed it on top of the table and opened it.

Inside the box was a purple gem, which was the size of an adult fist.

General Fahad chanted in a language that Lux wasn't familiar with and the purple gem glowed faintly.

A moment later, a projection appeared in front of the Half-Elf, showing two familiar faces, who looked at him with amused expressions on their faces.

"Long time no see, Lux," Watson said with a smile. "We've read your letter and found it quite interesting."

"Indeed," Sherlock commented from the side. "So, have you decided to kill the two of us in return for fame and glory? If so, you're selling your services dirt cheap, my boy."

Sherlock smirked at the Half-Elf who also had a smile on his face.

Lux's mission was to kill Watson and Sherlock.

Depending on the outcome of their negotiation, he might have to fight against his two acquaintances in order to clear his mission.

## **Chapter 452.2: The Penalty For Breaking A Contract [Part 2]**

Lux looked at his mission objectives in his Soul Book before glancing back at the two people that were currently looking at him with a challenging glance.

Clearly, Watson and Sherlock found this whole situation quite amusing, so they decided to have a talk with Lux to know what he wanted to talk about.

When they received the letter that was sent by General Fahad through a Fast Rider, the two Great Generals almost didn't believe their eyes.

The same person who allowed them to win the previous war had now established a Mercenary Group and joined the Ammarian Kingdom's side.

The two Great Generals decided to treat this matter seriously, so they sent their own Fast Rider, carrying a letter and the wooden box, back to General Fahad with their reply to Lux's letter.

After reading the two Great General's coded messages, General Fahad went to look for Diablo, who had become their temporary guests in the camp, and told him that the two Great Generals wished to have a chat with his Master, Lux.

"I sent the details of the contract, as well as the rewards that they have promised me," Lux said as he looked at his two acquaintances with a calm expression. "What I want to know is how you both feel about me fighting against the two of you. Right now, we stand on different sides. Although I consider both of you as friends, business is business, and there is nothing I can do about it."

"Ohh? Business is it?" Sherlock arched an eyebrow.

The Gnome looked at Lux with half-lidded eyes, as if trying to discern the Half-Elf's true intention.

Watson, on the other hand, only shrugged and waited for Sherlock's decision. Between the two of them, Watson—who was a two-meter-tall human—served as the brawns, while the Gnome was the brains.

Together, they had managed to defend against the Ammarian Kingdom's invasion and launch a counterattack, allowing them to conquer some of the Ammarian Kingdom's lands.

They were not afraid to face anyone, but knowing that Lux was on the opposite side of the field didn't sit well with them.

The fact that he could use the skill, Corpse Explosion, was enough to make the Two Great Generals feel a little wary in their hearts.

Silence descended inside the tent as both sides waited for Sherlock to make a decision.

Lux checked his quest to see if there were any changes in it, but to his dismay, it remained the same.

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< War of the Lions >

Mission Rating: S

< Mission Objectives >

- Kill the Two Yelan Army Great Generals, Watson, and Sherlock.
- Destroy the Yelan Main Headquarters and capture their flag

< Rewards >

- Each member will receive 150,000 Gold Coins
- Each member will receive one random Mythical Equipment

< Bonus Rewards >

- Bonus rewards can be obtained depending on your performance on the battlefield. Great rewards await those who managed to excel in this military campaign.

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Ten minutes later, Sherlock sighed before closing his eyes.

Suddenly, his shoulders started to shake which lasted for a few seconds before he roared in laughter.

"I see. So this is what you're after, Little Lux," Sherlock said after he finished laughing. "Business, is it? Very well. Let's conduct business. Let's see... according to your contract, you and each member of your mercenary group will receive 150,000 Gold Coins as well as Mythical Equipment... What do you think of this, Watson?"

"Utter garbage," Watson replied in a heartbeat. "Our heads are only worth 150,000 Gold Coins and a measly Mythical Weapon? It seems that either the Ammarian Kingdom's war funds are so pitifully low at the moment, or their

Great General, Rafael, is treating Lux and his Mercenary Group like ordinary swords for hire."

Sherlock nodded his head in agreement.

"Tell you what, Lux, how about the two of us make a deal?" Sherlock said.

"For every General you and your Mercenary Group kill, I will give you 1 Million Gold Coins and one Pseudo-Legendary Equipment of your choice.

"If you manage to kill Great General Rafael, I will give your Mercenary Group an Additional 1 Million Gold Each, and two Pseudo-Legendary Equipment of your choice. How does that sound?"

Before Lux could answer, he heard a notification sound inside his head, and rows of text appeared in front of him.

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< Ding! >

< Sherlock had given you an offer to change your allegiance in the War of Lions >

< Will you accept his conditions? >

< Yes / No >

< Important Notice! >

– Once you have chosen to accept this Quest, the Ammarian Kingdom will immediately become hostile with your Mercenary Group.

– If you accept this Quest, you will no longer have the chance to switch sides between the two Kingdoms.

– The Ammarian Kingdom will always be hostile to you, and treat you and your group as Public Enemy Number One.

– You will also receive a Penalty for breaking the contract.

< Penalty >

– You and your Mercenary Group will lose 2,000 Stat Points immediately, which will be evenly taken out of your current stats.

– You and your Mercenary Group will each lose 1,000,000 Gold Coins for breaking your contract.

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'Sh\*t...' Lux cursed internally after seeing the information in front of him.

Originally, he thought that Sherlock's offer was simply too good to be true.

And he was right. His joy immediately disappeared after seeing the penalty that would come if they broke their contract with the Ammarian Kingdom.

Right now, Lux was in a dilemma. For him, he didn't mind losing a million gold coins, because he had the Draconium Ore.

However, a million gold coins was simply too big of an amount for ordinary teenagers like them. Cai and Keane certainly didn't have this amount of money.

Einar, Val, Xander, Henrietta, and Enlil (the Elven Prince), might be able to shoulder this amount, but, even then, they would be very irritated about it.

Lux knew that he could pacify them by giving them one or two Draconium Crystal, which they could auction for money.

The problem was the Xynnar War Pact, Skystead Alliance, the Six Kingdom Faction, and the Storm Dragons.

Lux didn't believe that they all had the money to pay for the penalty. But, that wasn't his biggest concern.

It was the stats.

2,000 Free Stat Points was a very big deal.

After hunting all of those Monsters for their quest, Big Game Hunters, Lux had finally been able to increase his stats and break through to the Initiate Rank.

If he accepted this quest, his Rank would drop back to Grade A Apostle, making his earlier progress disappear.



Of course, his skills that he gained after upgrading his profession to Lord of the Dead would remain. However, the loss of stats would definitely be very painful, not only for him, but for his guild members as well.

Watson and Sherlock noticed that Lux's face had suddenly become pale and they thought that their offer wasn't big enough.

However, they had no intention of raising the rewards they had just offered because they also had a budget in their military spending.

The only reason they offered such high rewards was due to Lux's previous performance against the Ammarian Kingdom.

"I can't give you an answer right now because I need to talk to my members first." Lux decided to put the quest on hold until he had a proper talk with the others. "Tomorrow, the Ammarian Camp may not launch any attacks because their morale is quite low. I will use that opportunity to take your offer into consideration."

Sherlock nodded. "Very well. We will wait for your decision for two days. If you didn't give us a reply within that time frame, we will assume that you've decided to side with the Ammarian Kingdom. At that time, we really will be enemies."

Watson crossed his arms over his chest as he looked at the Half-Elf with a steely gaze.

"Lux, I don't want to meet you on the battlefield because we have fought together," Watson stated. "But, I have to consider the lives of our people, so if you choose to stand against us, I will show you no mercy the next time we meet each other."

Lux sighed in his heart because this decision was simply too great for him to decide alone.

After saying his parting words to Watson, Sherlock, and General Fahad, the Half-Elf teleported back to his tent, where Lazarus was waiting for him.

The Great SKull Flame told his Master that some of the Guards under the Vice-General's command had peeked inside his tent a couple of times to see if he was there or not.

This information made the Half-Elf feel a little anxious because he now knew that the second highest commander of the Ammarian Camp had finally set his eyes on him.

## **Chapter 453.1: Unexpected Turn Of Events [Part 1]**

The next day...

Lux asked to bring his entire Mercenary Group with him to look for "food supplies" and left the Ammarian Encampment after breakfast.

Once they were two miles away from the camp, the Half-Elf told everyone that he had something very important to tell them.

When everyone was properly seated and ready to listen to him, he told them about his attempt to contact the Yelan Encampment, which surprised everyone including Lux's circle of friends.

The red-headed teenager then told them that the two Great Generals of the Yelan Army gave him a very generous offer to switch their allegiance and jump to their side of the battlefield.

When Lux showed everyone the bounties and the rewards that they would get once they completed their mission, all of them were ecstatic.

Some of them never imagined that they would get a Pseudo-Legendary Weapon just by doing a quest, and it made them look at the Half-Elf as if he was an idiot for not accepting such a generous offer right away.

Lux knew that now was the time to tell them the bad news, and just as it did to him, the bad news wiped the smiles and excitement from everyone's faces.

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< Penalty >

– You and your Mercenary Group will lose 2,000 Stat Points immediately, which will be evenly taken out of your current stats.

– You and your Mercenary Group will each lose 1,000,000 Gold Coins for breaking your contract.

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"One million gold coins just for breaking the contract... this... isn't this too much?"

"I don't even have 100,000 gold coins. How can I possibly pay that penalty?"

"Hiss.... 2,000 stat points. This is so brutal."

Just as Lux expected, after seeing the penalty, everyone felt very conflicted about whether they should switch sides or not.

Nero, Malcolm, Henrietta, as well as the leader of the representatives of the Xynnar War Pact named, Jasper, felt that this was simply too much.

"I will not force you guys to switch sides because I understand that the penalty is simply too much," Lux said after several minutes had passed. "However, I've decided to switch sides to the Yelan Camp because I've fought with them once. Also, there is one more reason, aside from my personal bias, why I want to switch sides. They are very generous when it comes to rewards."

The members of the different factions couldn't refute Lux's words when it came to the rewards, their offer was truly too good to be true. If not for the penalty, they would have been begging him to accept the quest of switching allegiance at once.

"I'd like to switch sides, but the penalty is simply too much for me. I only have 150,000 Gold Coins in my storage," a member of Nero's Guild said with a pained expression. "I can't pay for the penalty."

Lux nodded in understanding before crossing his arms over his chest.

"You know, I've been thinking about this problem all night, and I have come to one solution," Lux stated. "I decided to make my Father, Alexander Von Kaizer, shoulder the gold penalty for the Storm Dragon's Guild, as well as my friends Henrietta, Cai, Keane, Einar, Val and Xander."

After hearing this news, the members of the Storm Dragon Guild looked at the Half-Elf as if he was an angel.

As for Cai and Keane, they couldn't stop the corner of their lips from twitching because they knew how filthy rich the Half-Elf was due to his hoard of Draconium Ore. And yet, he still used his own Step-Father to pay for the penalty for them.

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Barbatos Academy...

Alexander calmly set his teacup on top of the table as he looked at the projection in front of him.

If one were to look closely, they would be able to see that the corner of his lips was twitching a bit.

Iris, on the other hand, covered her lips as her whole body trembled. She was doing her best to not laugh out loud at how bold her fiance's action was.

Even Alicia, who was always on Lux's side, couldn't help but pinch the bridge of her nose because of the Half-Elf's declaration

Pay the gold penalty of the Storm Dragon's Guild and Lux's friends?

That was twenty-one million gold coins!

Although Alexander could afford it, that didn't mean that he would simply take out that amount of money just because Lux said that he would shoulder it.

"S-Sir... you don't have to—," Alicia was about to say that the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy didn't need to agree to Lux's shameless declaration.

However, before she could finish her words, the Saint raised his right hand, and gestured for her to stop whatever she was going to say next.

"It's fine," Alexander replied. "I'll shoulder the penalty."

Alexander looked at the Half-Elf with a critical gaze.

Lux had never been willful in the past and never dared to ask him for anything. Since the Half-Elf decided to use him to pay the penalty, it meant that the latter was confident that he could pay him back for the money that he would lend him.

Iris looked at her father with a smile of satisfaction. Just like Alexander, Iris also knew that her fiance wouldn't do something so shameless unless he had something of equal value to exchange.

For now, they just continued to watch the projection and see how the discussion with the rest of the group would play out.

-----

"What about us?" Malcolm asked. "Can't you pay the penalty for us?"

"Don't worry, I also thought of a good way for you guys to bypass the gold penalty issue," Lux replied with a smile. "Actually, this is not really a problem. You'll just need to ask Emperor Andreas to pay for your share. Simple, right?"

"W-What did you say?!" Malcolm's face immediately became pale after hearing the Half-Elf's words. "A-Are you insane? That's Emperor Andreas. He's not some kind of generous merchant that will throw away five million gold coins for the likes of us!"

Lux nodded in agreement because he also believed that the Emperor of the Vahan Empire wasn't that generous.

However, the Emperor was ambitious.

Lux knew that what had happened in the Vahan Empire was something that Emperor Andreas had staged in order to make things difficult for him.

Although it was not the Emperor who had ordered the farce to take place in the Coliseum, he gave it his silent approval, making him guilty in Lux's books.

Because they cornered him to the point that he almost got seriously injured, Vera was forced to show up despite the fact that she was still recovering from her injury in order to save Lux. Because of this, she suffered from a backlash and had to rest for an indefinite period of time.

"Don't worry," Lux said. "If your Emperor is given the choice between failing this mission or getting a higher chance of success, then five million gold coins is nothing to him. My Father is going to toss twenty-one million gold coins for my sake, and your Emperor can't even take out a measly five million? Is he that much of a cheapskate?"

Malcolm and the other representatives of the Skystead Alliance looked at the Half-Elf as if he was suicidal. They were wearing artifacts that allowed the outside world to hear and see what they were hearing and seeing.

They were sure that at this very moment, everyone outside the Domain of the Fallen had heard the Half-Elf's words by now.

"The same can also be said for the Xynnar War Pact and the Six Kingdoms," Lux stated. "If they can't even shoulder one million gold coins then you guys can stay in the Ammarian Camp and declare that your Mercenary Leader decided to switch sides.

"Naturally, although you remain on their side, they might treat you as spies, and you will always be under suspicion for every wrong thing that happens in the camp. I'm sure that General Phobus will be more than happy to use you as target practice for his throwing knives."

Everytime quieted down after hearing the Half-Elf's words.

After the successive losses of the Ammarian Camp, General Phobus was like a ticking time bomb. No one wanted to be around him, and the only one that could stay by his side was the Vice-General, who had been sent by his family to aid him in the war.

Nero then cleared his throat to catch Lux's attention, and the latter glanced in his direction, telling the Guild Master of the Storm Dragon Clan that he had his attention.

"Now that the million gold coins are resolved, how do you plan to settle the 2,000 stat points decrease?" Nero asked. "Most of us stepped through the Initiate Rank after absorbing the Beast Cores we gained from the mission. Once we switch sides, we will lose those points and regress to being Apostles. How do you plan to deal with this problem?"

Everyone also perked their ears as they looked at the Half-Elf who still had a calm expression on his face.

"Actually, the answer to that is simple. All we need to do is..."

## Chapter 454.2: Unexpected Turn Of Events [Part 2]

"Actually, the answer to that is simple. All we need to do is... do nothing."

If the members of the Storm Dragon Guild had been looking at Lux as if he was an Angel earlier, now they all looked at him as if he had gone crazy.

"What do you mean do nothing?" Nero asked. "That is 2,000 Stat Points. You can't just get those points just because you want to. Do you know how much effort it will take for every person here to regain the stat points that they will lose if we switch sides today?"

Everyone nodded their heads to support Nero's statement. Even if they started hunting Monsters, it would take a lot of effort to collect that many Beast Cores at once. Also, there was a possibility that not everyone would receive their fair share of Beast Cores before the main mission was over.

Even during Guild Dungeon Expeditions, they could only get one to three high-level Beast Cores at most. These Beast Cores would then be sent to the Guild Treasury and would only be awarded to Guild Members that had made great contributions to the guild.

This was why when they got the 2,000+ Free Stat Points due to the Beast Cores they gained from the Big Game Hunter Quest, all of them were ecstatic because those Beast Cores belonged entirely to them without needing to share them with others.

"Isn't it just 2,000 Stat Points?" Lux asked. "All of you should just ask your respective Factions to compensate you for the loss of your stat points. I'm sure that Sir Gerald will be more than happy to give all fifteen of you the Beast Cores that will allow you to regain the stats you lost today."

Outside of the Domain of the Fallen...

Gerald almost spat blood then and there after hearing Lux's shameless words.

Rainer, who was by his side, shook his head, while Natasha chuckled.

"I guess he is still holding a grudge about the Guild Creation Quest we imposed on him," Natasha said. "What do you think, Rainer?"

Rainer nodded. "He is definitely holding a grudge. I guess we should loosen our treasury a bit and compensate our juniors this time around. What do you say, Commander?"

"I say we grab that little brat when he gets back, hang him upside down in the plaza of Wildgarde Stronghold, and beat him up with a wooden stick!" Gerald wanted to curse the Half-Elf so badly, but due to the fact that they were surrounded by the various representatives of the various Kingdoms, he lowered his voice, so that only his two companions could hear it.

The Rankers of the Xynnar War Pack, Skystead Alliance, and Six Kingdoms all gave Gerald smiling glances, which made the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold give all of them the middle finger in his heart.

'What are you bastards laughing at?' Gerald sneered. 'Just you bastards wait! If Lux has decided to make things difficult for me, he will certainly do the same thing to you guys as well!'

As if confirming Gerald's words, the Half-Elf then glanced at the rest of the group and gave them a devilish smile.

"The same can be said for everyone here. You can let your Elders, or your Kingdoms, compensate you by having them give you Beast Cores. All of them are Rankers, right? Can't they give you a few Rank 5 Beast Cores from Alpha, Field, and World Bosses to raise your stats again? I find it hard to believe that a Ranker can't even handle those small fries."

"You're insane!" one of the members of the Xynnar War Pact exclaimed. "We're not allowed to get special treatment from our Elders!"

"That's right!" A young lady from the Skystead Alliance glared at Lux. "Emperor Andreas will not compensate us with Beast Cores unless we succeed in this mission!"

Lux wagged his finger at the young lady from the Skystead Alliance and smirked.

"Then, did you come here to fail?" Lux inquired.



"O-Of course not!" the young lady replied. "We came here to clear the mission and return victorious!"

"Then what's the problem? All we need to do is complete our mission, then all of you will get your stats back. Everyone will be happy, right?"

"T-This..."

After thinking all night, Lux couldn't find a good way on how to compensate everyone for the massive loss of their stat points.

Even if they started hunting Monsters and shared the Beast Cores equally among them, it would still take a lot of effort in order to return everyone's stats.

He simply didn't have the time to do this, and it would just prolong their current mission. After realizing that he had hit a dead end, the Half-Elf decided to stop caring and toss the problem to other people!

That was the solution he came up with. Since he didn't want to deal with the problem, let others solve it instead.

Domain of the Fallen...

An awkward silence descended inside the Domain of the Fallen as all the Rankers, Ambassadors, and other representatives of the various Factions glanced at each other in dismay.

This silence was broken when one of the representatives of the Kingdoms muttered the words that everyone was thinking at that moment.

"Is this Half-Elf crazy?"

Gerald, who heard this, had a calm expression on his face, but deep inside he was gloating at everyone inside the Domain of the Fallen.

He was one of the people that raised the Half-Elf in Wildgarde Stronghold, and one of the things that he both loved and hated about Lux was the fact that, when he decided on something, he would become quite stubborn about it.

Since the Half-Elf decided to switch sides, he would definitely switch sides regardless of what others thought.

"The Skystead Alliance will compensate our representatives for their loss in this mission," Aron said.

He was the right-hand man of Emperor Andreas and had the authority to decide things on the spot. A few lowly Beast Cores didn't matter to him, and he would gladly use his own funds to cover the gold loss of their representatives as long as they had a higher chance of succeeding in their mission.

Because Aron had already made his declaration, the other Factions voiced their agreement as well.

However, deep in their hearts, they were cursing at the Half-Elf for doing something high-handed.

Naturally, the Half-Elf and the other teenagers inside the Sacred Dungeon weren't aware that all of their Superiors had grudgingly agreed to compensate them for their losses.

Since they were not aware, they were still feeling anxious as they contemplated whether to switch sides or not.

Lux looked at everyone in front of him with a determined expression.

He had already made up his mind to join the Yelan Camp, so even if the others didn't come with him, and decided to stay with the Ammarian Kingdom, he would just go alone and that was final.

"Make your decision now," Lux stated. "Those who want to join me in switching sides to the Yelan Camp, come to my side."

As soon as the Half-Elf said these words, Cai immediately walked towards Lux and stood by his side.

"I'm always on the winning side, so I'll go there," Cai commented.

Keane and Cai moved at the same time, but the Boar was first to stand beside the Half-Elf, making him the second.

He had complete trust in Lux's decision, so he didn't mind joining his side. As a member of the only Mythical Guild in the world, it was only normal for him to join his Guildmaster.

Xander was the third to go. Whatever side Cai joined, he would also join that side.

Einar was the fourth.

Val was the fifth.

And the last was none other than Henrietta.

Aside from the fact that she was ordered to remain by Lux's side, she also had a nagging feeling that joining the Half-Elf was the right decision to take, despite the fact that the losses she might gain from this mission would make her Rank deteriorate.

Seeing that no one else was planning to join them, the Half-Elf nodded.

"From now on, all of you are freed from the Ars Goetia Mercenary Group," Lux stated. "Whatever side wins this war, no hard feelings, okay?"

Just as Lux was about to leave, he heard a shout from an unexpected person.

"Wait!"

Malcolm clenched his fists tightly as he walked towards the Half-Elf.

"I am going with you," Malcolm stated which shocked his comrades from the Skystead Alliance.

"M-Malcolm are you sure about this?" the young lady who made an outburst earlier asked. "If you fail this mission, you might miss the chance to get promoted to a higher position in the Vahan Empire. Are you really willing to take that gamble?"

"Yes," Malcolm stated through gritted teeth.

The only reason why he was joining Lux's team was because the latter had managed to defeat him in their battle several months ago.

Malcolm originally thought that the Half-Elf had managed to win by sheer luck, but after hearing his explanation about switching their allegiance, he understood how bold a decision it was.

Although the chances of success were uncertain, he decided to take a gamble and join Lux. If he failed the mission, then he would just leave the Vahan Empire in order to not stain his father's reputation.

"Are you really sure about this?" Lux asked Malcolm who was looking at him with bloodshot eyes.

"No, but I already made a decision. All we need to do is to win, right?"

"Yes. All we need to do is win."

The Half-Elf smiled as he took a second glance at the fuming young man in front of him who was older than him by several years.

"Okay, so this is where we all part," Lux said as he looked at the people who decided to stay behind. "May the best side win."

Half-Elf turned around in order to walk in the direction of the Yelan Camp, but his step froze when he saw someone standing a few meters in front of him.

"You're right," the Vice-General of the Ammarian Camp, who everyone referred to as "Second", said as he looked at the Half-Elf and his group with a sinister smile. "May the best side win."

Before the Half-Elf could even react, the Vice-General's sword pierced his chest, killing him instantly.

The last thing Lux saw before his world descended into darkness was the Vice-General's sneering face, which made him realize that he had truly underestimated the man who was the true General that commanded the Ammarian Army in the Marshlands.

Iris, who was watching the projection through Henrietta's artifact, almost screamed out loud when Lux was killed in front of her.

However, it didn't end there.

The one next to die was Cai, followed by Keane.

Henrietta, Einar, Val, Xander, and Malcolm tried to defend themselves from the attacker, but they were simply no match against a Ranker.

They were like newly hatched birds that were strangled by an adult human's hand, ending their lives before they could even grow and spread their wings to fly.

## Chapter 455: The Real Battle Starts Here!

When Lux opened his eyes, he found himself staring at the ceiling of a cavern.

A moment later, the face of a baby slime appeared in his vision, and the two looked at each other for a few seconds before a bitter smile appeared on the Half-Elf's face.

"We died, right?"

"Pa!"

After hearing Eiko's confirmation, the Half-Elf sighed before propping himself up in a seating position. This was the first time he died in a Dungeon, and frankly speaking, it wasn't a very nice experience.

Around him, Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, Xander, Henrietta, and Malcolm also started to stir.

"Are you alright, Fei Fei?" Cai asked the teary-eyed golden slime who immediately buried her face in Cai's neck, crying her heart out.

That was the first time Fae Fae witnessed her Master die, so she didn't know what to do. Fortunately, when Cai died, Fei Fei was also teleported out of the Dungeon because she was the Boar's Contracted Beast.

Cai coaxed the baby slime, and told her that it was going to be fine. The Boar then opened its Soul Book and half a minute later, it started to cry as well, making Fei Fei cry louder.

"My 2,000 Stat Points!" Cai wailed. "My one million gold coins! Gone! All gone!"

"Weeiiiiiiiiiii!" Fei Fei also wailed because Cai's raw emotions were affecting her as well.

Upon hearing Cai's words, everyone also opened their Soul Books and found out that they had also lost 2,000 Stat Points and a million gold coins.

The funny thing was that Keane's current gold coin count was in the negative. Meaning, every gold coin he would gain later would automatically disappear as payment for his debt.

Einar, Val, Xander, and Henrietta were also in the same boat. As for Malcolm, he was quite well off, so his gold didn't go in the negative. Even so, the loss of both stats and gold coins made him feel depressed.

After seeing that nothing else was lost after his death, the Half-Elf checked his quest log and saw that its information had now changed.

-----

< Your Contract with the Ammarian Kingdom is now terminated. >

< From this moment onwards, you and the Ammarian Kingdom would be hostile to each other. >

< 2,000 Stat Points have been deducted from your current stats >

< 1,000,000 Gold Coins have been deducted from your inventory. >

< If you enter the Gate of Conquest again, you will immediately be teleported to the Yelan Army Main Headquarters. >

< If you wish to continue the mission, the "War of Lions", you will need to accept a new quest from the Great Generals of the Yelan Kingdom. >

-----

'I see, so that was the penalty?' Lux thought as he connected the dots together. 'But I still hadn't accepted the quest to switch sides with the Yelan Army.'

Originally, Lux planned to only accept the quest when he had reached the Yelan Camp, so that he wouldn't be immediately hunted down by the Ammarian Kingdom.

He just didn't expect that the Second in Command of the Ammarian Camp in the Marshlands would appear while he was having a meeting with the members of his Mercenary Group.

After a few minutes had passed, everyone had managed to regain their calmness and think objectively. Just like Lux, they thought that this was the penalty of switching sides to the Yelan Camp, which made sense because the stats and gold coins they lost were exactly the same as the penalty for breaking the contract.

Malcolm confirmed his suspicions as well.

"The Sacred Dungeon is quite different from the other Dungeons we have visited in the past," Malcolm explained. "Usually, when we die in other Dungeons, we will receive a penalty similar to what we have experienced now. There was a time that my rank dropped down to the Apostle Grade after becoming an Initiate because I was killed by a boss during a Dungeon Raid.

"However, this Dungeon is different. Even if we die inside, we won't get a penalty. After discussing this with my Guild Members, we all agreed that this was this Domain's way of compensating those who risked their lives to journey towards the entrance of the Sacred Dungeon.

"Since the trip to reach this place is perilous, and the chance of dying is high, the one who made this Domain probably thought that it would be too unfair if the punishment for failing the Dungeon is too high also. After all, if we were to die on our trip to this place, it would be a permanent one, and there would be no second chances."

After hearing this explanation, Lux, and his friends, who hadn't died inside the Sacred Dungeon before nodded their heads in understanding.

Henrietta only smiled bitterly because she had died inside the dungeon more than once in their attempt to clear it.

After hearing this explanation, Lux gazed at the Gate of Conquest with a solemn expression on his face.

He could still remember the sneer on the Vice-General's face after the latter gave him the killing blow.

'Rankers are truly scary,' Lux mused as he subconsciously rubbed his chest, where the sword had pierced him earlier.

"What now?" Henrietta asked. "Are we going to leave the Dungeon?"

Malcolm bit his lip as he looked at the back of the Half-Elf who was still staring at the Gate of Conquest. He wanted to say that they should just go back, but the image of Emperor Andreas looking at him as if he was a failure made the words he was about to say stuck in his throat.

At that moment, the Half-Elf turned around and looked at Malcolm with a determined look on his face.

"We're going to challenge the Dungeon again," Lux said. "Of course, if you do not wish to go, I will not force anyone. So, who wants to go with me?"

"I will go!" Cai said with the "never say die" attitude. "That bastard. I won't be able to rest easy until I pierce my tusks into his gut!"

"Da WaeEEEEEE!" Fei Fei also shouted. Clearly, she also wanted to get revenge on the one that killed her Master.

"I'm going too," Keane said calmly, but his gaze carried a sharpness that could cut through steel.

"I won't be able to sleep soundly tonight if I back out now," Einar shrugged. "Besides, we only got the penalty we deserved for breaking the contract. The real battle starts here!"

Xander, Val, and Henrietta all nodded their heads in agreement. Right now, the only thing they wanted to do was to take revenge on the Vice General who killed them without mercy.

"I'm going as well," Malcolm declared as he stared at the Half-Elf with a glare. "You said that all we need to do is win, right? Do you feel the same way? Can we win?"

Lux nodded. "We can."

The Half-Elf then turned around as he walked towards the Gate of Conquest and pressed his right palm over it.

"Let's go back and kill that bastard," Lux stated.



A moment later, all the teenagers disappeared as they stepped into the Gate of Conquest once again with renewed determination and resolve to get their vengeance, not only to the Vice General, but to the entirety of the Ammarian Kingdom.

## Chapter 456: I Accept This Mission

Outside of the Domain of the Fallen...

'That kid sure has guts,' Aron thought as he looked at Lux's back from Malcolm's artifact.

He was not the only one that had this thought as almost everyone, who had seen how Lux and his team were killed by the Vice General, looked at their group with solemn gazes.

When Lux died, everyone was shocked at first.

However, after the shock receded, all of them started gloating because they felt that the Half-Elf deserved to be knocked off his high horse for a change, to make him more humble.

Gerald, Rainer, and Natasha had the opposite opinion because they knew what kind of person Lux was.

He was someone who persistently tried to challenge the trial in order to gain the right to enter Elysium.

In the past, the Half-Elf would always be seen training alone in order to increase his stamina, endurance, as well as his willpower in order to pass the test every year despite his weak body.

Now that he had stepped on the same playing field with his peers, his growth had not only shocked them, but also made them wonder how Lux changed from a zero to a hero.

"Gerald, it seems that your boy still thinks he can turn this situation around," one of the Rankers that belonged to the Six Kingdom said in a teasing tone.

"Oh? You think he can't do it?" Gerald asked in a challenging tone.

"What if I said that he can't do it?" the Ranker asked back. "What are you gonna do?"

"How about we start a wager?" Gerald proposed. "Twenty-one million gold coins. I will bet on my boy clearing the Gate of Conquest, do you dare to wager against me?"

"Hah! Who's scared of whom? Twenty-one million? How about we raise the stakes 50 million!"

"Okay. Let's ask that pointy-eared Elf over there to be our guarantor, and everyone else here to be a witness. We will pass the money to him."

The Ranker laughed because he thought that Gerald was just trying to save face due to the mishap that had happened to the Half-Elf.

The "Pointy-Eared Elf" that Gerald referred to was the Ambassador of the Elswyth Kingdom.

He and Gerald had known each other for a long time and could be considered good friends. Because of this, he didn't take offense at his friend's words and happily collected the gold coins from both sides.

Although he was skeptical about Lux's chances of winning, he decided to stay neutral and wait to see how things would play out.

"I also want to bet fifty million gold coins," Rainer declared. "Who wants to bet against me? Naturally, I will side with Lux."

"Hahaha! I will not reject free money," one of the Rankers of the Skystead Alliance said and agreed to take on Rainer's offer.

This time, Rainer chose Aron to be a Guarantor because he was a big name in the Vahan Empire. The Ranker of the Skystead Alliance had no objection and agreed that the right-hand man of Emperor Andreas would hold their wager.

Similar bets started, prompting even the always calm Natasha to bet on Lux's side.

If only Lux knew that the adults were making a wager against each other, he would have definitely joined in the fun and wagered the remaining gold coins in his possessions as well.

-----

Yelan Army Headquarters...

"How did you manage to pass the sentries around our camp?" Watson asked Lux, who was calmly drinking some tea in front of him.

"Business secrets," Lux replied after placing his tea cup on top of the table. "So, will you allow us to join your campaign, General Watson?"

"Before we answer that, what happened to the rest of your Mercenary Group?" Sherlock interjected as he stared at Lux with narrowed eyes. "I believe that this isn't even half of your force, am I right?"

The Half-Elf lightly cleared his throat before answering Sherlock's question.

"Actually, it is embarrassing to say this, but they decided to stay with the Ammarians," Lux replied.

"Oh? Why did they stay?" Sherlock arched an eyebrow after hearing Lux's answer.

"Let's just say that they think that joining you will make them lose more than the rewards you promised them."

"I see. Truly unfortunate."

The Gnome Great General smiled at the Half-Elf as if weighing his words. A few minutes later, Sherlock took out a scroll in his hand and passed it over to Lux.

As soon as the Half-Elf touched the scroll, a series of notifications appeared in front of him.

-----

< Ding! >

< Do you want to retake the Quest, War of the Lions? >

< Yes / No >

-----

Lux chose yes in a decisive manner as he unfurled the scroll in his hands, prompting more text to appear in front of him.

-----

< War of the Lions >

Mission Rating: SS

Although the Yelan Army had managed to thwart the repeated attempts of the Ammarian Army to retake their territories, the Generals of the Yelan Kingdom had a feeling that this battle of attrition would not go in their favor if the fighting was prolonged.

Because of this, they were trying to find ways to strike a decisive blow to their enemies, preventing them from increasing the number of their troops on the frontlines.

-----

< Mission Objectives >

– Help the Yelan Kingdom break the stalemate and allow them to get the upper hand in this war.

< Rewards >

– Rewards will depend on your performance on the battlefield.

-----

< Secondary Quest >

– Killing Lions

< Killing Lions >

– For every General you and your Mercenary Group kill, you will be awarded with 1 Million Gold Coin Each and 1 Pseudo-Legendary Equipment of your choice.

– If you and your Mercenary Group kill Great General Rafael of the Ammarian Kingdom, all of you will be awarded an additional 1 million Gold Coin Each, and 2 Pseudo-Legendary Equipment of your choice.

#### < Secondary Quest Additional Rewards >

– Rewards will depend on the contribution you made in killing the Generals of the Ammarian Kingdom.

-----

#### < Bonus Rewards >

– Depending on your overall performance in the war. You will receive an exclusive reward just for you.

-----

Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, Xander, Henrietta, and Malcolm's eyes widened in shock after seeing the information that appeared before them.

Compared to the rewards of the quest they had accepted for the Ammarian Camp, the Yelan Quest was much better.

However, they also noticed something different in it as well.

The first one they took notice of was the Mission Rating.

The Quest from the Ammarian Kingdom had a Mission Rating of S, while the Yelan Kingdom had a Mission Rating of SS.

The Mission Rating showed how hard a mission was, with SSS as the hardest of them all.

After personally dying in the hands of the Vice Commander, all of them understood that this mission was not going to be a walk in the park.

"I accept this mission," Lux said as he signed the contract that was given to him by General Sherlock.

"Good!" Watson laughed. "Having you around puts my heart at ease, Lux."

"I feel the same way as well," Sherlock smiled before making a gesture for Lux to follow him to the table where the map of the battlefield was spread out.

Now that Lux and his team were on their side, it was only normal for them to be briefed about the overall situation on the battlefield.

The information made Lux, and the others, realize how hard their current mission was going to be.

## **Chapter 457: Borderline Madness**

A few hours before sunrise, Lux was woken up by Keane in his temporary tent within the Yelan Main Headquarters.

The face of the skinny swordsman was quite grave, which chased away the drowsiness that Lux was still feeling at that moment.

"What happened?" Lux asked.

"The Camp of General Fahad in the Marshlands has been overrun," Keane replied. "Go to the Main Tent. All the commanders are being gathered right now. Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock asked me to wake you up. Go. I'll wake up Cai and the others."

Lux nodded and hurriedly ran to the Commander's Tent to get a better understanding of what just transpired.

They had just accepted the Mission to support the Yelan Kingdom a few hours ago, and now, the situation had suddenly escalated to something that caught the Half-Elf completely by surprise.

Five minutes later, Cai and the others also arrived in the Commander's tent. Just like Lux, all of them had grim expressions on their faces because they didn't expect the circumstances of the Yelan Kingdom to change overnight.

"Everyone, I'm sorry for waking you up, but I received a report that the Marshlands' first line of defense has been breached," Watson said in a calm manner. "Because of the rapid development, General Fahad was forced to

abandon their headquarters and regroup at the second defensive line, ten miles away from their Main Camp.

"If the Ammarian Kingdom manages to break past their second defensive line, then they can easily reach the Town of Larnwick, which is only an hour away by horseback. According to General Fahad's report, it is estimated that the enemy had mobilized over 80,000 troops when they assaulted their camp.

"Many of our soldiers sacrificed their lives in order to allow our comrades to escape. Currently, General Fahad only has a little more than 30,000 troops defending our Eastern Flank."

Gasps of shock were heard inside the tent, and some of the Commanders' faces became pale after coming to understand how dire their current situation was.

Right now, the Yelan Kingdom was fighting on four battlefields.

The Marshlands, the Forests, the Great Plains, and the Mountain Regions.

The Great Plains, which had easy access towards the territories that were being conquered, were being guarded by Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock. They were the heroes of the previous war, and because of this, they were assigned the hardest place to defend.

The Marshlands were their eastern front, and if over fifty thousand soldiers managed to break past their defenses, they could easily attack the defenders that were guarding the second battlefield, which was the Forest Area.

"General Carran who is the General in charge of defending the Glouswell Forest has already sent ten thousand of his men to help General Fahad hold their position," Great General Sherlock stated. "However, this is exactly what the Ammarian Generals are hoping for. We are already stretched thin, and the more men we send to reinforce General Fahad, the less we have to defend our own strongholds.

"I assume that their reinforcements are the soldiers that have just finished training after their recent recruitment campaign. My only fear is that more are coming, and once that happens, our defensive lines will become thinner from the repeated attacks until our weakest link breaks apart. By then, we will have no choice but to order a full retreat and return to the Fortresses along the borders of our Kingdom."

The Gnome Great General paused before heaving a sigh.

"I'm afraid that once they have retaken their lands, they will regroup and launch an all out attack against our Kingdom," Great General Sherlock said. "With our morale at an all time low, it is possible that they will be able to win this time around. Everyone, we can't let this happen. We must find a way to turn this situation around."

A deafening silence descended inside the tent as everyone looked at each other, hoping that someone had a good idea for how to turn the situation around.

The silence continued, until the Half-Elf raised his hand to offer a suggestion.

"I have a plan, but it is not an honorable one," Lux said. "It is rather a deplorable one. If you can accept this method, then there might be a way to turn the current situation to our favor."

"What do you have in mind?" Sherlock asked. "If it doesn't go below our bottom line, we can consider it."

Lux nodded and told the Great Generals the plan that he had thought of.

Immediately, the commanders inside the tent looked at the Half-Elf as if he was a cold blooded monster who didn't care what methods were used as long as he won.

"Y-You! Don't you even know the meaning of remorse?" one of the Commanders glared at the Half-Elf who had proposed such a nefarious plan.

"This is borderline madness! Unacceptable!" another commander shouted. "How can you even propose such a thing!"

"Great Generals, please tell this brat that what he said is madness!" one of Watson's closest Aides pleaded. "Even if we win this war, the cost is something that our King and our people will not be able to accept."

Watson and Sherlock exchanged a glance before shifting their attention back to the Half-Elf who was looking at the two of them with a solemn expression on his face.



"We will carefully consider your proposal, Lux," Sherlock stated. "Do you have other ideas?"

The Half-Elf nodded. "My Mercenary Group and I will go to the Marshlands and help General Fahad defend their camp. Also, I will leave my subordinates Diablo and Asmodeus in your care. Allow them to act freely in your camp and in the battlefield. Please, don't restrict their movements because they will play a crucial role in this war."

"I accept this proposal," Sherlock nodded.

"You heard that, right?" Watson asked the Commanders inside the tent who were glaring at Lux. "Don't touch his subordinates in the camp. Believe me when I say that you don't want to get on the bad side of these peop— I mean, persons."

Watson and Sherlock knew what Lux was capable of. If they were to really throw their morality and pride into the gutters then the Half-Elf could really reverse their current situation.

However, just as their Commanders had said, they might win the battles, but they would lose the war.

Their King, and their people, would not accept such an outcome.

## **Chapter 458: Wars Didn't Prove Who Was Right Or Wrong**

"You are free to pass," one of the guards that was managing the checkpoints said. "All of you be careful, the skirmishes happening in the Glouswell Forest are just as intense as the battle that is happening in the Marshlands at the moment."

"How long will it take us to arrive at the Second Defensive Line of the Marshlands from here?" Lux asked.

The guard pondered for a while before answering Lux's question. "Two to three days, give or take, if you travel without taking too many breaks."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome. All of you are still too young to be on the battlefield. If things turn for the worse, don't hesitate to escape. You kids still have bright futures ahead of you."

After bidding farewell to the guards at the checkpoint, Lux and his Mercenary Group once again continued their journey, following the shortest route that his Elysium Compendium had picked for them.

Henrietta, who was present when Lux made his proposal, couldn't believe that the sickly Half-Elf, whom everyone treated as a kind-hearted person, would even think of doing such a thing.

It was as if the Lux that she had known long ago was very different from the red-headed teenager who was currently leading their group to reinforce General Fahad's army in the Marshlands.

And Henrietta was not the only one who was shocked by Lux's proposal back in the Yelan Main Camp.

Even Gerald, Rainer, and Natasha, who were watching the projection near the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen, felt that this new "Lux" was quite different from the one they raised in Wildgarde Stronghold.

As for Lux's original team, they had been with him ever since the battle in the Gate of War and had witnessed how the Half-Elf decimated nearly half of the Ammarian Kingdom Army when Malcolm's team committed Biological Warfare against the Yelan Kingdom.

He used the dead bodies of the Yelan Soldiers as bombs in order to kill people, and the result had completely exceeded everyone's expectation.

Naturally, this way of fighting was looked down by others because the corpses that he would use for his Corpse Explosion skill would almost disappear completely, leaving only bits and pieces of flesh without any way to identify who they were, so they could be given a proper burial.

Malcolm, who had experienced this firsthand in the past, remained silent during the entirety of their journey.

Flashbacks of what happened back then still appeared in his dreams, and he would wake up in the middle of the night at least once or twice a week, drenched in sweat and shaking all over.

Perhaps, this was also one of the reasons why he subconsciously chose to side with Lux.

If possible, he didn't want to be on the opposite battlefield as the Half-Elf when he used this genocidal ability of his.

Several hours later, Lux asked everyone to rest for the night.

They had been traveling non-stop in order to reach their destination as fast as possible, but the Half-Elf knew that if they kept their current pace, the others would be exhausted before they could even arrive at General Fahad's new Outpost.

"I'll go and hunt," Einar said after doing a few stretches. "What do you guys want to eat?"

"Roasted Mountain Boar!" Cai replied. "I brought a lot of spices with me. Xander, you handle the seasoning later, okay?"

Xander nodded his head. "Understood."

The Barbarian closed his eyes and crossed his arms over his chest. He was standing so still, making Cai wonder about what he was doing.

Two minutes later, Einar opened his eyes and sprinted towards the North East.

Lux glanced at the Map in his Elysium Compendium and saw the green dot that was representing Einar, running towards a gray dot on the map.

'Interesting, he has some kind of high-level detection spell," Lux mused as he looked at the green and gray dot colliding against each other in the map. Less than a minute later, the gray dot disappeared.

Lux assumed that the Barbarian had already killed his target, so he decided to set up the fire pit where the Boar would be roasted.

An hour later, the fragrance of roasted boar permeated the surroundings, making Cai salivate.

Xander was the one handling the cooking, and one could tell that he was very experienced in cooking freshly hunted beasts.

Another hour passed before the boar was properly cooked, and everyone had dinner together.

Just as everyone had almost finished eating, they heard the sounds of explosions in the distance.

Lux glanced in the direction the sounds were coming from and confirmed that it was at least several miles away from their location.

"We will rest for four hours before we continue our journey," Lux said. "Don't worry about the watch duty. I already have that covered."

Lux summoned Ishtar and a dozen Skeleton Gang Bangers, who immediately left their camp and spread out in every direction.

After making sure that his Undead Sentries had positioned themselves, the Half-Elf looked around to look for a place to sleep.

The Half-Elf yawned before taking out a thick blanket from his storage ring and placed it on the ground. He then took out a smaller blanket, rolled it up and used it as a pillow.

"Let's sleep, Eiko," Lux called out to the baby Slime who was having a chat with Fei Fei on the log near the campfire.

"Pa!" Eiko said. "Night Night Fei Fei."

"Night Night Eiko." Fei Fei said.

Eiko then crawled towards her Papa and snuck herself inside his robe, around the chest area.

Soon, the two of them fell asleep, despite the fact that the sound of explosions reverberated in the dark night.

"Let's also sleep, Fei Fei," Cai said as she laid on the ground.

"Yes!" Fei Fei nodded and positioned herself near Cai's neck, and closed her eyes to sleep.

A moment later, the loud snoring of the Boar spread in the campsite, making Henrietta sigh helplessly.

"You guys sure don't feel the tension," Henrietta muttered before she took out her improvised bedroll from her storage ring, and tried to sleep.

Surprisingly, she fell asleep just a few seconds after her head touched her rolled up blanket, proving how tired she really was from their journey.

One by one, everyone in the camp also took out their sleeping gear to rest.

Lux said that they would resume their journey in four hours, so they planned to get as much rest as they could.

When everyone inside the camp was asleep, Lux opened his eyes and summoned two of his Doppelgangers. They immediately went deeper in the forest, heading in the direction of the battle that was happening between the Ammarian Army and the Yelan Army.

The Half-Elf fully understood that they wouldn't win the war using conventional means, so he decided to prepare for the inevitable clash that would sweep through the Yelan Camp like a tide.

As for what was wrong or what was right, Lux didn't think in black and white.

He had learned from his past life that although wars were limited in certain parts of Earth, only those who had the ability to wipe out entire nations with a push of a button could dictate what was right or wrong.

Simply put, wars didn't prove who was right or wrong.

It only showed who was left.

## **Chapter 459.1: A Lesson They Would Never Forget [Part 1]**

After getting their short rest, the group once again resumed their journey.

They came across anxious soldiers manning the checkpoints, and there were times when they were almost attacked due to how tense they were.

If not for the fact that they were carrying the banner of Generals Watson and Sherlock, whom everyone recognized as their Great Generals in this war,

these sentries would have definitely attacked first and asked later, due to the intense skirmish that happened a few hours ago.

'Not good,' Lux thought. 'It looks like after the General commanding this forest sent several of their men to reinforce the Marshlands, their defenses have grown weaker, leaving these soldiers feeling jittery.'

Although the Yelan Army guarding the forest area managed to fend off their enemies, that didn't mean that there wasn't a possibility that they would be breached when the Ammarian Army attacked again.

All the sentries were on high alert, and if they saw anything suspicious, the alarm for battle would immediately be sounded. A delay in warning could result in their entire camp being overrun by their enemies, so there was no room for error.

Finally, a day later, Lux and his team arrived at the new camp of General Fahad.

Only a few days had passed since he saw the General, but his looks and temperament had become completely different from the first time that Lux had met him.

The general looked exhausted, but his eyes were still sharp, as if he could fight at any given second.

General Fahad's son, Leo, had dark circles under his eyes and looked less smug than the last time Lux saw him.

Clearly, the Marshland Defenders had their backs against the wall and needed all the help they could get.

Seeing that they were busy, Lux just asked the question that mattered to him.

"When was the last time you fought against them?" Lux asked.

"Half a day ago," General Fahad replied. "We managed to fend them off, but it came at a steep price. Almost three thousand men died, and even with the reinforcements, it is only a matter of time before they manage to whittle our manpower away until none remain."

Lux nodded. "Did they take their dead bodies back to their camp? Or did they just leave them there?"

General Fahad looked at Lux before a dawn of understanding came upon him.

"Actually, they didn't. They are still down there," General Fahad pointed at the base of the cliff where they were at, which made Leo look at his father with a doubtful gaze.

'Why are they talking about dead bodies?' Leo frowned as he looked at the Half-Elf who had a relieved expression on his face.

"Can I have them?" Lux asked.

General Fahad nodded. "I don't mind. We already took our dead from among them. Everyone down there are all Ammarians."

The more Leo heard, the more he didn't understand what was happening, which made him wonder what was so special about the dead bodies under the cliff.

Just as he was pondering these thoughts, Lux addressed his team members and asked them to get a proper rest.

They had been traveling for a very long time, and they were already at their limit.

The Half-Elf on the other hand, didn't rest.

He simply summoned his Skeleton Army and his Rock Golems, ordering them to bury the dead bodies in the ground.

The soldiers of the Yelan Camp didn't see anything wrong with this. In fact, they welcomed it. Dead corpses could attract insects, as well as other beasts, that might attack their camp if they were not careful.

Having someone do the dirty work for them gave them some peace of mind.

Naturally, they weren't aware that Lux was not burying the dead soldiers out of respect. For him, they were valuable resources that he could use in a pinch to overturn their current situation.

Two hours later, Ishtar appeared beside Lux and whispered something in his ears.

The Half-Elf frowned after hearing the news, but he still nodded his head to tell his Nightstalker to continue her mission of monitoring the movements of the Ammarian Army.

'They might try another night attack if my hunch is right,' Lux thought. 'But this is also good. They won't see what is going to hit them.'

After finalizing his plan, Lux raised his hand and called upon two of his most trusted subordinates to join him in this battle.

"Honor your Oath as part of my Covenant!" Lux ordered and a magic circle appeared on the ground in front of him. "Come forth, Bedivere!"

The magic circle glowed brightly and half a minute later, Lux's Dragon Knight appeared in front of him.

"I have come, My Liege," Bedivere said as he and his Dragon Mount bowed respectfully to their Master.

Lux gave them a brief nod before summoning Blackfire, the Coffin where his Grandma Vera was currently resting.

"Sid, I need your expertise," Lux stated. "Hear my call!"

The lid of the coffin opened and a second later, the Dwarf Assassin appeared on bended knees, paying tribute to his Master.

"My blade is yours, My Master," Sid said respectfully.

Lux also gave Sid a brief nod, acknowledging his allegiance.

"I have work for the two of you." Lux looked at his Dragon Knight and Assassin with a solemn expression on his face. "Right now, we are fighting a large-scale war. What I want the two of you to do is..."

Bedivere and Sid listened carefully to Lux's words. After their master finished speaking, both of them nodded their heads in understanding.

"Lazarus, come," Lux ordered.



A moment later, a burning skull appeared in front of the Half-Elf, surprising the Dragon Knight, as well as Sid.

"This is my new comrade, Lazarus," Lux introduced the flaming skull to the Dragon Knight as well as the Dwarf Assassin. "He will be participating with you guys in this operation. The three of you are to coordinate with Ishtar and carry out this mission without fail. Do I make myself clear?"

""""Yes, Master!""""

Lux nodded. "Go. I will wait for the good news."

The three bowed their heads to the Half-Elf once again before all three of them climbed onto Bedivere's Dragon Mount and descended from the cliff.

After landing safely, Sid and Lazarus moved together on land, while Bedivere and his mount, once again took off towards the sky.

Behind Lux, Eiko, her Doppelgangers, and Fei Fei were busy creating one Bone Bomb and Blast Bomb after the other until their Mana ran out.

The Skeleton Bombs could last for a day or two as long as Eiko didn't use the Skeleton Make skill to form other things.

However, she could only create 200 of them at a time.

Because of this, she needed to summon her Doppelgangers to add 200 more Skeleton Bombs in order to increase their stockpile.

Blast Bombs, on the other hand, lasted for only four hours, but that was enough.

Eiko happily made one bomb after the other as she chugged on some mana potions that Lux had placed beside her.

The Yelan Soldiers just watched this scene with amused expressions on their faces. They never thought that the Slimes would be capable of bomb creation.

After the two baby Slimes finished their job, Lux placed all of the finished bombs inside his storage ring.

He then flew down the cliff and hid them in places which he deemed would be the best place to hide them.

Now, all he needed to do was wait for the Ammarian Army to attack. He was sure that when this night was over, their enemies would have learned a lesson they would never forget.

## **Chapter 460.2: A Lesson They Would Never Forget [Part 2]**

When the Yelan Army made their retreat, they had positioned themselves on top of a cliff overlooking a Woodland, which had countless trees that the Ammarian Army had used as cover during their night battles.

Since their original camp was stationed in the Marshes, they had only made a temporary camp at the rear of the woodlands.

A tenth of the Ammarian Army was busy taking down their former camp as per General Phobus orders and was currently on the way to their new one in order to bring along their resources and food supply.

Because of this, scouts were sent out to look for food for the army as well as to keep surveillance on their enemies.

Since the Yelan Army was short on manpower, they didn't dare to send their scouts to the woodlands and only assigned some soldiers to keep watch to make sure that they would be able to sound a timely warning if their enemy chose to attack.

In the area located between the camps of the two armies, several Ammarian Scouts noticed a dragon flying above the trees.

"A young dragon. But it looks like it has a rider..." the leader of the scouting party muttered.

"Should we shoot it down?" one of his subordinates asked.

"Let's do it!" Another one of his subordinates insisted on the idea because this was a good chance to show off to their peers. "The General might reward us if we give him the Dragon as a gift. We might even get promoted!"

"That sounds like a good idea!" The Leader nodded his head in agreement.  
"Let's spread out and try to shoot it down."

Everyone in the army could get promoted depending on their contribution on the battlefield. A young dragon was a very rare creature and, if they were able to catch it alive, they would certainly get great rewards from their General, whose mood had improved after their recent victory.

The Leader of the Scouting Party had a greedy look on his face as he eyed the creature from the shade of the trees.

He then crouched down and knocked his bow with an arrow, prepared to shoot the young Dragon down when it passed overhead.

However, before he could do that, a hand covered his mouth, and a dagger pierced him in the back.

Everything happened so fast that the Leader of the scouting party died not knowing how he died.

Sid carefully stored the body of the dead scout inside his Bounty Ring, which Bounty Hunters used to store the bodies of their dead targets in order to present them to their clients.

Unfortunately, the ring had a limit and it could only store twenty dead bodies at most.

Even so, it was enough as Sid went to look for his other comrades who were sneakily killing the other members of the Ammarian Army's scouting party, using Bedivere's Dragon Mount as bait.

Sid had only taken five steps, when Ishtar appeared in front of him with a finger over her lips.

"Master's former comrades are headed in this direction," Ishtar said. "Retreat for now. All of them are of the Initiate Rank. Even if you can kill five of them, the others will get you. It's not worth it."

Sid nodded his head in understanding and stealthily retreated, leaving not even a footstep behind.

"Bedivere, they are almost here," Lazarus warned his comrade through telepathy. "Fly to the western side of the valley. Master said that we shouldn't fight them right now."

"Understood," Bedivere replied as he commanded his Dragon to change their flight path.

They had already killed three scouting parties and had their corpses with them. Their goal was to cause confusion among the ranks of the Ammarian Army and make them feel uneasy at the disappearance of their scouts.

Although this wouldn't affect their morale by a longshot, it was enough to make General Phobus and his Second In Command rethink their earlier assumption that the Yelan Army was not bold enough to send their soldiers down into the valley to fight them.

Nero and the members of his Storm Dragon Guild arrived at the location where Sid had just killed the Scout Leader.

However, since nothing looked out of place, they continued to walk forward, constantly monitoring their surroundings for enemies, as well as Beasts, so that they could hunt for food.

"I've been thinking a lot lately," one of Nero's subordinates said as they walked past the trees where the members of the Scouting Party died. "After becoming an Initiate due to the rewards we got from that quest, I realized that I am lucky to be part of this expedition. However, I have this nagging feeling that we might have chosen the wrong side."

One of the girls in their team glared at her friend who had spoken negatively about the side where they were currently on.

"If you had chosen to side with Lux, you probably would have died just like him and the others who joined him," the young lady stated. "I don't have any ill feelings for Lux. In fact, I am very happy with his achievement, but after seeing how he died, I realized that every decision we make can easily end our life if we are unlucky."

The young man who spoke earlier sighed because he also liked Lux. If not for the fact that their Guildmaster, Nero, decided not to join the Half-Elf in his plan to switch sides, they might have died alongside him.

"I know that," the young man replied. "But, are they really dead? What if they decided to challenge the Dungeon again? Will they respawn in the same field as us?"

The young lady who chastised her friend didn't know how to answer this question. Unlike them, Lux and his party could enter the Domain of the Fallen at any given time.

It was highly possible that they returned and reentered the Gate of Conquest and were currently in the same field as them.

But, this time, they were no longer allies but enemies.

"It doesn't matter," Nero commented as he continued to walk. "Even if they challenge the Dungeon again, our goal doesn't change. We will kill anyone that stands in our way and clear this Dungeon once and for all."

Everyone in the Storm Dragon Guild looked at their Leader and agreed with him in their hearts. Since they could no longer go back, all they could do was move forward and complete their current mission.

What they didn't know was that on one of the branches of the tree, Lazarus saw and heard their discussion.

He even shared his senses with Lux, allowing the Half-Elf to hear their conversation.

"You're right, Nero," Lux muttered as he looked in the direction where the members of the Storm Dragon Guild were currently at. "I will also kill anyone that stands in my way of clearing this Dungeon. Since you and I are now enemies, you are one of my targets as well."

Lux didn't know whether he and Nero were truly fated to be enemies or not.

He thought that the two of them would become allies in this mission until the Dungeon was cleared. Unfortunately, they didn't share the same vision.

Lux chose the Yelan Army because he had fought with them once, while Nero chose the Ammarian Kingdom because they had the advantage in the war.

Both of them believed that they had done the right thing, and the outcome of the battle would prove who made the right decision that day.

Just as the sun was about to set, the Ammarian Camp started gearing up for another night raid.

None of them knew, aside from the commanding officers, that all of their scouting parties had been killed several hours ago.

General Phobus rode a Tiger in the center of the formation.

His Vice-General, who went by the name Second, was right beside him, seated on a warhorse.

As they made their way near to the Yelan Camp, all the soldiers formed their ranks in preparation for the battle.

"Tonight is the night that we will annihilate this side of the battlefield," General Phobus said. "I can't wait to see Rafael's face once he finds out that I was the first among the Generals of the Ammarian Kingdom to break through the final defensive line of the Yelan Army, allowing our forces to attack their main force from behind."

Second nodded. "It is as you say, General. I'm sure that your Grandfather will be proud of this achievement. If we win this war, you will be the one who will get the highest merit."

General Phobus smirked after hearing his Vice-General's words.

"Is everyone in position?" General Phobus asked his Aide at his side.

"Yes, Sir!" the Aide replied. "We are simply waiting for your orders to advance."

General Phobus raised his right arm as he gave the order to attack.

"Kill!" General Phobus commanded. "Show these lowly Yelanians no mercy!"

Currently, he had over 80,000 troops because more reinforcements were sent to their camp earlier that day after the higher-ups heard that he had made significant progress in his campaign.

Because of this, he was confident that he would be able to overwhelm their enemies with sheer numbers.

The moment the Ammarians broke through the cover of the trees, the battle began. Both sides exchanged spells and ranged attacks, breaking the quiet of the night.

The Ammarians advanced steadily as their barriers resisted the barrage that came from the top of the cliff.

After breaking past their first hurdle, the Ammarian Soldiers started to scale the cliff, while those with flying mounts baited the Yelan Soldiers into targeting them instead.

Eiko and Fei Fei, who were perched on top of Lux's and Cai's heads, watched the chaotic battle from on top of the cliff with calm expressions on their faces.

"Do we do it now?" Cai asked.

"Not yet," Lux said. "Let them get in deeper first."

Lux's eyes were calm like a viper's, waiting for his prey to come within his striking range.

The moment when most of the Ammarian Soldiers had scaled halfway up the cliff, Lux finally gave the two baby Slimes the go signal to start making things blow up.

"Boom Boom Boom!" Eiko shouted as she glared at the Soldiers who had stepped on the Blast Bombs that Lux had buried earlier.

"Boom Boom!" Fei Fei also shouted along with Eiko, as she also activated the Blast Bombs that belonged to her.

Suddenly, the ground under the Vanguard of the Ammarian Army, who was responsible for keeping the barriers in place, suddenly exploded, taking them by surprise and causing them to lose their concentration, dispersing the barrier that was keeping the rest of the Army safe.

The Blast Bombs weren't strong enough to kill, but they were able to injure most of the Soldiers on the front lines. However, something happened that made General Phobus, and his Vice-General gasp in surprise.

The cliff gave way and an avalanche of rock and rubble crashed down upon the Ammarian Soldiers, burying them alive.

The Yelan Camp had already been informed about this part of Lux's strategy, so the moment the Half-Elf gave the signal, all of the range fighters and

magicians hastily retreated from their posts and ran a good distance away from the edge of the cliff.

At the same time, they prepared the deadly bombardment they would unleash the moment the Ammarian Formation went into disarray.

"Open Fire!" General Fahad ordered a deadly rain of spells and arrows to descend from the sky, which landed on the retreating Ammarians who had escaped being buried alive by the avalanche.

As the dead bodies piled up, Lux spread his arms as he channeled his spell throughout the entire battlefield.

He was like a mastermind that grasped the entire battlefield on the palm of his hands, and it was time for him to show the Yelan Army, as well as the Ammarian Army, just what he was capable of.

"Corpse... Explosion!"

As soon as these words left the Half-Elf's lips, a nightmarish scene took place.

All the dead bodies that he had buried earlier exploded under the Ammarian Army's feet, sending flesh and bone fragments flying in every direction.

This deadly chain reaction killed people, and those who died killed more people, creating a cycle of carnage that only a Necromancer was capable of creating on the battlefield.

General Phobus looked at this scene with horror as his subordinate's bodies exploded like grenades one after the other.

"Retreat!" Second ordered. "All forces, fall back!"

After hearing their Vice-General's orders, all the Ammarian Soldiers ran back towards their camp as if their lives depended on it.

Lux, who was watching this development from on top of the cliff, slowly curled his fingers into his palms as he looked at the retreating tide of people.

"Who gave you all the permission to leave?" Lux asked once his hands had finished closing into fists.

"Corpse Explosion!"



The bodies that had been buried at the rear of the Ammarian Army started to explode, instantly killing those that were the first to retreat... including some of the members of the Storm Dragon Guild, who were immediately sent back to the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen.

All of them gasped for air as they lay on the ground and tried to calm themselves from the nightmarish experience that they just encountered.

The young man and the young lady who were chatting in the forest earlier raised their heads and looked at the projection that most of the people were looking at.

In that projection, they saw the back of the red-headed teenager, who had his arms spread wide as if embracing the entire world, and killing all of those who stood in his way.

## **Chapter 461: It's Now Or Never, You Won't Get A Second Chance!**

One of the professions that Rankers, and even Saints, didn't want to see in wars where each side numbered in the tens of thousands, was not a Sorcerer or a Wizard who could cast High-Ranking Spells that could decimate entire armies.

No. Each Kingdom had their own powerful mages that could do these things and more.

The profession that they were afraid to face off the most was none other than a Necromancer.

Especially Necromancers that didn't care whether they were killing friends or foes. In the end, it didn't matter to them. The only thing that they trusted was the Undead, and the more people that died, the more advantageous the battle was to them.

Necromancers that had become High-Rankers were true menaces to fight.

Saint-Ranked Necromancers were walking Calamities.

They specialized in curses, diseases, and other otherworldly spells that made even their fellow Saints didn't want to mess with them in large-scales wars unless it was a last resort.

But, that wasn't the most threatening thing about them.

The thing that made Necromancers, who had become Rankers, scary were their abilities to Raise the Dead.

Fighting against your former comrades at arms or family members could be the most traumatizing experience on the battlefield.

That was why, if there was a war, and they were fighting against a Necromancer, all the High-Ranking fighters of the opposing side would eliminate them first, or else the war wouldn't end until everyone had been turned into the walking dead.

Unfortunately, Lux still hadn't reached that Rank.

From an Initiate, his rank had degraded to that of an Apostle. Even if he had the Animate Undead Skill, the most it could do was revive 50 Undead.

When he became an Initiate, he could raise 200 Undead Warriors.

When he became an E-Ranker, he would be able to revive 2,000 of them.

Every successive rank would multiply the numbers of Undead he could raise by two.

The scary part about this was that he had the Doppelganger skill, as well as Asmodeus, who also had the Doppelganger skill.

The moment Lux became a Ranker, he would be able to command a horde of Undead to fight for him.

However, right now, he was an Apostle that was fighting against Rankers, whose strength, and power, outclassed him by several folds.

Raising the Dead would not be enough to tilt the tide of battle in his favor, so he did the only thing that he could do and that was...

"Corpse Explosion!"

The Half-Elf detonated the corpses that he had buried in strategic locations in the ground. He did that to ensure that he would be able to maximize the effect of his skill and kill as many Ammarian Soldiers as he could.

The battle had started less than an hour ago, yet the Half-Elf had already killed thousands of soldiers, but he wasn't satisfied with mere grunts.

His target was not General Phobus, who was the highest commanding officer of the Ammarian Army in the territory that they were fighting in.

No. He was after the bigger fish, and the same person that killed him and his friends a few days ago.

"Found you..." Lux narrowed his eyes as his Great Flame Skull, Lazarus, who was hidden near the top of a tree in the Woodland, locked his eyes on the retreating Ranker, who was making sure that General Phobus wouldn't be killed by the explosions that were happening around them.

"General Fahad, if you want to win this war, order your men to pursue them," Lux said as he pointed in the direction where the two Rankers of the Ammarian Kingdom were. "It's now or never, you won't get a second chance!"

General Fahad knew that Lux was right. This was the perfect opportunity to strike, so he immediately ordered his cavalry to accompany him in pursuit of the two Generals that had managed to capture their previous headquarters.

"All men, rally to me!" General Fahad shouted as he climbed on top of his Warhorse. "Kill them all!"

General Fahad led the charge, and the others immediately followed.

"Go with them, but stick together!" Lux ordered. "Your goal is not to target the Rankers, but eliminate the soldiers. Also, keep a lookout for our 'Dear Friends'. If you see them, don't hesitate to kill them. We are standing on opposing sides. Mercy will only get you killed."

All of his comrades nodded their heads in agreement to Lux's words. Even Malcolm and Henrietta, who still had reservations about killing their acquaintances, steelled themselves for the inevitable possibility of clashing blades with each other.

"Bedivere!" Lux shouted.

A dragon roar answered his call and the Dragon Knight landed by his side.

"Cai, I'm taking Fei Fei with me," Lux stated. "She will be staying with Bedivere and observing the battle from the sky. That way, you can fight without worrying about her safety."

"Thank you!" Cai felt relieved because it didn't really want to take Fei Fei onto the chaotic battlefield because there was a possibility that it would be facing off against stronger enemies.

If it was alone, the Boar was confident that it could retreat safely out of harm's way at any given time.

Fei Fei understood Lux's and Cai's intentions, so she jumped on the Half-Elf's shoulder, as the latter sat on the back of Bedivere's Dragon.

"Whatever happens, prioritize your safety," Lux said. "We will clear this dungeon together. Let General Fahad and his deputy deal with General Phobus and Second. We'll think of a way to kill them when they've been weakened. Let's go, Bedivere."

The dragon flapped its wings and soared towards the sky.

Although Lux had Night Vision, what he could see from on top of the cliff was still limited, so he decided to view the battle from above.

That way, he would be able to make appropriate decisions, and deal with the enemy in real time.

As the Dragon Knight commanded his mount to go to the direction where Lux wanted to go, the situation on the ground had changed once again as the Yelan Light Cavalry caught up with the retreating Ammarian Soldiers and started a massacre.

"Don't let him out of our sights," Lux ordered Bedivere, who was eyeing the two escaping Ammarian Generals on the ground

"Yes, My Lord," Bedivere replied. "It's a shame that we can't use Dragon Breath to ignite the entire woodlands to block their path of escape. The wind is blowing against us, and I'm afraid that the dense smoke will hinder the Light Cavalry in their pursuit."

Lux nodded in agreement. "Don't worry. We made ample preparations beforehand."

There was another reason why Lux decided to hunt down the scouts that were tasked to monitor the movements of the Yelan Camp.

He wanted to plant Eiko's Bone Bombs in the middle of the Woodlands, so he could detonate it when the enemies made their escape.

"Go Eiko!" Lux said as the Ammarian Soldiers finally reached the location where the bombs were planted.

"Boom Boom Bakugan!" Eiko shouted from on top of Lux's head.

Immediately, loud booming sounds reverberated in the Woodlands as rock, dirt, flesh, and blood, splattered throughout the surroundings.

Screams of pain, frustration, and disbelief echoed in the dark night as Lux once again activated his ability, which was responsible for making the Ammarian Army turn in full retreat.

"Corpse Explosion!"

A new round of pain, suffering, and death, spread across the battlefield as the bodies of the fallen exploded, dealing Necrotic Damage and sending shrapnel of sharp bones to the terrified soldiers, who were trying their best to outrun the person that was in front of them, in order to have a higher chance of survival.

Running was the only thing they could think of at the moment, and they hoped that if they ran fast enough, they would be able to wake up from the nightmare that took the lives of their friends, and acquaintances, leaving nothing except their dying screams behind.

## **Chapter 462: I Don't Know The Meaning Of Fear!**

The representatives of each Faction, who were watching the battle unfold from the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen, all had solemn expressions on their faces.

When the Ammarian Army had overrun the Yelan Camp a few days ago, all of them cheered because their teenagers were part of the successful raid that transpired.

They didn't care about Lux back then because he had been sent to the Central Plains, and it was quite a distance away from where their young members were fighting.

However, after days of traveling, the Half-Elf finally arrived at the Eastern Front and immediately showed them what he was capable of.

And what they saw... was something they didn't want to see.

Suddenly, a flash of light appeared at the entrance of the Gate of the Fallen, which caused some of the representatives to sigh.

Gerald also felt very bitter inside because, among the fifteen people that belonged to their subsidiary guild, Storm Dragons, six had already died in the battle, leaving only nine behind.

As the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold, he knew that what Lux was doing was the right thing to do.

Even he would do the same, so although his heart was weeping, he accepted the fact that the Storm Dragons Guild and the factions of the Skystead Alliance, the Xynnar War Pact, and the Six Kingdoms were currently the Half-Elf's enemies.

"If only Nero had decided to join Lux, this outcome might have been avoided." Natasha sighed.

"I think this is better," Rainer commented. "Since we don't know which side will win in the end, having eggs in different baskets balances things out."

Gerald and Natasha could only nod at Rainer's words. No matter what they said right now, it would not change anything.

The six members of the Storm Dragons Guild stood by their side and looked at the battle that was happening through the eyes of those that were still alive within the Sacred Dungeon.

Although they didn't want to admit it, they were starting to regret that they didn't choose to follow Lux when the latter decided to switch sides to the Yelan Army.

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A member of the Skystead Alliance panted for breath as he ran away with all of his might.

There were cuts that were still dripping blood on his face, shoulders, and legs, due to the bone shrapnel that flew towards him when all of the Soldiers near him exploded right in front of his eyes.

Because of the chaos that was happening around them, he and his team members had been separated from each other.

He didn't even know if they were still alive because bodies were exploding all over the place, and nowhere was safe.

It was at that moment when he heard a faint clicking sound behind him.

The next moment, he found himself falling face first on the ground, which surprised him.

His vision spun until it came to a complete stop, making him look at his own body, which no longer had a head.

The moment he realized what happened, was also when the light faded from his eyes.

His body, which was standing just half a minute ago, fell to the ground and disappeared into particles of light.

More clinking sounds were heard in the darkness, as more heads rolled across the Woodland floor.

This continued for a time before the sound stopped completely.

"It's quite unfortunate, but this is life," Keane said softly as he walked away, melding with the darkness. "Next time, make the right choice when choosing a side."

On another part of the battlefield, something similar was happening as soldiers found themselves being cut apart by nearly invisible threads that were as sharp as a sword blade.

Val stood on top of a tree branch and spun silky spider threads in his surroundings, creating a lethal trap for the Soldiers who had lost their sense of direction.

A man who was running at full speed was sliced in half upon unknowingly meeting the deathtrap that was created by one of the most narcissistic young men from the Six Kingdoms.

If not for the fact that he could transform into an abominable Spider Monster, girls would definitely flock to him due to how handsome he was.

Unfortunately, upon seeing his true form at the Tournament, all of them realized that Val might eat them for lunch if they annoyed him by accident.

The sound of trees falling to the ground spread in the surroundings as two war axes mowed down the soldiers that were running away.

These war axes were like boomerangs that returned to the hands of the Barbarian Prince, who had a fearless smile on his face.

"It's been a while since I felt this way," Einar grinned. "I knew that joining Lux was a good idea."

Currently, the Barbarian was riding on top of a Saber Tooth Tiger, which was one of the four mounts he could summon.

"Let's go, we need to get more merit points in order to get better rewards," Einar urged his mount to pursue the fleeing Soldiers who had lost their chain of command.

Not far from him, panicked screams were heard as Soldiers from the Ammarian Army tried to zigzag through the trees in order to slow down the four-meter-tall Boar that was chasing after them without mercy.

"Stop! We're on the same side!" a teenage girl whose robes were stained with blood shouted as she tried to reason with the Boar who was charging straight at her. "I am one of Malcolm's Team members! Did you forget me?"



"No. I didn't forget you!" Cai shouted as it increased its speed. "It's because I know you that I'm taking you down first!"

"W-Why won't you understand our reason?! My superiors are watching you right now. Don't you fear their retribution?"

"I don't know the meaning of fear!" Cai shouted as it impaled the young lady's body with its tusk. "All I know is that all of you stand in my way, so Die!"

The young lady from the Skystead Alliance didn't die right away and suffered a very painful death as Cai continued its relentless charge, impaling the fleeing Soldiers who had lost their will to fight.

"I'm Charging!" Cai roared as it continued to pick off the stragglers who had been left behind by their comrades.

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From above the sky of the Woodlands...

"Boom Boom Boom!"

"Boom Boom!"

Eiko and Fei Fei were throwing Blast Bombs from the sky. They weren't aiming at anything in particular but simply throwing Blast Bombs everywhere because Lux had ordered them to do so.

The Half-Elf, on the other hand, was also using his skill, Corpse Explosion, and detonating the corpses that Sid, and his Undead Minions had buried earlier.

Although General Phobus, and Second, had their share of Lux's destructive ability, they were wearing protective artifacts that mitigated the damage they received, so they only suffered very minor injuries.

Although Lux was a bit disappointed about this outcome, he also understood that he had already done his best.

'I'll just delay their retreat so that General Fahad can catch up to them,' Lux thought. 'They're also almost out of the woodlands. That is where the real battle will start.'

Bedivere navigated his mount to soar higher in the sky as they prepared to intercept General Phobus and Second the moment they left the woodlands.

Although their opponents were Rankers, they couldn't do anything to them if they were outside their strike range.

Lux, Bedivere, Eiko, and Fei Fei, on the other hand, had skills that could harass them from the sky.

He had ordered his team to not fight against General Phobus and Second because the Vice-General could easily kill them without giving them a chance to fight back.

Because of this, the others just focused on the Ammarian Soldiers, as well as the members of the different Factions that had initially entered the Sacred Dungeon with them.

Lux had assigned Sid to look after Henrietta and assigned Ishtar to look after Cai.

He was worried that the two would get carried away, despite the fact that their Ranks had degraded back to Grade A Apostle, just to make sure that the two would not accidentally die, he ordered his two subordinates to keep track of their actions.

The Great Flame Skull, Lazarus, also had a role and that was to support Keane, Einar, and Val, if they needed it.

But for the most part, he kept himself well hidden, as he blinked from tree to tree, waiting for the right time to strike to lend them his assistance.

Lux had prepared other Trump Cards beforehand, and he was only waiting for the right opportunity to use them.

He believed that if he allowed General Phobus and Second to escape tonight, the opportunity to kill the two of them would slip away from his hands for good.

## **Chapter 463: This Time, I Won't Lose To You**

"Just what is happening, Second?!" General Phobus asked as he urged his mount to retreat as fast as he could. "Aren't the Woodlands under our control?!"

After capturing the Yelan Army's headquarters during their night raid several days ago, General Phobus' confidence reached its peak. He was certain that before the week was over, he would finally be able to get rid of the Yelan Army and reclaim one of the towns that used to belong to their nation.

He could already imagine getting the most merits in the war. General Phobus was sure that his family would shower him with praises, and his achievement would allow their clan to rise above the rest and to be given accolades from the Royal Family.

Unfortunately, this dream was shattered a few minutes ago when explosions started to erupt all around them, breaking their formation, as well as forcing them to give the order to retreat.

As much as General Phobus and Second wanted to regain law and order, it was simply not possible due to the fact that anyone who stood a few meters from another, would be caught up in the corpse explosions, further expanding the destruction and death that was sweeping through the Woodlands.

Before everyone went to full retreat, Second only gave one order and that was to scatter!

That was the only order that everyone followed, because it was the only thing they could do. To a certain extent, it worked.

However, Lux had also anticipated this move, so he detonated the corpses that had been buried all over the woodlands, killing as many people as possible, and expanding the "Corpse Explosion" area of effect.

"I have heard about this strategy before," Second replied. "This was how General Moriarty was defeated in the Kingdom's previous campaign. I didn't think that it would reappear on our battlefield."

General Phobus' face paled because he finally remembered what his father had said about Moriarty's latest defeat. According to the few survivors that managed to escape that horrifying ordeal, the Yelan Army detonated the corpses of their own men in order to wipe out General Moriarty's army.

The soldiers doubted the credibility of this news, but the generals of the Ammarian Kingdom took it seriously.

Because of this, they had added several powerful Clerics to the ranks of the battlefield at the Great Plains, allowing them to study the real method that the Yelan Army had used back then.

However, the technique that the Yelan Army had used to defeat General Moriarty never appeared again, causing them to almost forget it.

General Phobus finally understood what they were up against, and it made him hold the reins of his mount tighter.

"Necromancer," General Phobus hissed.

Second nodded. "For now, our priority is to escape. As long as we can make it back to our Main Camp, we will be able to reorganize our troops."

"We are almost out of the Woodlands now," General Phobus said. "Just a little more."

A minute later, General Phobus' and Second's mounts broke through the Woodlands, allowing them to run in an open field.

However, before the General could feel relieved, his Second in Command pushed him off of his mount, making him fall to the ground.

Before General Phobus could even curse at his right-hand man and ask him what the hell he was doing, three Dragon Breaths descended from the sky and incinerated his mount, making the Great Tiger roar in pain.

The Great Tiger was a Rank 5 Alpha Monster, so it didn't die from the three Dragon Breaths. However, it was seriously injured, making it roar angrily towards the sky.

If its attackers were only within its strike range, it would have already attacked them without holding back.

"Master, you are amazing," Bedivere said. "You ordered us to aim at the Mount because you anticipated that General Phobus would be saved by his subordinate, right?"

"... Not really— I mean, yes, It is all part of the plan," Lux replied as he gazed at the ground. 'I just thought that General Phobus might be wearing protective charms just like General Moriarty had been back then, preventing us from landing a killing blow. Since that was the case, dealing with the mount was the best way to delay his escape, allowing General Fahad to catch up to them.'

Second narrowed his eyes as he looked up at the sky.

He specialized in close combat, and although he had a ranged ability, their enemy was outside of his strike range.

Lux looked down on the Vice-General who had killed him with a solemn expression on his face. There were times when he would remember that moment of dying so vividly that he would recreate it over and over in his head, trying to think of a way to prevent it from happening.

However, no matter what countermeasures he thought of, they were not enough to surpass the difference in rank, as well as the Vice-General's uncanny speed, which had given him no time to react whatsoever.

Because of this, he was very wary of Second and only dared to fight him in a way that his sword would fail to reach him.

"Eiko, Fei Fei, Do it!" Lux ordered.

Immediately, the two baby Slimes started throwing their Blast Bombs.

Just like Lux's earlier order, it didn't matter if they hit their targets or not. What they need to do is create a sense of tension, delaying General Phobus', as well as Second's escape.

From the sky, the Half-Elf could see General Fahad's elite cavalry unit closing in on the two Generals.

According to their earlier agreement, Lux would stall General Phobus' and Second's escape, while General Fahad and his men would send an elite unit to pursue them, leaving the retreating Ammarian Soldiers to the other commanders of his army.

Their goal was to capture or kill the General and Vice General, in order to finally end the battle on the Eastern Front.

Just as Bedivere was about to circle in the sky to make another attempt for a Dragon's Breath, a black lightning bolt shot out from the woodland, almost hitting his dragon mount.

Fortunately, the Dragon Knight's sixth sense was able to warn him of the sneak attack from behind, allowing him to maneuver his mount at the last second in order to evade it.

Lux shifted his gaze in the direction where the black lightning bolt came from and narrowed his eyes.

"Nero...", Lux muttered when he saw the Guild Master of the Storm Dragon's Guild.

The last time they fought was during the tournament, and the two of them had not had any interactions with each other, save the last time they'd come to the Dungeon.

Lux had been busy creating his Guild, while Nero had dedicated himself to getting stronger.

"So, you're still alive," Nero said as black lightning bolts snaked around his hands, and arms. "This time, I won't lose to you."

The strongest member of the young generation from Wildgarde Stronghold, who used to look down on Lux, was now looking up at him.

To this day, he didn't know how the sickly Half-Elf was able to become strong and beat him in the tournament.

However, that was no longer important to him.

Now that an opportunity had come for him to legitimately fight him again, the proud Guild Master of the Storm Dragon's Guild decided to personally kill the Half-Elf, and end his heart's demon once and for all.

## **Chapter 464: I'll Just Leave The Rest To Them**

"Master, what are we going to do?" Bedivere asked. "That kid means business."

Lux frowned. He knew that Nero could potentially make them fall from the sky with his long range attacks.

The Touch of the Abyss could be resisted by Dragons to a certain extent, but Bedivere was riding on a young Dragon, and he didn't know if the flying mount could withstand a full powered lightning bolt that came from an Initiate.

"Go higher," Lux ordered. "Our goal is not to fight him. I'll deal with his lightning bolts, so you continue harassing the Generals.

Bedivere heeded his Master's orders and urged his Dragon Mount to fly higher in the sky. Seeing that Lux had no intention to fight him, Nero fired consecutive lightning bolts at the Dragon in an attempt to hit its wings to make it fall to the ground.

However, Lux countered his lightning bolts with his Elemental Shield, as well as Spinning Blades.

Just as Nero was about to fire another lightning bolt at the Dragon in the sky, he suddenly stopped his attack and jumped to the side.

It was at that moment when a blazing arrow landed on the place where he once stood and exploded.

However, it was not over yet. While Nero was in mid-air, he saw a Great Flame Skull appear in front of him with its mouth wide open.

A moment later, a blast of freezing air erupted in the surroundings sending ice crystals everywhere.

However, Nero had transformed his body into a black lightning bolt, and barely evaded the surprise attack that came out of nowhere.

Seeing that his attack had missed his target, Lazarus blinked away, while Ishtar merged with the shadows.

They would not allow anyone to get in the way of their Master, so the two decided to team up and bring Nero down for good.

Seeing that he was unable to continue attacking the Half-Elf, Nero decisively left the scene to escape.

The Guild Master of the Storm Dragon's Guild had sensed that a powerful ranker was approaching him from behind and guessed that it was the enemy's General that was heading in his direction.

Since that was the case, he prioritized escaping over attacking the Half-Elf.

He had seen how Lux was killed by the Vice General and vowed to himself that he wouldn't die in the same manner.

However, before he left, he gave the Half-Elf one last glance, and to his surprise, the Half-Elf was also looking straight at him.

"Next time," Nero said before turning into a black lightning bolt and escaping far away.

Lux glanced in the direction Nero had escaped to and nodded his head.

"Next time, you will not be able to escape," Lux said before shifting his attention to General Phobus, who was now riding Second's warhorse.

The Vice-General was simply running beside the mount, using his speed to keep up with it.

"Such a loyal person," Bedivere said. "That trait is very rare even among the retainers of High-Ranking nobles in the Vahan Empire."

"Is it?" Lux asked with curiosity.

"Yes," Bedivere replied. "I was once like him, but in the end, I was betrayed by my own Liege. I'm guessing he is born of common birth, or his family is a retainer of Phobus' family. That is the only reason I can think of why a man of his caliber is sticking with that failure of a General."

"I plan to kill him though."

"That will be better, Master. If you can make him part of your covenant, you will have another strategist aside from Asmodeus."

"... I'll consider it."

Lux had indeed wanted to kill Second, but he never thought of adding him to his Necromancer Covenant. Now that Bedivere had brought it up, the Half-Elf was starting to think that it was not a bad idea.



Eiko, who was on top of Lux's head, narrowed her gaze as she looked at the Vice General, who was running alongside the warhorse that was carrying General Phobus.

She could still remember how Second killed her Papa, and it made her very distraught. Although she fared better than Fei Fei, deep inside, Eiko carried a deep seated grudge against the person that killed one of the most important people in her life.

"Master, if this continues, I think they will be able to escape," Bedivere frowned as they pursued the fleeing general.

"Don't worry," Lux said as he summoned Pazuzu and Orion. "He won't be going anywhere."

The Jade Golem descended from the sky and crashed towards the ground like a meteor.

Pazuzu on the other hand, dove down from the sky and pointed his spiked mace at General Phobus who was riding on top of the warhorse.

"Duel [EX]!"

General Phobus suddenly felt a strong pull coming from behind him. Although his hands were firmly holding the reins of his mount, he could feel his body sliding off the horse's body.

Finally, as if his body had a mind of its own, the Great General slid off the horse's back before turning around to run in Pazuzu's direction.

"You bastard!" General Phobus summoned his lance and swung it against the Fortress Defenders, who had activated his Shield Wall ability.

The giant blue tower shield clashed against General Phobus' strike and shattered like a wine glass getting hit by a baseball bat. The momentum of the strike didn't pause and smashed against the shield in Pazuzu's hand, sending the Fortress Defender flying.

The Fortress Defender's body didn't even manage to land on the ground before turning into particles of light.

Although General Phobus was a Fake Ranker, he was still a Ranker, and his stats easily overwhelmed the Demonic Defender, who served as the Tanker in Lux's Undead Army.

'Sorry Pazuzu,' Lux said in his heart. 'I thought that only Second was a threat, but I guess General Phobus' stats are similar or even higher than him.'

Orion, who saw one of his comrades dying with a single strike, remained firm as he prepared his strongest attack.

"Duel [EX]!"

Lux's Jade Golemn also activated his taunt skill, forcing General Phobus to exchange one blow with him.

"You puny insects!" General Phobus roared in anger as he once again swung his lance with his full power. "Stop messing with me!"

Orion didn't back away and unleashed his strongest attack without holding back.

"Gaia Smash!" Orion shouted.

A moment later, the lance, and the giant jade fist collided with each other, sending a shockwave in their surroundings.

General Phobus grunted as he was forced to take one step back due to the force behind Orion's blow.

Orion's right hand and arm broke apart, but the latter ignored it and raised his left fist to punch General Phobus' face.

But, before he could do that, Second appeared in front of him and slashed his sword down.

Lux's expression became grim when he saw Orion's body cut cleanly in half by the Vice General, who had come to his Lord's aid.

Two of his Named Creatures died so easily, showing him how powerful Rankers truly were.

Fortunately, although Pazuzu and Orion died, they were able to complete their mission.

Bedivere's Dragon Mount had unleashed a Dragon Breath, and burned the Warhorse that the General was using as his mount.

Now that their means of travel was dead, their escape would be significantly slowed down.

Suddenly, the sound of dozens of hooves galloping from the Woodlands was heard.

"Finally, they're here," Lux said with relief as General Fahad and his Elite unit emerged from the Woodlands, making General Phobus' expression become extremely pale.

"We finally met, Phobus!" General Fahad roared as he and his soldiers charged towards the flustered General.

"Get behind me, My Lord," Second said as he stood in front of General Phobus with a fearless expression on his face. "Since the enemy General has delivered himself to us, this is a good opportunity for us to take his head."

"Hah! Take it if you can!" General Fahad sneered. "Benjamin, you take care of Phobus. I'll handle this man."

"Yes, General," His right-hand man, Benjamin replied.

General Fahad could sense that the man protecting General Phobus was very strong, so he decided to take him on himself.

Lux, who had done his part, summoned his Soul Book.

The Half-Elf had merged his Map Projector with his Elysium Compendium, and merged the compendium with his Soul Book.

Although the Compendium had a built-in map, the Map Projector which was a Pseudo-Legendary Item that Sherlock had given him in the past had a wider range.

Lux had marked Nero in his Map, and could see that the latter was slowly circling his way back to the battlefield.

The Half-Elf knew what the latter was planning and that was to launch a sneak attack on General Fahad or his Aid, Benjamin, in order to give General Phobus and Second an advantage.

If one of the Rankers of the Yelan Army was taken down, the other Ranker would die not long after.

This development would overturn all the efforts they had made in the war, and it was something that Lux wouldn't allow.

"What a troublesome opponent," Lux thought as he asked Bedivere to fly in Nero's direction.

He would personally deal with this variable first and prevent anyone from changing the outcome of the war.

As for whether General Fahad would be able to beat Second, or whether Benjamin would be able to beat General Phobus, this was no longer in his hands.

'They're still out there, so I'll just leave the rest to them,' Lux thought as he gazed in the direction where Nero was hiding.

He was not fighting this war alone.

He had comrades who were very capable individuals.

Although their ranks had degraded back to the Apostle Grade, he believed that Cai, Keane, and the others would not let the chance of getting the last hit on General Phobus slip through their fingers.

After all, the rewards they would gain for defeating a General was something that would allow them to regain what they had lost after being killed by the Vice General, who was currently exchanging deadly blows with the General of the Yelan Army.

## **Chapter 465: Because You're Not Me**

"Is that the ability that allowed you to conquer the other gates as well?" Nero asked as he looked at the Dragon that was hovering above his head.

"Who knows?" Lux replied as he jumped off the Dragon's back and landed several meters away from Nero.

Nero grabbed the artifact that allowed others to see the things he saw and heard from his chest, and crushed it. This was to ensure that no one would see what was going to happen next.

"I've always hated you, Lux. You were only able to reach your current rank because you were born lucky," Nero stated. "Your grandma fished you out of the river, and brought you back to Wildgarde Stronghold to raise. Despite the fact that you were a cripple, she still loved you and treated you like family.

"If you weren't there in the tournament, Iris' fiance would have definitely been me. I would have become the Saint's son-in-law and my future would have been limitless. Having beauty, power, and influence by my side, my rise was guaranteed... and yet, all of that disappeared because of your existence."

Lux smirked and clapped his hands after hearing Nero's words.

"Salty much?" Lux asked after clapping a few times.

"You bastard Half-Elf. You have no idea on what it's like to be born a commoner." Nero clenched his fists making crackling sounds as he glared at the Half-Elf in front of him. "You do not know how many times I had to bow my head just to get the chance to enter Elysium. Someone as lucky as you won't understand my hardships. If only you didn't exist! Everything you have now should have been mine!"

Dark mists surrounded Nero's body as the power of Abyss took hold of his heart.

Lux knew full well what it was like to be consumed by such power because he had experienced it firsthand in the past. If not for the fact that Keoza had appeared to save him, he might have already lost his mind and become an Abyssal Monster who only wanted to destroy everything around him.

But, although Nero was tapping into the Power of the Abyss, he didn't allow himself to be consumed by it completely.

After being defeated by Lux, the Guildmaster of the Storm Dragon's Guild, trained tirelessly to control his Abyssal Powers, allowing him to only draw the power he needed, without falling into corruption.

'It seems that Sir Rainer taught him to control his Abyssal Powers well,' Lux thought as he looked at Nero whose strength had drastically increased. 'This is going to be a bit troublesome.'

Those who chose to wield the power of the Abyss knew the risk of gaining such a power. Because of this, they would train themselves to resist falling into temptation, and only draw out the power they needed.

Although the seed of the Abyss had taken root deep in Nero's heart, he still hadn't forgotten his ambitions to become the strongest among the young generation.

And for that to happen, he would have to slay the Half-Elf in front of him, in order to break free of his heart's demon.

"Before I kill you, tell me one thing." Nero growled. "When you died, did your Rank deteriorate?"

"Yes," Lux replied as he coated his body with his personal Battle Regalia that he had used when he fought against Nero in the tournament. "This will be enough of a handicap to fight against you."

"Don't think I'll show you mercy just because you are weaker than me."

"Weaker? What a joke. If you want to fight then let's fight."

Lux didn't care if his rank was now a realm lower than Nero.

He wasn't the same Half-Elf that would always faint just because his body had reached its limit. Things had changed since he entered Elysium, and right now, although Nero's Rank was higher than him, that didn't mean that the brown-haired boy could overpower him.

Afterall, his profession was a Necromancer, and his body constitution was the Immortal Dragon Conqueror's Legacy.

"Master, do you need help?" Bedivere asked.

"No," Lux replied. "Just keep a lookout in the surroundings and prevent anyone from interfering with our battle."

Bedivere nodded. "Understood."

Lux and Nero stared at each other for nearly half a minute before both of them took a step forward, and charged at each other.

Nero transformed into a black lightning bolt and reappeared in front of Lux, delivering a punch clad with lightning to the Half-Elf's chest.

Lux didn't back away and transformed his hands into dragon claws, and punched Nero as well.

Two resounding thuds spread in the surroundings as both of their attacks connected with each other's bodies.

Both of them could have dodged each other's attacks if they wanted to, but both of them wanted to prove something and that was they were not afraid to take a hit from the person they wanted to defeat.

Both took a step back, but soon recovered to strike against their enemy a second time.

Nero, who thought that Lux would suffer tremendous damage from his attack, was surprised that the Half-Elf was still standing, and managed to strike back at him as well.

Both of them had the power of the Abyss, and their attacks could easily bypass almost all defenses, dealing direct damage to the soul.

As the two exchanged several more blows without even bothering to block or evade them, their bodies started to accumulate damage over time.

However, in the end, it was Nero who broke away first as he distanced himself from Lux as he clutched his chest with a hand.

"H-How?" Nero asked as blood spilled from the corner of his lips. "You're only at the Apostle Rank, and I'm at the Initiate Rank. How are you able to endure my attacks?!"

Lux wiped the blood that had also spilled from the corner of his lips with the back of his hand as he looked at his adversary who had a shocked expression on his face.

"Because you're not Me," Lux replied. "Lucky? Yes. I consider myself lucky. I was raised with love despite my weak body constitution. Do you know how

much I envied you back then? You were the strongest teenager in Wildgarde Stronghold and everyone looked up to you.

"There were days when I wished I was you, but I never felt salty about it. All I did was constantly train myself, so that one day, I would also get a chance to visit Elysium, and make my grandma proud of me."

Lux wanted to say that he and Nero were different not because his rank was higher than his, but because their constitution was different from each other.

An Initiate was equivalent to a Rank 5 Monster. However, even among monsters of the same Rank, there were vast differences between them, especially when it came to the type of Monster they were.

A Rank 5 Dragon was very different from a Human that had achieved the Initiate Rank. Although they were of the same Rank, the Dragon was still superior because of its race.

Also, Dragons, and other mythical creatures were very resistant to the attack of the Abyss. Not to mention, Lux's Health and defense was higher than Nero's because of the boosts he got from his Passive Skills, Dragon's Heart [EX], and Dragon Scale [EX].

-----

< Dragon Scale [EX] >

- Makes your skin as hard as dragon scales.
- Greatly Increase Physical and Magical defense as if you are wearing a set of armor that covers your entire body.
- Reduces Physical and Magical damage by 50%

----

< Dragon's Heart [EX] >

- Increase your Health by 30,000 Points
- Increase Health and Stamina regeneration by 100%



– When facing an opponent stronger than you, Health and Stamina regeneration will be boosted to 200% Health and Stamina regeneration.

– Gain Selective Lesser Immunity passive ability. You may only choose one Lesser Immunity Passive. Once you do, you can no longer change the passive immunity that you have chosen.

—

< Selective Lesser Immunity >

– Greatly gain increased resistance to chosen Lesser Immunity.

– Chosen Lesser Immunity will automatically decrease the damage you will receive from the chosen option by 30%

< Chosen Lesser Immunity: Physical Attacks >

– All damage acquired from physical attacks will automatically be decreased by 30%

-----

Even if the two of them were to fight a slugfest, Lux's Abyss Touch dealt more damage to Nero because the latter had no way of countering its effects.

If Lux's remaining Health Points were in the 100's, Nero's Health was down to the 30's.

This was the difference in their body constitution, allowing Lux to have the upper hand in close combat.

## **Chapter 466: Those Who Carry A Grudge**

In truth, Lux was happy that Nero destroyed the artifact on his chest because this was something that he didn't want others to see. As a Necromancer, everyone thought that they could easily take them out if they managed to isolate him away from his Summons.

What they didn't know was that Lux was just as deadly as his Summons because he wasn't a frail mage that would die just because someone punched him in the gut.

Even now, Lux's regeneration abilities were doing wonders to his body since the opponent he was facing had a higher rank than him.

Nero couldn't believe that, since his Rank was higher than Lux's, the latter was able to last longer than him.

"You still want to continue?" Lux asked in a teasing tone. "I can do this all day."

Although the Half-Elf was smiling, his body was wracked with pain. However, seeing the disbelief on Nero's face was enough for him to break into a smile despite his suffering.

"You and I now stand at opposite sides," Nero replied. "We have nothing to talk about. Only one side can win, and that will be me!"

Nero unleashed a powerful aura, which made Lux take a fighting stance in order to counter it. However, just as he thought that Nero was going to attack him, the latter decisively ran away, leaving him behind.

"..."

When Nero escaped the first time, Lux didn't think much about it because General Fahad had almost arrived in his location.

However, this time, his enemy decisively left the battlefield until he could no longer see Nero's blinking dot on the map of his Soul Book.

"I guess the damage to his soul is significant enough for him to retreat," Lux muttered. "Our ability to control the Power of the Abyss depends on our mood, as well as the state of our body. Since he took all my blows head-on, his soul must have been seriously injured, making him unable to keep the Power of the Abyss from overwhelming his senses."

"He decisively chose to retreat instead of continuing to fight me because he was afraid he would lose control and fall into Abyssal Corruption. It seems that he also received injury from my Corpse Explosion and was already suffering from internal injuries before our battle."

In truth, Lux was surprised because Nero's blows earlier weren't as strong as he expected. His movements were also a bit sluggish and he only compensated them by using the power of the Abyss, allowing him to fight despite his injuries.

"... I should have used Duel [EX]." Lux scratched his head at the unexpected outcome of his battle with Nero.

"Master, are you alright?" Bedivere asked as soon as his Dragon mount landed on the ground.

"Pa!" Eiko shouted before jumping on top of Lux's head, making sure that he was alright.

"I'm fine," Lux replied. "Let's go back to the battlefield, I want to see how everyone is doin—"

-----

< Ding! >

< Cai has managed to deal the finishing blow to General Phobus. >

< Secondary Quest >

– Killing Lions

Number of Enemy Generals Killed: 1

< Rewards >

– 1 Million Gold Coins - (Sent Directly to your Inventory)

– One Pseudo-Legendary Equipment of your choice - (Go and look for Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock to receive your rewards.)

-----

"... Good job Cai."

For some reason, Lux wasn't surprised that Cai was the one that managed to deal the killing blow to General Phobus.

He always thought that the Boar's luck was only a rank or two, lower than Iris', allowing it to gain many great opportunities whenever the two of them were together.

However, General Phobus was not Lux's major concern.

It was none other than the Vice General, who was the true mastermind behind the campaign on the Eastern Front.

As long as Second wasn't killed, the Half-Elf wouldn't be able to rest easy, so he hurriedly jumped on the Dragon's back, and urged Bedivere to fly back to where they left General Fahad and the others.

He might have allowed Nero to escape, but there was no way in hell that he would allow the Vice General to see tomorrow's sunrise.

His only regret was that he was unable to pinpoint the Vice General's location on the map, which was filled with red blinking dots regardless of where he looked.

-----

Several minutes before Lux and Nero fought against each other...

"Surrender, Phobus," Benjamin, who served as General Fahad's second in command said after he and General Phobus exchanged blows.

On the first strike alone, Benjamin already understood that although General Phobus was a Ranker, he was no match against him.

"Surrender?" General Phobus sneered. "I am Phobus of the Farbridge Family! I will never surrender!"

"Is that so?" Benjamin returned General Phobus' sneer with his own. "Very well, I will accept your head with gratitude. Now die!"

Benjamin was an expert Spear Master that had fought countless campaigns against the Vahan Empire.

For him, dealing with General Phobus wasn't a difficult thing. At least, that was what he thought at the beginning.

However, the longer they fought, the more Benjamin realized that his opponent had many powerful artifacts, protecting him from getting fatally injured.

In fact, due to General Phobus knowing that he would be able to withstand his enemy's killing blows, he allowed Benjamin to hit him, while he counterattacked using his Halberd, drawing blood each time he traded blows with the Spear Master.

"Despicable," Benjamin said as he backed away, while his right shoulder bled after being grazed by General Phobus counterattack.

Second, who was paying close attention to General Phobus' battle was almost blown away by General Fahad's strike due to not focusing on his own battle.

"Interesting, you still find the leeway to worry about your General despite the fact that you are fighting me," General Fahad said as he gripped his sword tightly. "I don't know if that is because you're that confident in your skill, or you think too lowly of me."

Second didn't reply and simply delivered a deadly strike to his opponent, forcing the latter to block it.

General Fahad was confident in his strength, but his opponent excelled in speed, making it difficult for him to land a decisive blow each time the two of them clashed.

The General of the Yelan Army didn't want to admit it, but his opponent was slightly stronger than him, giving him a very hard time.

While all of this was happening, a certain boar—that was only two-feet tall—was sneakily making its way behind General Phobus, using the shrubs in the surroundings as cover.

It knew that if it charged recklessly at its target, it would probably be sliced in half, and end up getting kicked out of the Dungeon, losing the opportunity to make a comeback.

Cai planted its front legs firmly on the ground and waited for the right opportunity to strike.

On the outside, many people thought that Cai was annoying, shameless, obnoxious, thick skinned, as well as an idiot. But that was only the persona it used to hide its true self.

However, if that was what it truly was, it would have never become one of Iris' best friends.

As the boar gazed at the battle waiting for an opportunity to strike, it was also paying close attention to General Phobus' reaction time.

The way he fought, as well as the smallest mannerism that even General Phobus wasn't aware he had, Cai was able to see it as clear as day, allowing it to make a detailed plan in its mind where to land a decisive strike on its target.

"Keane, strike on my signal," Cai said through their guild chat, informing the skinny swordsman that was hiding in the distance to prepare his strongest attack.

"Okay," Keane replied as he took a deep breath and lowered his body into a stance that would allow him to draw his sword in one fluid motion.

He could only use this attack once a day because it not only drained all of his stamina, it also exerted a great toll on his muscles, leaving his entire body feeling as heavy as lead.

All the noise in his surroundings disappeared, as if he was the only being in existence. His eyes locked onto General Phobus' body, as he waited for Cai's signal to strike.

He, as well as the others, knew that interfering with the battle between the Generals wasn't the right thing to do.

However, they weren't there to be honorable.

What they wanted was to win and, although they would gain infamy for what they were about to do, they were fine with it as long as they achieved their goal.

"Die Mongrel!" General Phobus shouted as he delivered a killing blow towards Benjamin, who had decided to take a gamble in order to overpower the

protective artifacts the General Phobus was wearing on his body, with his strongest attack.

Just as the two was about to clash, a faint yet confident voice, reached their ears, changing the outcome of the battle.

"Grand Void, First Ultimate Form...", Keane said softly as his thumb rested on the handle of his sword. "Splitting the Clouds!"

The skinny swordsman drew his sword so fast, that an invisible blade of air that was as fast as the speed of sound, sliced the trees in front of him in half, and traveled towards General Phobus, hitting his halberd, and making the Ranker lose his balance.

Benjamin, who had already thrust his spear towards his enemy, no longer had the leeway to pull back and simply continued his strike, with the intention of ending his enemy's life.

However, just as his attack hit General Phobus' chest, a metallic ring reverberated in the air, as one of the General's artifacts, shattered, saving his life from Benjamin's killing blow.

Even so, General Phobus still shouted in pain because even if his artifact blocked Benjamin's deadly strike, it failed to completely mitigate the force behind the attack completely.

Second, who saw all of this was about to go to General Phobus' aid when General Fahad blocked his path.

Just as the Vice General was about to force his way through his opponent to help his Lord, he saw something out of the corner of his eye that made his face turn pale.

A four-meter-tall White Boar, emerged from the bushes and impaled General Phobus' back with its deadly tusk, making the latter gasp in pain, and surprise, from the sudden attack that came from his blindspot.

Unfortunately, the General's Enchanted Armor was very tough, preventing Cai from embedding its tusk deep within the Ranker's body. However, it was enough.

After successfully sneak attacking its opponent, Cai tossed the General to the side and ran back towards the bushes in order to hide.

The General not dying from its attack was part of its calculation. But, Cai wasn't betting on its attack to kill General Phobus.

No, it had prepared a different tool to kill the General and that was none other than poison.

Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian, was very good at making medicine. However, the Saint also had other hobbies aside from crafting jewelry, weapons, and armor, and one of them was concocting poisons.

After giving the Sacred White Lotus to Maximilian, in order to make a cure for the Purple Plague that ravished the borders of the Six Kingdoms, the Saint gave Cai a poison that was effective against a Ranker.

However, it was only a miniscule amount. What it did was slowly paralyze the Ranker's body, preventing them from even lifting a finger.

Although it wasn't fatal, it was very effective.

General Phobus, who was preparing to continue his fight against Benjamin, noticed that his movements were starting to become sluggish.

A minute later, he was having trouble lifting his weapon because his hands were no longer listening to him.

Finally, General Phobus grunted as he fell face first to the ground, unable to overcome the paralysis that had spread throughout his entire body.

Cai, who was watching this scene from its hiding place, didn't do anything reckless, and simply applied the remaining poison on its tusk.

Just like Lux, it knew that General Phobus wasn't the greatest threat in the battle.

Now that one of their opponents was down for the count, it locked its eyes on the Vice General, who had killed it, and made its baby Slime, Fei Fei, cry.

If there was one area where Cai and Lux were alike, it was that they both carried grudges.



And Cai would definitely not be able to sleep properly, until it had managed to have its revenge on the enemy who made it lose its stats and money.

## Chapter 467: Any Last Words?

With General Phobus incapacitated, General Fahad and Benjamin focused all their attention to the Vice General of the Ammarian Army.

Everyone knew that as long as Second was killed, the campaign on the Eastern Front would finally end.

"Surrender now, or prepare to fight us both," Benjamin said.

"That's right," General Fahad stated. "The outcome is already decided. There's no need for you to die."

Second gave General Phobus' body a side-long glance before shifting his attention to the two Rankers who were in front and behind him.

He knew that if he said no, the two Rankers would attack him at the same time in an attempt to kill him.

However, instead of feeling anxious, the Vice General of the Ammarian Army chuckled as if he found the situation funny.

"If you think you can kill me, then go ahead and try," Second replied. "I'd like to see how the two of you can put me down together."

"Arrogant fool!" Benjamin shouted. "Since you're courting death, then we will give it to you!"

General Fahad and Benjamin exchanged glances, and both of them charged at Second at the same time.

Brandishing their weapons together, they planned to use a coordinated attack to leave Second with no room to evade, allowing them to cut him down.

However, something unexpected happened.

Their attacks missed their target because Second jumped high up in the air. The Vice General of the Ammarian Army then held his sword with both hands before swinging it down with his full power.

"Rend my foes to oblivion!" Second roared. "Blade of the Forsaken!"

The sword in Second's hand turned crimson just before he swung it towards the two Rankers on the ground, unleashing several crimson wind blades that could instantly cut Rank 5 Monsters to shreds.

Benjamin and General Fahad had no choice but to take a defensive stance and block the incoming strikes, or else both of them would be seriously injured.

As soon as Second landed on the ground, he dashed in the direction where General Phobus lay helpless, only to find that his Lord's body had suddenly vanished.

Benjamin and General Fahad, who managed to block Second's attack, had noticed what their enemy was planning to do. However, just like the Vice General, both of them were surprised to see General Phobus' body no longer in the place where he laid earlier.

-----

Over a hundred meters away from where Second and the two Rankers were fighting.

General Phobus hatefully glared at the teenagers who had bound his hands and legs with spider webs.

His mouth was also sealed shut by a thick web, preventing him from making any sound.

"Xander, take all of his artifacts," Cai ordered. "Make sure to not leave anything behind. We will split it evenly later."

"Understood," Xander obediently took away all valuable items belonging to the Ammarian General including his clothes, leaving him with only his pants.

The General's entire body was paralyzed, so even though he wanted to strangle the weaklings who were taking away all of his valuables, he couldn't do anything to them.

"So, who wants to kill him?" Cai asked. "It doesn't matter who lands the final blow. We all get the same rewards anyway."

The teenagers glanced at each other before looking at Cai.

"It is beneath me to kill someone who is incapable of defending themselves," Keane stated.

In truth, he said that to cover the fact that he could not use his sword arm for the remainder of the day as a consequence for using an attack that exceeded his current strength. Right now, his arm was numb and a bit swollen.

If Keane were to force himself to attack, it was possible that his bones would break, making him unable to wield his sword again for a very long time.

"I am a Barbarian, I like a good fight," Einar replied. "But this? Although he is my enemy, I don't like to bring dishonor to my family name."

Val, who was currently in his Giant Spider Form, raised his front legs and made an X gesture, informing Cai that he didn't want to do it either.

Cai then glanced at Henrietta and Malcolm, but both of them shook their heads.

Clearly, they also didn't want to deal the final blow to General Phobus, who couldn't even lift a finger to stop them.

"Fine, I'll do it," Cai said as its body started to grow bigger. "Second Gear..."

"Hildisvíni!"

A four-meter tall black boar with silvery tusks and crimson eyes appeared in front of everyone.

Val manipulated his webs so that General Phobus' body would rise to the ground and hang in front of Cai, whose deadly tusks were coated with the Poison that was meant to cripple Rankers.

"Any last words?" Cai asked.

General Phobus glared at the annoying Boar before shouting with all of his might.

However, due to the web covering his lips, the Ranker could only let out undecipherable muffled words, which made Cai nod its head in understanding.

"I gave you a chance to say your last words, and yet you didn't use it well," Cai stated. "Pathetic."

The spider web covering the General's lips became red as the latter vomited blood due to Cai's insult. He had tried to say something, but since his mouth was covered, his message couldn't be conveyed to anyone.

However, despite knowing all of this, the Boar still said that he was pathetic?

These words made the Proud General of the Ammarian Army vomit blood. Cai's antics were simply aggravating.

When he was given the opportunity to say his last words, he wanted to say that he would double whatever rewards the Yelan Army promised them as long as they spared his life.

Cai moved several meters away from the hanging general before turning around and prepared to charge.

"Goodbye, General Phobus," Cai said as it stomped its hoof to the ground and charged towards the helpless General whose eyes had already turned bloodshot. "May you find peace in the afterlife."

"I'm Charging!"

Cai impaled its tusk on the General's body, but due to his high stats, the first strike didn't kill him. The Boar wasn't fazed and continued to gorge his body over and over again.

Keane and the others frowned because they wanted to give General Phobus a quick death. However, since his rank was higher than them, their attacks were not strong enough to kill him in one strike.

They understood that Cai was doing its best to end the general's life as soon as possible and not to torture him to death, but since they were dealing with a

Ranker, whose body had already been refined above the standards of mortals, it still took the Boar several strikes before it was able to pierce the general's heart, and finally put him out of his misery.

Even the Rankers who were watching this scene from the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen winced, because they had imagined themselves to be in the same position as the General who finally took his last breath.

Xander's father, Hector, sighed in his heart as he looked at the Boar whose tusks were now covered in fresh blood.

None of them had wanted their High Priestess, who was loved by everyone in their tribe, to dirty her hands in such a manner.

But, this was the path that Cai chose, and their Chieftain had agreed to it.

Since that was the case, the only thing he could do was watch, and see with his own eyes, how far Cai would be able to go down the road she had chosen.

He wished with all of his heart that, at the end of Cai's journey, she would find the thing that she was looking for—the thing that would allow her to grow not only as an individual, but as the High-Priestess of their tribe that everyone could be proud of.

## Chapter 468: I Won't Die

Second gritted his teeth as he was slowly being pushed back by the two Rankers that were now going all out to kill him.

With every exchange was new injuries. The two Rankers weren't faring any better due to his sharp and precise strikes that drew blood whenever he counterattacked.

The elite soldiers who had accompanied General Fahad, and Benjamin in battle now focused their attention on the Ammarian Soldiers, who had now managed to break free from the woodlands, and were currently trying to regroup and reform their ranks.

The Ammarian Army had the advantage in numbers, so letting them regroup was something that they couldn't allow no matter what. Fortunately, Lux's one-

sided slaughter managed to bite a large chunk out of their forces, allowing the Yelaniums to gain the upper hand as they killed the panicking soldiers who were in disarray after losing their commanding officers.

A few minutes later, Lux arrived at the scene and saw the intense battle that was happening on the ground.

As much as he wanted to help General Fahad and Benjamin to fight against Second, he decided that it was best for him to not intervene.

Right now, all three Rankers were going all out.

Aware that even a stray attack could instantly kill an Apostle like him, he decided to just watch the battle from above while checking the whereabouts of Cai and the others with his Soul Book.

After locating them, Lux immediately messaged Cai and Keane through their Guild Chat and asked how Cai managed to kill General Phobus.

The Boar immediately replied and exaggerated the events that happened, making it look like she had fought a dozen General Phobuses single handedly.

It was at that moment when Lux realized that he had asked the wrong person.

"Keane, what happened?" Lux asked.

"Cai used some kind of poison that has the ability to paralyze Rankers," Keane answered. "When General Phobus lost the strength to move, Benjamin and General Fahad clashed with Second. Since their attention was on each other, we used that opportunity to snatch General Phobus under their noses.

"It was Val who dragged him with his spider web, and we took him away from the battlefield, so that Second and General Fahad would not discover us. Cai was the one who gave General Phobus the killing blow and ended his life, allowing us to get the gold rewards from our subquest."

Lux was quite amused about how things turned out, but the thing that caught his attention was the poison that could paralyze Rankers.

"Do you have more of that poison, Cai?" Lux asked.

"There's only a little bit left," Cai replied. "Do you plan to catch Second? Our quest only grants us rewards in killing Generals. I don't think we will get anything from killing him."

"It's fine. I only want his corpse. Do you still have General Phobus' corpse?"

"Yes. I stored it in my Bounty Ring. I know that you'll want to get his body since he is a Ranker."

Lux nodded his head in satisfaction after seeing Cai's reply. "Good job. All of you, return to the battlefield. We'll see if we can help General Fahad and Benjamin kill Second."

The Half-Elf narrowed his eyes as he looked at the battle that was still ongoing below him.

Although Second was at a disadvantage, the two Yelanian Rankers didn't underestimate him because he was truly a strong fighter.

Lux and the others also didn't underestimate him because he was the one that slaughtered them without even breaking a sweat.

"Cai, I have a plan," Lux stated. "However, it will be very risky. Since you have already coated your tusks with the poison, you are the only one that can cripple Second. If you fail, you will die and be kicked out of the Sacred Dungeon. Are you willing to take the risk?"

The Boar didn't reply right away as if weighing the pros and cons. A minute later, Cai finally made its decision and sent a message to the guild chat.

"Tell me about your plan first," Cai said. "I'll decide if I will accept it or not after hearing the details."

Lux didn't hold back and told Cai the details of the plan he had in mind. Keane, who was able to participate in their discussion frowned because the plan the Half-Elf proposed was indeed quite risky.

However, he had to admit that the chances of the plan succeeding was quite high.

"If you die, I promise to share half of whatever rewards I gain in this dungeon with you when the campaign is over," Lux promised.

"There's no need to share anything," Cai replied. "Because I won't die."

The Boar had analyzed Lux's plan step by step and saw nothing wrong with it.

Yes, there was risk involved, but the Boar was confident that it would be able to execute the plan perfectly.

"Feel free to stop if ever you feel that your life is in danger," Lux stated. "We can always start over, but losing you this early will be a big blow to our manpower."

"Relax," Cai commented. "I got this."

After finalizing their plan, Cai and the rest positioned themselves at the very edge of the woodlands, using the trees as cover.

Einar, Val, Xander, Henrietta, and Malcolm were spread out around Cai and Keane, who should be defended in this strategy.

Right now, the Swordsman could no longer fight, and Cai was the one that needed to deal the final blow.

Because of this, they were at the center of the formation, protected from all sides by their comrades, who had also been briefed on the plan that they were going to execute.

Lux once again shifted his attention to the battle that was happening on the ground.

What they planned to do was let General Fahad and Benjamin exhaust Second first, so that the Vice General wouldn't be able to react on time once they started their operation.

They couldn't afford to commit a single mistake. Because of this, everyone focused on the role they were going to play and ensure that Cai would be able to deliver the blow they needed, in order to incapacitate the Vice General, whose strength exceeded everyone on the battlefield.

## **Chapter 469: One Who Carried Grudges**



After clashing with General Fahad and Benjamin for a few minutes, Second realized that he was at a great disadvantage.

Even though he was slightly stronger than General Fahad, it was impossible for him to defeat two Rankers at the same time.

The only reason why he was able to last when up against two opponents was because of his speed that allowed him to avoid most of their attacks by a hair's breadth.

Even so, he still sustained some injuries because General Fahad and Benjamin realized that he was truly a threat that they needed to put down to prevent future problems from arising.

'I should just escape,' Second thought. 'Since Phobus' whereabouts are unknown, there is no reason for me to stay here anymore.'

Second assumed that because of Phobus' rank and position within the Ammarian Kingdom, the Yelan Army would spare him. Captured Generals during wartime were usually used as bargaining chips or used for ransom.

He hoped that the Yelan Army just took General Phobus' body away while he was distracted to prevent him from rescuing his Master.

Just as he was about to make his escape, he felt a powerful force pulling him towards the Jade Golem who had suddenly appeared dozens of meters away from the two Rankers, whom he wanted to escape from.

It was at that moment that a metallic ring reverberated in the surroundings as Second was forced to summon a shield in his left hand to block Benjamin's attack while parrying General Fahad's attack with his sword.

Lux had realized that some Rankers were able to resist the power of Duel [EX] to a certain extent, but in the end, they would still be forced to exchange blows with the one that cast the skill at them.

The Half-Elf was creating an opportunity for General Fahad and Benjamin to give Second grievous injuries while the latter was being distracted by his summons.

With an angry roar, Second unleashed a powerful aura, repelling the two Rankers who were still not aware of what was happening to their enemy.

The Vice General of the Ammarian Army realized that this was probably the same thing that happened to General Phobus earlier, which made him grit his teeth in anger.

"Damn you!" Second roared as he charged towards Orion, with the intention of cutting the Jade Golem in half.

The Jade Golem took one step backwards as he pulled his arm back in order to meet the Ranker using his strongest attack.

Lux, who was observing this battle in the air, sneered at the Ranker who was just a few meters away from Orion.

The Half-Elf knew that Orion would only be able to last for a short time after he and Second clashed. Because of this, Lux had decided to make the sacrifice of his Jade Golem count and placed a deadly trap for the Ranker whom they wanted to kill with every fiber of their being.

Beside the Jade Golem's feet, several Bone Bombs, as well as Blast bombs were ready, waiting to blast the Vice General of the Ammarian Army to oblivion.

"Eiko, Fei Fei, let's do it!" Lux ordered.

The two slimes activated their skills, synchronizing with the Half-Elf's order.

""""Boom Boom Boom!""""

Just before Second and Orion were about to clash, a powerful explosion that shook the battlefield erupted right under the Vice General's feet, making the latter suffer from serious injuries.

However, it didn't end there. Because his stance was disrupted by the explosions that happened under his feet, Orion's jade fist, smashed onto the side of Second's face, sending him flying.

Blood spilled from Second's lips as he flew backwards from the force of Orion's punch.

Just as he was about to land on the ground, he saw a White Boar charging in his direction from the corner of his eye.

'I won't let you!' Second's eyes turned bloodshot as he forcefully moved his right hand to slice the opportunistic Boar in half with his sword. However, his sword arm paused mid-air as he felt another strong attraction coming from his side.

Pazuzu had activated his Duel [EX], making Second pause in his attempt to strike the white Boar, who was charging straight at him while he was unable to move his body.

"I'm charging!" Cai roared as it collided with the Ranker's body, piercing its tusk through Second's armor and embedding it two inches deep inside the Vice General's body.

Cai tossed the Ranker upwards and continued to charge towards the Woodlands. It had already accomplished its goal, and it only needed to wait a short while for the poison to take effect.

'Sh\*t!' Second thought, realizing that this was the exact same thing that had happened to General Phobus earlier.

However, what happened to General Phobus was nothing compared to what happened to him next.

While Second was still in mid-air, a spear flew in his direction and pierced his back, making him cry out in pain.

He knew that if he didn't escape now, he would not have a chance to live another day.

As soon as his body crashed towards the ground, the Vice General immediately used his life saving artifact and disappeared from where he lay, making General Fahad, Benjamin, and Lux's comrades, curse the near-dead Ranker in their hearts.

""The bastard managed to escape!""

Lux opened up his Soul Book and tried to search for Second's whereabouts, but the map of the battlefield was too chaotic, showing red and green dots everywhere, making him unable to pinpoint the Vice-General's location.

"What a slippery opponent," Bedivere muttered as he circled in the air, hoping to catch a glimpse of their enemy who had vanished without a trace. "Master, your orders?"

Lux frowned before heaving a sigh.

"Let's eliminate the small fries for now," Lux replied. "Although their generals are no longer around, they are still a threat to the Yelan Army."

"Understood, My Lord." Bedivere nodded before maneuvering the Dragon towards the Woodlands where the most heated battle between the two forces were still underway.

General Fahad and Benjamin glanced at each other before heading the direction that Lux was going. Their men had sacrificed a lot in order for them to break through the enemy's formation, so they needed to help them eliminate as many enemies as they could in order to end the war on the Eastern Front of the Battlefield.

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A thousand meters under the earth...

The Vice General of the Ammarian Army coughed up blood as the effect of the poison started to take place.

His life saving artifact allowed him to forcefully teleport him underground by creating a small space big enough for his entire body to fit in.

Second laid on his back, in pitch black darkness, as the poison paralyzed his entire body.

'As soon as the paralysis in my body wears off, I will immediately leave this place,' Second thought. 'It has been a while since I got seriously injured in a campaign.'

This was not the first time that Second had used this strategy in order to hide from his opponents. When he was still serving General Phobus' Grandfather as his aide, there had been several close calls when he was forced to escape in order to preserve his life.

He had managed to survive each and every time, and he believed that he would be able to persevere this time as well.

Suddenly, Second felt something falling onto the side of his face.

'Soil? Is the battle happening on the surface that intense?' Second thought as the loosened earth continued to fall on his cheeks, forehead, nose, and mouth.

A few seconds later, the soil stopped falling on his head.

However, just before Second thought that everything was over, a faint light appeared in front of him, illuminating the dark space where he was in.

Second's pupil shrank, and a feeling of anxiety rose in his chest when he saw something that he thought he would never see in his life.

Right above his head, a baby Slime was looking down on him with a calm expression on her face.

The two stared at each other, and with every second that passed, the Vice General's heartbeat became faster and faster.

Eiko then summoned a red-steel-ball in her hand as she gazed at the Ranker who killed her Papa in the past.

"N-Nnnnh!" Second tried to shout 'no,' but since he could no longer move his lips, only muffled sounds managed to escape his lips.

If he could still move, it would be very easy for him to kill such a weak monster, but right now, his fate was dependent on the baby slime's mood, making him realize that he no longer had control over his fate.

Eiko still had a calm expression when she unceremoniously dropped the Blast Bomb on Second's face.

At that moment, time seemed to move in slow motion, making Second see the Blast Bomb slowly falling towards him.

However, just as the Blast Bomb was about to hit his face, he saw the baby Slime open her lips to say something.

Although no sound came out of her mouth, the Ranker was able to read her lips, understanding the word that she had said to him.

"F\*cker."

That was the word that the baby Slime said and the last thing Second saw before the red-steel-ball landed on his face and exploded at point-blank-range.

Deep under the earth, an explosion erupted.

However, since it was so deep in the ground, no one on the surface heard Second's muffled scream. The Baby Slime mercilessly tossed several bombs at the person who was responsible for killing one of the most important people in her life.

It was not only Lux and Cai who carried grudges.

Eiko was the same, and just like them, she wouldn't stop until she saw the person whom she wanted to kill...

Die in front of her very eyes.

## **Chapter 470: You Guys Won't Have Any Issues With That, Right?**

An hour later, the remnants of the Ammarian Army that managed to escape ran as if their lives depended on it.

As much as General Fahad and Benjamin wanted to kill them all, they simply didn't have enough manpower to do so.

Their side had also suffered quite a few casualties, as well as serious injuries, but the morale of the Yelan Army was at an all time high as they shouted their cries of triumph, making the fleeing Ammarians hear their victorious shouts as they escaped from the jaws of death.

There were also hundreds of soldiers who had surrendered. All of them were herded to the side, while General Fahad and Benjamin listened to the reports

of their commanders, tallying the numbers of injured and dead in the battle that just ended.

Lux's team, with the exception of Cai, Keane, and Xander, had joined the Yelan Army in the fighting against the Ammarian Soldiers.

Cai and Keane had pushed themselves too much in the battle and were no longer in condition to join the fight.

Xander, Fei Fei, Ishtar, and Lazarus stayed with them in order to guard them to prevent anyone from taking advantage of their weakened state.

While the others were resting, Lux was looking for Eiko who had suddenly disappeared without his notice.

"Eiko!" Lux shouted. "Where are you, Eiko?!"

The Half-Elf shouted for the Baby Slime's name over and over again for nearly half an hour before he heard Eiko's reply inside his mind.

"Pa!"

Lux immediately locked on the direction where he sensed Eiko's presence and urged Bedivere to fly in that direction.

A few minutes later, they found the Baby Slime perched on top of a tree, waiting for Lux to pick her up.

"Pa!"

Eiko happily jumped towards Lux, and the Half-Elf caught the Baby Slime with both of his hands.

"Where did you go, Eiko?" Lux asked. "I was worried about you."

"Pa!" Eiko replied as she told Lux where she went and what she did.

The Baby Slime was like an obedient child who nonchalantly confessed all the bad things she had done to her parents, and the things she said made the Half-Elf break into cold sweat.

"You did what?!" Lux exclaimed as soon as Eiko finished her tale. "Eiko, don't do something like that again without telling me. That was very dangerous!"

Eiko blinked once then twice, before nodding her head in understanding.

"Pa!"

"Promise me you won't do something dangerous again without my approval. You already died once. Iris and I definitely don't want to see you die a second time."

Eiko became a bit teary-eyed as she nodded her head in acknowledgement of Lux's words. So, she made a promise to not do anything dangerous again without her Papa's consent.

"Pa!"

"Good girl. For now, keep Second's body. We will tell General Fahad and Benjamin in private that we managed to kill the two highest commanding officers of the Ammarian Army. I'm sure that they will be very happy to hear the news."

Eiko nodded. "Un!"

The Half-Elf then placed Eiko back on top of his head as he made his way towards the place where Cai, Keane, Xander, and Fei Fei were currently resting.

It had been a long night, and the Half-Elf could feel that his body was starting to feel as heavy as lead.

After the adrenaline rush ended and seeing that Eiko was safe and sound, the Half-Elf just wanted to go back to his tent to sleep.

He and the others hadn't had much rest for the past few days, and he was looking forward to sleeping for ten to twelve hours, in order to rest his tired and aching body.

When Lux appeared in the small clearing, he saw Cai lying sideways on the ground, snoring like there was no tomorrow.

Fei Fei, who was lying on the side of Cai's face, was also sound asleep. It seemed that even Cai's loud snoring wasn't enough to wake her up, which proved how exhausted the Golden Slime was after her first campaign with her Master.



Keane, on the other hand, was seated while leaning against a tree. His sword rested on his lap, allowing the skinny swordsman to draw it as soon as danger appeared in front of them.

Although his entire right arm felt numb, he would rather break his bones than die helplessly under the blade of their enemies.

"Is everything alright?" Lux asked.

"Yes," Xander replied. "The battle has ended. Einar, Val, Henrietta, and Malcolm went to see the people that surrendered to check if some of our 'acquaintances' are mixed in among them."

Lux sighed in his heart before sitting beside a tree, using it as a support to hold his exhausted body.

'We came together as allies,' Lux thought. 'Now, we stand on opposing sides.'

Seeing that the Half-Elf was deep in thought, Xander approached him to ask the question that mattered to him.

"If we do see our acquaintances, what do we do with them?" Xander asked.

Lux didn't answer right away. Instead, he lightly patted Eiko's head who was now resting on his lap.

A few minutes of silence descended on the clearing as Lux pondered about what to do with them.

As the leader of the group, he knew that it was up to him to decide their fate.

Whether they would receive mercy or not was entirely up to him.

"Let's discuss it after the others return," Lux said after organizing his thoughts.

Xander no longer insisted on getting a definite answer from Lux.

He knew that this was not an easy decision to make because it would affect the Half-Elf's relationship with the factions waiting for them outside the Domain of the Fallen.

Half an hour later, Einar, Val, Henrietta, and Malcolm returned, and all of them had solemn expressions on their faces.

"How many?" Lux asked without even raising his head.

Although he didn't ask a specific question, Einar and the others understood what he was talking about.

"Six," Einar replied. "Two from Skystead Alliance, two from the Xynnar War Pact, one from the Storm Dragon's Guild, and one from the Six Kingdoms."

Lux sighed internally after hearing Einar's reply.

"Six...", Lux muttered.

If only the representatives of the Six Kingdoms weren't able to view what was happening inside the Dungeon, Lux would definitely not bat an eye and execute them without fail.

Unfortunately, his relationships with the other factions were already strained.

It was one thing for their representatives to die in the midst of battle. No one would find fault with that because this was a battle between two warring nations, and it was only natural for people to die on the battlefield.

However, the fighting had stopped, and they had already surrendered.

If Lux were to kill them now, he would definitely cross the bottom line of the factions that were watching through the eyes of their representatives.

"What should we do with them?" Einar asked.

Even the Barbarian Prince knew the political consequences of Lux's decision. In truth, he was quite happy that he wasn't the one making the hard decision.

If it was him, he would definitely not make a move that would anger the different factions, who could definitely make his life difficult in both Solais and Elysium.

"I'll ask General Fahad to send them to prison and ensure that they will no longer get in the way of our mission," Lux replied as he scanned the faces of the people around him. "You guys won't have any issues with that, right?"

Lux's question wasn't only directed to his teammates, but to those who were watching them from the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen.

This was war, so his actions were in line with the rules of war, and no one can find fault in it.

Although the different factions whose representatives had been captured didn't like the current situation, they had no choice but to begrudgingly accept Lux's decision.

If they were to find fault with how things reached this point, they could only blame their people for not choosing to side with Lux when he had given them a chance to switch sides to the Yelan Army.

Einar, Val, Xander, Henrietta, and Malcolm were relieved because Lux didn't choose the option that would burn bridges between them and the different factions that belonged to Solais and Elysium.

As long as they didn't cross the other parties' bottom line, they could still work together in the future.

Two hours later, the dead bodies of the Yelan Army were taken by their comrades in order to be given a proper burial.

Lux, on the other hand, asked General Fahad to leave the dead bodies of the Ammarians because he still had a need for them.

The General stared at the Half-Elf with a solemn expression and was on the verge of telling him something.

But, in the end, General Fahad decided to hold back the words he wanted to say and just reluctantly nodded his head at the Half-Elf's request.

Although he didn't like how the battle progressed a few hours ago, he had to admit that if the Half-Elf didn't play the villain, their chances of winning were non-existent.

Lux and the others returned to the Yelan Camp, leaving the Half-Elf's Undead Army and Golems working together to strip the dead Ammarian Soldiers of their belongings.

Their storage rings, weapons, and armor were all taken from them and given to General Fahad.

Although Lux liked treasures, he didn't feel like looting the dead bodies of the people that he had killed so viciously.

Even Cai didn't raise any protest about the Half-Elf's decision. The Boar who would shamelessly collect weapons and armors didn't even want to touch a single piece of equipment from the bodies of the dead Ammarian Soldiers.

The only thing it took was General Phobus' equipment and storage rings because they belonged to it by right.

Cai was the one that made it possible for the General to be crippled, and no one had the right to take its hard earned treasures from it.

Lux didn't tell them about what happened to Second because he didn't want the other factions to know that the Vice General was also dead.

He planned to revive the Vice-General and make him one of the members of his Covenant. Although it was regrettable that Second's Rank would deteriorate, Lux knew that adding the deadly strategist to his Undead Army would increase his combat prowess drastically.

For the time being, all of them rested without worry because they knew that the Eastern Battlefield was won.

However, this was just the beginning.

Even though they managed to win against their enemies, the Yelan Army had suffered countless losses, making them unable to reinforce the other battlefields because their remaining army needed to defend the territory they fought so hard to protect.

## **Chapter 471: Taking Care Of Future Problems**

Just a little over twenty thousand soldiers.

That was the number of soldiers that General Fahad had under his command, including those that had been injured during the battle that happened a few hours ago.

They might have won, but the losses they suffered were truly high, and they barely had enough men to defend their territory.

Because of this, they asked for the Main Camp to send some soldiers their way in order to take the prisoners back to the Main Yelan Headquarters, where they would be imprisoned.

Lux and his friends took this opportunity to get their well-deserved rest, and all of them woke up just past noon time.

Before resting, the Half-Elf had told General Fahad in private that General Phobus and his Vice General were dead, which made the Yelan General breathe a little easier.

As long as he and Benjamin were there to defend the Eastern Quarter, they would be able to hold it—but that was also as long as the enemy didn't send any other Generals with Rankers to their side.

When General Fahad asked if it was possible for Lux to give General Phobus' and Second's bodies to them as trophies of the war, the Half-Elf firmly rejected their request.

Naturally, the Yelan General tried to bribe him with great rewards, but the red-headed teenager was adamant in keeping the dead bodies of the two Rankers with him, so General Fahad could only give up in the end.

As a Necromancer, he had a lot of uses for the corpses of the two Rankers, allowing him to bolster his forces for the next campaigns against the Ammarian Army.

When Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock heard of the great achievement that Lux and General Fahad had made in the Eastern Battlefield, the two of them praised them to the high heavens.

They also immediately mobilized over 5,000 troops to march towards the Eastern Front to take the Prisoners, in addition to sending necessary supplies to the Eastern Encampment, which had suffered greatly from the war.

"Three more battlefields remain," Lux looked at the information that was available to him.

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Forest Campaign Ammarian General - Revon

Mountain Campaign Ammarian General - Herodes

Plains Campaign Ammarian General - Gideon

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On their way to the Marshlands, they had come across some border guards that were fighting in the Glouswell Forest that belonged to General Carran of the Yelan Kingdom.

His opponent on that battlefield was General Revon of the Ammarian Army, and based on the provided information, the Ammarian General was a seasoned warrior in his early fifties.

Unlike General Phobus, General Revon was said to be an Instinctual General, and was known for his ability to foil any strategies that were aimed at him.

Because of this, the General that Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock had placed to contend against him was the fiercest General of the Yelan Kingdom, and that was none other than General Carran.

According to the information that General Fahad shared with Lux, General Carran was the strongest warrior in the Yelan Kingdom and had never been defeated in the past.

Supposedly, General Carran should have been the one stationed at the Great Plains, facing off against the Main Army of the Ammarian Kingdom.

However, the General strongly requested that he be pitted against General Revon. He believed that he was the only one who could counter the unpredictable and powerful General, who was hailed as the strongest Warrior of the Ammarian Kingdom.

It was a battle between two Great Warriors who had risen to their position through many campaigns, earning them the right and reputation to lead tens of thousands of troops in battle, who idolized them.

"Lux, we can't afford to leave this place right now," General Fahad said.

"Please, reinforce General Carran and help him defeat General Revon. Right

now, the two of them are in a stalemate, but just like what happened here, the Ammarian Army had greater numbers.

"Also, the remnant troops that belonged to General Phobus will definitely go to General Revon, further increasing the army he commands. You are the only one that I can ask to tilt the battle in our favor."

General Fahad bowed his head towards the Half-Elf, who had allowed them to overcome the crisis that they were facing.

"Understood, General," Lux replied. "Please ensure that the people I told you about will not be able to escape from their imprisonment. Although they are my former comrades, we are at war right now. Don't show them any leniency because, believe me, if you give them an opportunity, you will regret it."

General Fahad nodded. "I will guarantee that they will not be able to return to the battlefield again. Even now, I placed powerful shackles on their bodies, preventing them from using any of their abilities. Even a Ranker will not be able to break those shackles easily, so you don't have to worry about them anymore.

"Still, if you think that they will cause future problems, I can dispose of them for you. Don't worry, I promise to be discreet and hide their bodies in a place where it can't be discovered."

Lux shook his head, knowing that if General Fahad really did this, he would suffer a headache when he left the Sacred Dungeon later on.

"You don't have to kill them, General," Lux replied. "They have already surrendered. Although we are on different sides right now, they were still once my comrades, so I will not be able to sleep peacefully at night knowing that they died after they have already laid down their arms."

General Fahad looked at the Half-Elf with renewed appreciation because he never thought that Lux would still care for the men that turned their backs on him.

Naturally, the Yelan Commander didn't know the full story, so he was able to think in this manner.

Also, on the way to the Marshlands, Lux had already started to prepare for the battle in the forest.

He knew that if they lost the battle in the Marshlands, the Ammarian Army led by General Phobus, and Second, would target the Yelan Army in Glouswell Forest.

Because of this, he left his two Doppelgangers to handle things for him, in preparation for the possible pincer attack by the two armies.

Fortunately, the worst case scenario didn't happen, which gave Lux the opportunity to use the plan he thought out a few days ago.

'My Doppelgangers have already laid down the foundations,' Lux mused. 'All I need to do is use them at the right moment. Although I'm not sure how I will fare against this Instinctual General, it will be a great learning experience, especially since I'll be facing Rankers who specializes in large-scale battles.'

As a Necromancer, Lux knew that there would come a time when he would command vast hordes of Undead to fight against his foes.

He knew that he wasn't a good General, so he decided to learn from them in order to better understand how others fought on different battlefields.

He believed that his Named Creatures, the members of his Covenant, as well as his Animated Undead Legion, which he still hadn't started, could act as his Commanders in his future battles.

This way, he would be able to wield a force that could threaten not only his enemies, but entire Kingdoms, if they ever tried to step on him using their military might.

## **Chapter 472: Child, Do You Wish For Power?**

Right now, Lux was being suppressed by the Skystead Alliance, the Xynnar Warpact, as well as the Six Kingdoms.

He had been sidelined and blacklisted when it came to taking quests in those territories due to the circumstances that happened in the past.

Because of this, he had no choice but to return to the Kingdom of Gweliven in order to complete quests that would allow him to become stronger.



If not for the Arondight Ring, Lux might have been unable to upgrade his Rank to the next level because none of the territories in the Human Lands welcomed his presence.

'Just you guys wait,' Lux thought. 'Once I become stronger, there is no place I can't go.'

Truth be told, he wanted to be like the Nomadic Rowan Tribe that could move unhindered no matter where they went.

Since the one leading them was a Saint, none of the factions dared to make things difficult for them and allowed them safe passage through their lands.

Lux wanted to have that same power and influence, letting others know that he wasn't a soft persimmon that they could pinch and that attempting so would make him their enemy.

Also, there was the precedent of Memento Mori.

According to the Elysium Compendium, this was an organization that consisted of only powerful Necromancers.

This group had been around for hundreds of years, and no one in their right mind would dare antagonize this group because doing so would be similar to courting death.

'I wonder where that old man is right now,' Lux mused as he thought of the old man that had subjugated the Creature of Ruin and ordered it to obliterate the Wolfpine Barony.

It was a scene that he could never forget. On that day, he had discovered a person that wielded powers, surpassing even his step-father, who was one of the strongest people the Half-Elf had come to know in his life.

For someone to be able to command the Creature of Ruin, which even a dozen Saints couldn't kill, allowed Lux to get a glimpse of what lay beyond the Saint Rank.

Among Monsters, the Rank after the Calamity Rank was called Demigod.

Among Mortals, the Rank after the Saint Rank was called Supreme.

These were the pinnacle existences in the world, and although the Old Man that Lux saw was still not a Supreme, he could feel that the latter was still stronger than his stepfather, Alexander, whom he believed was somewhere in the middle of the Saint Rank.

"Supreme..." Lux sighed. 'I wonder if I will be able to reach that Rank.'

Right now, the Half-Elf's Rank had degraded to the Apostle Rank, which was a great distance away from the Rank that stood at the pinnacle of the world and could decide the fate of entire nations, depending on their whim.

While he was deep in his thoughts, his team had already finished their preparations.

"We're ready to go anytime, Lux," Einar said.

Lux smiled and gazed at his team members who had chosen to side with him despite the awareness that they would suffer penalties by changing their allegiances in the war.

"Good," Lux replied as he gazed in the direction of the Great Forest. "Let's go to our next battlefield. Remember, none of you are allowed to die until we finish our mission. If you die... welp, you will still be in debt, so remember that, okay?"

Lux smirked before summoning his Thunder Warg King, who was now a Rank 4 Monster.

The other members of his team also summoned their mounts, with the exception of Cai, who was proficient in running long distances.

"Forward," Lux ordered as he led his Mercenary Group to their next destination.

None of them knew what kind of battlefield was waiting for them, but one thing was certain...

They would do everything in their power to clear their mission and conquer the Gate of Conquest, once and for all.

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Nero, who had escaped from Lux several hours ago, panted for breath as he leaned his body on a boulder.

Tendrils of black mists oozed around him as he did his best to prevent the Seed of the Abyss from taking hold of his senses.

He knew that if he allowed the Corruption of the Abyss to progress, he would turn into a monster, similar to what happened to Lux when Eiko was killed by the Ranker who had ambushed them at the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen.

Back then, he secretly cheered in his heart because he knew that Lux was done for and wouldn't be able to return to his senses.

However, the Crystal Dragon, Keoza, materialized and absorbed the power of the Abyss, giving the Half-Elf an opportunity to regain his reason.

Now, that same predicament was happening to Nero, and he was doing his damn best to prevent himself from turning into the monster that the Half-Elf had once become.

'Do not let this setback break you, Nero,' Nero encouraged himself as he desperately tried to control the Abyssal Corruption to keep it from spreading further inside his body. 'This is just a phase for you to reach your goal. As long as you can overcome this ordeal, you will become more powerful, and will be able to realize your dreams.'

The Guildmaster of the Storm Dragon's Guild, gritted his teeth as he forcefully suppressed the corruption that was spreading in his body.

He was having a hard time doing it because he wasn't in his optimal state.

Even though the injuries he received from his battle with Lux had already healed thanks to the high-quality potions he took, the damage in his soul was something that couldn't be fixed by drinking potions.

It could only recover gradually over time by getting plenty of rest.

Unfortunately, Nero didn't have the leisure to rest as the power that had allowed him to suppress the other prodigies of the same generation threatened to take over his heart, body, and soul.

Just as the Guildmaster of the Storm Dragon's Guild was at his wit's end, trying to find ways to overcome his current predicament, a crimson mist spread in his surroundings.

"Child, do you wish for power?"

A man with silver hair, and crimson eyes, asked as he looked at the brown-haired boy, who was on the verge of turning into an Abyssal Monster.

Nero looked at the newcomer, and his eyes lingered on the two crimson horns on the silver-haired man's head, making him subconsciously shudder.

Seeing his reaction, the silver-haired man smiled.

He was someone who shouldn't have appeared in the Gate of Conquest because his Domain could only be explored once the Gate of Conquest, Gate of War, Gate of Famine, and Gate of Death, had all been conquered.

He was the Being that ruled the Domain of the Fallen, and for him, playing with the lives of mortals was simply a pastime.

A way of entertaining himself from his thousands of years of imprisonment.

He had started paying attention to Lux the moment he and his comrades had conquered the Gate of Death.

After the Half-Elf conquered the Gate of War, the Final Boss of the Sacred Dungeon's interest was piqued, making him have the strong urge to see just how far the red-headed teenager could go.

He had realized that Nero bore a strong grudge against Lux, and he thought that this was a good opportunity to use a good tool, which was about to be consumed by the Seed of the Abyss in his heart.

Since he wanted to be entertained, he decided to use a pawn in order to join the war that was currently taking place, and perhaps, find a way for his main body to escape the prison that had bound him for thousands of years.

## **Chapter 473: Survivors From The Different Factions**

"Hah! That spoiled buffoon got himself captured and his troops decimated?" General Revon laughed after receiving the report of his Vice General, who had interviewed the thousands of Ammarian Soldiers who had fled to their Domain due to their defeat in the hands of General Fahad and the Yelan Army.

"General, this is no laughing matter," General Revon's Aide, Ronan, said with a frown. "Our defeat in the Marshlands meant that we have lost one of the battlefields crucial for regaining the territories we have lost."

General Revon snorted before opening a bottle of rum, and drinking it without a care in the world.

Half a minute later, he gave a loud burp before shifting his attention to his Vice General who had a fed up expression on his face.

"Our losses in the Eastern Territories isn't that big of a deal," General Revon replied. "As long as we win our campaign, we can easily attack General Fahad's camp from behind, leaving them no place to escape."

"Although they won their campaign, I doubt they have many soldiers left in their ranks. At the very least, they can simply hold their territory. They don't have the ability to reinforce the other battlefields."

General Revon took another chug of his rum until the bottle was empty. He then placed the bottle on top of the table and gave another loud burp before picking up a roasted chicken leg and eating it with gusto.

Ronan frowned, but he no longer said anything. Just as General Revon said, all they needed to do was win their own campaign. When that was over, they could deal with General Fahad as much as they wanted.

But, this would only become a reality if they won their campaign.

'We have had several clashes with General Carran, and he is just as formidable as his reputation,' Vice General Ronan thought. 'When General Revon and him fought a one-on-one battle, their duel ended in a draw with neither side going all out.'

'Still, the added manpower that came from the remnants of General Phobus' army is a welcome addition to our own troops. This might just help us tilt the

battle in our favor in our next clash against the part of the Yelan Army guarding the Glouswell Forest.'

Three days later, over twenty thousand troops from General Phobus' army joined with General Revon's sixty-thousand soldiers, forcing the Yelan Army—belonging to General Carran—to take defensive formations everytime they clashed.

Among the soldiers that joined with General Revon's Army were the survivors of the Storm Dragon's Guild, Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and Six Kingdoms.

Only five members from the Storm Dragon's Guild survived, and they had no idea what happened to their Guildmaster, Nero, because he suddenly disappeared during the battle.

The Skystead Alliance only had one member remaining, while the Xynnar War Pact had two, including Jasper, who served as their leader.

As for the Six Kingdoms, only the Elven Prince, Enlil managed to escape unscathed because he could fly, which allowed him to avoid Lux's deadly traps in the woodlands with ease.

All in all, nine people from the different factions remained, not including Nero, whose whereabouts were unknown.

All of these survivors decided to stick together and chose a temporary leader to lead them for the time being. They knew that there was no point in fighting against each other because all of them were on the same boat.

After taking a vote, Jasper, the leader of the Xynnar War Pact became the Temporary Leader of their Alliance.

The blonde-haired teenage boy was a very popular prodigy within the Xynnar War Pact. Since the Six Kingdoms, and the Storm Dragon Guild's main area of operation was within the Xynnar War Pact's territory, they had heard and seen Jasper several times in the past, and had worked with him in handling high-leveled Dungeons in the past.

"First of all, let's talk about what happened a few days ago," Jasper said after he and his comrades finished eating their lunch. "All of us thought that General Phobus had a very high chance of winning the campaign because of

what happened during the previous battle between the Ammarian Army and the Yelan Army.

"However, that all changed overnight when we marched to the place where they were making their last stand. I can be wrong, but I strongly believe that the skill used against us that day was the Necromancer Skill, Corpse Explosion. Now, we need to look at the details we received about the identity of that Necromancer.

"Based on what you guys are telling me, there is a high chance that it was the Half-Elf, whom Vice General Second killed several days ago, who was the culprit for the sudden change in the battlefield, correct?"

The five members of the Storm Dragon Guild nodded their heads in affirmation.

"Aside from him, I know no other Necromancers who could have used such a skill," Enlil replied. "I thought that they were already out of the competition, but here we are, facing off against each other and all of us got the short end of the stick."

One of the Storm Dragon Guild voiced his opinion for everyone to hear.

"I saw the Boar that always hangs around Lux a few days ago in the Woodlands," the teenage boy said. "Although it is the only one I saw, there is a high possibility that everyone that Vice General Second killed several days ago has returned to fight for the Yelan Army."

An annoyed expression appeared on Enlil's face after hearing the words of his teammate. Lux was bad enough, but if Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, Xander, Henrietta, and Malcolm were still alive as well then it could spell a big deal of trouble for them.

"Okay, I got a plan," Jasper said after a few minutes of silence. "There is a high chance that he managed to complete the mission of killing General Phobus. If we follow this train of thought then he will definitely appear in the battle of Glouswell Forest.

"He could also use the same strategy again, so it is best if we stay at the rear of the formation and always keep a lookout in our surroundings. The moment something unexpected happens, all of us will retreat.

"Our numbers are already few to begin with, and we needed to complete this mission for our respective Factions. Failure is not an option."

The remaining member of Skyteam Alliance, which was once led by Malcolm, raised his head to look at their blond-haired leader with a solemn expression.

"What will we do if we meet the Half-Elf on the battlefield?" the teenage boy asked.

Jasper didn't answer right away, because he was weighing the pros and cons of engaging Lux in battle.

"If there is a chance to kill him then we will go for the kill," Jasper replied after he finished organizing his thoughts. "If we take him out then we don't have to worry about corpses blowing up in our faces. Once is enough. Twice, no thank you."

Everyone nodded their heads in agreement to their temporary leader's orders.

If they could really kill Lux then all was good. If not, then they would just prioritize their retreat in order to keep themselves alive.

All of them had been briefed by their superiors about how important this mission was. They were even told that they were free to take whatever actions they deemed necessary, and no one would find fault in it.

"By the way, have any of you seen Nero?" Jasper asked. "If he is still alive, he will be a good asset to our cause."

Among the members of the young Generation, Jasper recognized Nero's strength. If he were able to rope in the brown-haired teenager into being his underling, he would have a higher chance of clearing the mission entrusted to him.

"No," one of the members of the Storm Dragon Guild replied. "We haven't seen Guildmaster because the battlefield became too chaotic to stick together."

When the explosions started, everyone was forced to scatter because the closer they were to each other, the higher the chances were of all of them dying together.



This was why they weren't able to say whether Nero had died or not. They simply believed that someone as strong as their Guildmaster wouldn't succumb to Lux's underhanded move, and was still somewhere out there, planning his next move.

What they didn't know was that Nero was indeed still alive.

However, as for whether he was in a good condition or not, this was something that they would only know when the War between the Ammarian Army as well as the Yelan Army, had reached its climax.

## Chapter 474: How To Face A Charging Boar

"So, you were the Necromancer that helped General Fahad win his campaign," General Carran said coolly as he stared at the red-headed teenager, who was standing in front of him. "Your name is Lux, right?"

"Yes, General," Lux replied.

"Let me just say this. I hate Necromancers, which means I hate you as well."

"... I see."

General Carran didn't even bother to hide the displeasure on his face as he stared at the Half-Elf, making the latter wonder if the Yelan General knew any Necromancers in the past.

"Putting my dislike for Necromancers to the side, you did well in helping us achieve a victory against the Ammarian Army," General Carran stated. "The flagging morale of my army has changed overnight, and now all of them are raring to kill some of the Ammarian Bastards who have made things difficult for us for the past few days."

The Yelan General placed his hands behind his back as he looked at the map where several wooden figurines stood that represented the different units that were fighting in the Glouswell Forest.

"Our scouts have confirmed that General Phobus' remaining troops have merged with General Revon's army, boosting their numbers by a good margin," General Carran explained. "Their numbers now are almost double

the size of our army. Currently, I have fifty thousand troops under my command. We were able to fight to a stalemate with the enemy, but now, the numbers are in their favor."

The General then gave Lux a side-long glance.

"I will allow you to move as you please in my Domain, but you are not allowed to use my men as cannon fodder." General Carran's voice was firm and would not take no for an answer. "If you do, I promise you that I will personally cut you down and put your head on a spike. Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes, General," Lux replied.

General Carran nodded. "Go, and make sure that you don't get in my way."

Lux left General Carran's tent with a helpless look on his face as he went to see his comrades, who were currently resting after traveling nearly non-stop to reach the Yelan Encampment in the Glouswell Forest as fast as they could.

General Fahad had already told Lux that General Carran didn't look at Necromancers favorably for reasons that were unknown even to him.

The only advice he gave Lux was to simply operate separately from the Yelan General's Army, and support them from the side.

As soon as they saw Lux, his team members gave him the "What happened?" gaze, which made the Half-Elf shake his head helplessly.

"General Carran said that we can do what we want as long as we don't stand in his way," Lux stated. "This means that we can move separately from the main army and chip away at the soldiers that belong to General Revon."

Cai, who was chatty most of the time, was surprisingly quiet, as it looked in the direction where the Ammarian Camp was located.

Lux, who also noticed this, approached the Boar and asked what was in its mind.

"The Enemy General this time isn't like General Phobus, and Second," Cai said as it continued to stare at the North. "I can feel my bestial instincts telling me that he is bad news. This feeling reminds me of my Grandpa whenever he gets angry, and I don't like it."

Lux frowned when he heard Cai's words.

He knew that the Boar idolized its Grandpa very much, and for it to put General Revon and the Saint of the Rowan Tribe, Maximilian, on the same page, meant that they might have a very tough battle ahead of them.

"Do you have any ideas on how we can overcome this obstacle?" Lux asked.

Cai gave the Half-Elf a side-long glance before shifting its gaze back to the North, as if lost in thought.

"What do you do when you are facing a charging boar, which is several meters taller than you?" Cai asked after two minutes had passed.

"You dodge to the side and evade it," Lux replied.

Anyone with common sense would do the same, and even Cai nodded its head to agree to Lux's words.

"That is what we need to do in this battle," Cai commented. "Wherever General Revon is, we stay away from that place. Although our mission is to kill the Generals in order to gain more rewards, this is one general that I don't want to face head-on. Also, I no longer have any of the poison with me. Our chances of winning against him is close to zero."

Lux crossed his arms over his chest and turned to look to the North where the Boar continued to look.

"You said close to zero, but not zero, right?" Lux inquired.

"Yes," Cai replied. "Certainly, the possibility exists. However, what price are you willing to pay in order to take General Revon's head? I know that you intend to pit General Carran against General Revon and look for an opportunity to go for the kill, just as we did with General Phobus and Second.

"However, there is still a high chance that we will lose several of our members in the attempt. I for one didn't want to throw my life away. I want to see this mission through to the end without dying. That is the only way I can get all the rewards, and brag about it to my Grandpa when I return to the Rowan tribe."

The corner of Lux's lips twitched after hearing Cai's words. He thought that the shameless Boar had changed a bit and became more mature after what it had experienced in the previous battle.

However, after hearing that the Boar planned to get all the rewards and brag after it returned to the Rowan Tribe made the Half-Elf chuckle internally.

Truth be told, fighting against a Ranker was a very risky thing to do.

If not for the amazing rewards that Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson were willing to exchange for them, none of them would dare to fight one again in their lives.

"Okay, we'll try your suggestion first," Lux said after a few minutes passed. "We will not confront General Revon directly, and simply decrease the number of his troops. As long as he has no soldiers to command, he will have no choice but to retreat. We'll just ask Watson and Sherlock to give us more compensation later."

Cai chuckled after hearing Lux's proposal. Although it was afraid of facing the Ammarian General head-on, it didn't shy away from bullying General Revon's soldiers, in order to gain more rewards from Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock.

"Sounds like a plan." Cai nodded. "I'm in."

"I'm also up for great rewards with half the effort," Einar commented as he stood beside Lux with his arms crossed over his chest.

One by one, Lux's team members including Henrietta, and Malcolm voiced their willingness to not confront General Revon head-on.

They had already died in the hands of a Ranker once, and they still hadn't forgotten that feeling of helplessness as they died in the hands of a person, who had treated them like they were ants that he could trample any time he wanted.

## **Chapter 475.1: A Way For Two Sides To Fight As Allies [Part 1]**

Lux and his friends wanted to see just what kind of battle was taking place inside the Glouswell Forest, so they observed the battle from a distance.

General Fahad told him that General Revon of the Ammarian Army was a seasoned warrior, as well as an Instinctive General who followed his gut feeling in every situation.

Because of this, it was difficult to predict his next moves, and even the most famous strategists of the Yelan Kingdom, like Sherlock, were unable to set an effective trap for him over the past few years.

Because of this, General Carran, who was also a seasoned warrior and excelled in strategy, decided to face him in this important battle between the two Kingdoms.

With the faith of his Kingdom hanging in the balance, the Yelan General employed effective tactics in order to prevent the Ammarian Army from breaking through their defensive lines.

General Revon's strategy was quite simple, and that was to personally lead his men to battle. Unlike other Generals in the Ammarian Army, General Revon always stood on the front lines and would be the first to stab his weapon across enemy lines.

Most people looked down on his daredevil way of fighting because once he died, his army would fall apart and would be left at the mercy of his enemies.

For twenty long years, General Revon had used this strategy time and time again, and to this day, he was still alive and kicking, proving how formidable he was on the battlefield.

In fact, he had earned the reputation of being the most deadly General on the battlefield, and no one wanted to fight him head-on in any campaign he participated in.

"He is very different from General Phobus, who only commanded from the rear," Einar commented. "But, it's a shame that I can't see his technique clearly. The trees are blocking my view."

It was not only Einar who felt disappointed due to the lack of visual opportunities, which would allow them to have a better grasp of their enemy's strategy.

However, the most disappointed of them all was Lux, who had a frown on his face as he looked at the current spread of the forces on the battlefield.

When they were passing through the Glouswell Forest, he had summoned his two Doppelgangers and tasked them to collect the dead bodies of the Ammarian Soldiers and bury them in the ground, to be used as "land mines" in the future, just in case they needed to retreat to the Glouswell Forest after being defeated in the marshlands.

However, the traps that he had prepared beforehand, weren't able to be put to good use because, for some reason, the Ammarian Soldiers steered clear from it.

'I'm sure that General Revon has been told about what happened to General Phobus' army, but for a large army, to be able to evade my traps completely is simply impossible,' Lux thought. 'Does he have some kind of ability to see the dead bodies I buried underground?'

Lux didn't know if this was part of General Revon's instinctive abilities or not, but he was starting to feel that the General could tell where the traps were laid out, and ordered his men to stay away from those locations.

Two hours later, the battle ended and both armies retreating to their respective sides.

General Carran and General Revon had clashed with each other, but just like their usual fights, their battle ended in a draw.

Lux and his friends could only catch glimpses of the great battle between the two Generals because the trees blocked the majority of the fighting from their vantage point.

They only knew that the two Generals had engaged the other when several trees were uprooted at once.

But, as if not wanting either side to get a detailed glimpse of their fighting abilities, both of them would dart back inside the forest and continue their battle there, to the disappointment of everyone looking for a good show to watch.

"Ishtar, Lazarus, you already know what to do," Lux said as soon as he summoned his two Named Creatures.

"Yes, Master."

"I will do as you command, Master."

Ishtar and Lazarus then moved towards the forest in order to start their mission of hunting down the scouting parties of the Ammarian Army, which was responsible for gathering information on the location, as well as placement of the troops of the Yelan Army.

"Orion, Pazuzu, both of you do the usual," Lux ordered as he summoned the Jade Golem, as well as the Fortress Defender, to do the dirty work for the Half-Elf.

"Understood, Master." Orion replied.

"By your will, Master," Pazuzu stated.

Accompanying the two of them were the Undead Army and the Rock Golems whose role was to gather and bury the dead bodies of the Ammarian Soldiers and bury them underground to be used at a later time for Lux's Corpse Explosion skill.

This was the only thing that the Half-Elf could do at this point in time because he didn't want to go anywhere near the Instinctive General that made even Cai feel threatened.

Suddenly, something moved at the corner of Lux's eyes, which made him arch his eyebrow.

A familiar person rose up from the ground, dozens of meters away from the Half-Elf, and held a white flag in his hands.

It was none other than Jasper, the temporary leader of the survivors of the Factions that belonged to the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, Six Kingdoms, and Storm Dragon Guild.

"Can we talk?" Jasper asked with a smile as he stood dozens of meters away from Lux.

"Okay," Lux replied as he and his friends shifted their gaze to the Initiate who was standing a good distance away from them.

Jasper wanted to confirm if all the members of Lux's team had returned to the Sacred Dungeon to challenge the Gate of Conquest.

After seeing that all of them were there, he decided to talk to them for a bit in order to get a better understanding of their future course of action.

"Is there really no way for both of our sides to cooperate?" Jasper asked. "We came here to clear the Dungeon of Conquest together, but here we are, standing on opposite sides of the battlefield. No matter how I look at it, this is a lose-lose situation for all of us."

In truth, Jasper wanted to know if Lux and the others, with the exception of Henrietta and Malcolm, could enter the Gate of Conquest a third time after dying twice.

He had a feeling that this special privilege was only awarded to those who had cleared the other gates of the Sacred Dungeon, and if this was true, then they could enter the dungeon repeatedly despite dying many times.

Naturally, he didn't think that this was possible. But, if the possibility existed, then fighting against Lux, and the five others who had accompanied him in the previous gates, was a losing battle.

In truth, Lux believed that if they died again inside the Gate of Conquest, they would be immediately kicked out of the Sacred Dungeon, and would be forced to return from outside the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen.

## **Chapter 476.2: A Way For Two Sides To Fight As Allies [Part 2]**

Returning on the same dungeon after dying twice was not something that Lux and his friends wanted to experience.

The Half-Elf had a feeling that if they were to force themselves to return, they would be taken to a different Instance Dungeon that was separate to the one where the other factions were fighting.

"So, you want to change sides?" Cai snorted. "Isn't it a bit too late for that?"



"I'm just asking if the possibility existed," Jasper replied. "I mean, look, I admit that none of us wanted to have a debt of a million gold coins, in addition to losing 2,000 of our stat points. Do you know how hard it is to get that many points in Elysium?"

"Even I can't get that many stat points after raiding dozens of Dungeons because the resources are shared in the Guild. But, it happened here, and it made me think that even if I fail to finish the Gate of Conquest, I've already gained a lot from this expedition.

"Although it is a selfish way of looking at things, I will have no regrets whatsoever... is what I'd like to say, but after seeing you guys, I'm starting to regret my decision to play it safe. So, I'll ask again, is there any way for us to fight on the same battlefield again, not as enemies but as allies?"

Cai and the others didn't reply to Jasper's words because they didn't have the authority to do that.

Right now, Lux was their leader, and whatever decision he made, they would follow them for the duration of their mission.

Lux pondered for a bit before giving his reply.

"I don't know if it's possible, but if it is, I will let you know my reply in two days," Lux replied. "In order to prevent the Ammarian and Yelan Armies from misunderstanding, I will just send a skeleton to deliver my reply to your proposal in this location in two days.

"If you don't see any of my Undead Minions here with a letter, it means that I wasn't able to find a way to allow you to change your allegiance. However, if there is a way, rest assured that I will do my best to let you know as soon as possible.

"Just remember, you may still lose a million gold coins, as well as 2,000 stat points once you change your allegiance. There is also a possibility that the penalty will be more this time because you already passed the opportunity once."

Jasper nodded his head in acknowledgement of Lux's words because he already thought of this possibility.

"Very well, I will monitor this place for two days," Jasper said as his body slowly merged with the Earth under his feet. "I hope that I will receive good news the next time we see each other."

After saying those parting words, Jasper disappeared completely from view.

If not for the fact that the blinking yellow dot on the screen showed his location, the Half-Elf wouldn't know where the prodigy of the Xynnar War Pact had disappeared to.

'I don't know if it is possible for them to switch to our sides or not,' Lux thought. 'But, making the other factions indebted to me is not a bad thing.'

Lux had wanted to explore the Human territories in Elysium for quite some time because his Grandma Vera had told him about interesting places and Dungeons he could visit that would benefit him a lot.

As long as he was blacklisted from being able to operate in the Human territories belonging to the Skystead Alliance, as well as the Xynnar War Pact in Elysium, the Half-Elf had no choice but to remain in the Kingdom of Gweliven and explore the Dwarven Kingdom, looking for opportunities to help increase his Rank.

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Yelan Army Camp...

"I'll be perfectly honest with you," General Carran said after hearing Lux's inquiry about letting the members of the Half-Elf's former mercenary group to join their side. "I don't like to have people who easily switch sides under my wing. I am able to tolerate you and the people you have in your team because you had helped us keep the Ammarian Army from invading our lands in the past.

"Also, you played a crucial role in defeating General Phobus' army, allowing General Fahad to regain control of the Marshland Area. If your friends had sided with you before General Phobus was defeated, I might have considered your request. However, it is simply too late now. They are only asking to change sides because they feel that the wind has blown in our favor.

"But, what if the wind starts to blow in the other direction? Will they switch sides again just because the other side has the upper hand? You know, I hate

these people. I'd rather kill them than have them work under me just because I have the advantage in this battle.

"The only way for me to accept their allegiance is if Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock order me to. But, even then, I will not think highly of them because those who can easily betray others can betray you just as easily. The last thing I want is to have a sword stabbed into my back by my own men, whom I thought were fighting with the same ideals as me."

After saying what he wanted to say, the General ordered Lux to get out of his tent without even bothering to listen to his reply or counter argument.

'He is truly a stubborn person,' Lux thought. 'But, I guess his way of life had allowed him to reach where he is now. I can't blame him for his distrust of my former comrades. After all, I'm also finding it hard to trust them after what happened last time.'

However, Lux had given his promise that he would at least try to find a way to make Jasper's request possible.

This left Lux no choice but to try and ask Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock, who were currently fighting with the bulk of the Ammarian Army at the Great Plains with the hope of preventing them from regaining the territories that the Yelan Army had captured as their own.

'Good thing I left Diablo and Asmodeus at the Main Headquarters of the Yelan Army in the Great Plains,' Lux mused. 'I knew that I could use this as a convenient way to communicate over great distances.'

The other reason why the Half-Elf also left Diablo and Asmodeus in the Great Plains was to allow him to instantly teleport to their location using the Teleportation Boots if the need arose.

Now that General Carran had denied his request, he decided to let his Named Creatures talk to the two Great Generals to see if they were willing to hear Lux's proposal and find out if it was possible to make some last minute changes to the current situation of the battlefield.

## **Chapter 477: Don't Let Those Skeletons Land!**

"Hmm... I don't know, Lux," Watson said as he rubbed his chin. "I don't like this idea."

"It's quite shameful to switch sides when the war has progressed to this point," Sherlock commented. "Also, I don't think I will be able to completely trust them if they switched to our side. It's like having to always watch your back, so you won't get stabbed when you least expect it."

The two Great Generals of the Yelan Army looked at Diablo, who was currently sharing his senses with Lux, allowing the Half-Elf to see and hear Watson and Sherlock.

"I see," Lux muttered. "Thank you. I will pass this message to them."

Diablo repeated Lux's words and passed the message to the two Great Generals, who were currently resting after a skirmish with the Ammarian Army in the Great Plains.

After doing what he could, Lux bade the two Great Generals goodbye before giving a few orders to Diablo and Asmodeus. When he was done, he returned his senses to his body that was currently inside his tent at General Carran's camp.

"As expected, it's no longer possible," Lux muttered as he looked at the Quest details inside his Soul Book.

When they were given the choice to switch their allegiance for the first time, the information said that they would not be able to switch sides after their decision was made.

In short, all of them were locked in their respective Kingdoms, and no one could go to the other side if things got dicey on their end.

Lux sighed before writing a letter and summoning Ishtar to his side.

"Give this letter to Jasper, and tell him that I have done what I could," Lux ordered. "Also, tell him that the next time we meet, we will be enemies."

Ishtar nodded. "Yes, Master."

After giving Lux a brief bow, the Nightstalker vanished without a trace and headed to the location where Jasper was waiting for his reply.

At the very start of their expedition, he didn't think that he would be fighting against the representatives that were sent by the other factions.

Their purpose was to clear the Gate of Conquest together, but due to a difference in opinion, they all went their separate ways and chose the side that they thought was most likely to win the war.

The main reason why Lux and his teammates, with the exception of Henrietta and Malcolm, wished to join the Yelan Army was due to their previous experiences with them. It would be mentally challenging for them to fight against the army whom they supported during the war.

Also, Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock were very generous individuals, giving them great rewards when they conquered the Gate of War.

Compared to the measly rewards that they could get by helping the Ammarian Army win, they opted to go to the side with high risk rewards.

"I just need to do what I need to do," Lux said softly as he gazed outside of his tent. "Nothing else matters."

The Half-Elf knew that there was nothing he could do about the current situation of his former comrades.

Since it was not possible for them to stand on the same side, they would sooner or later face each other on the battlefield.

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"So, it has come to this," Jasper said as he read the handwritten letter that was given to him by Ishtar. "Tell your Master that I understand. If we ever face each other on the battlefield, tell him that we will show him no mercy."

Ishtar gave Jasper a brief nod of acknowledgement before disappearing from sight.

The temporary leader of the different Factions that now belonged to the Ammarian Army sighed a second time before merging with the earth.

Now that he had received Lux's reply, he had to share it with the others, so they could resolve themselves to fight against the Half-Elf and his team to the bitter end.

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Back at the Yelan Camp...

Lux gathered his teammates and told them the result of his proposal to Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock for their former comrades to join their side.

After hearing that the two Great Generals rejected the idea, a conflicted expression appeared on Henrietta's and Malcolm's faces, while the others simply took this news in stride.

Simply put, aside from Henrietta and Malcolm, none of the others cared whether the other Factions joined their side or not.

"Do you know how many of them remain?" Malcolm asked.

Lux shook his head. Jasper didn't say anything about their numbers, which was actually a smart thing to do.

"So, we have no choice but to fight them." Henrietta sighed before shaking her head helplessly.

If she wasn't strictly ordered to follow Lux, she might still be on the Ammarian Army's side and facing the same dilemma that Jasper and his comrades were having right now.

Although she was somewhat grateful for following Lux, she was still unsure about how the outcome of the war would proceed from here.

They might have won one of the four campaigns, but three remained, and based on what Lux was telling them right now, the Yelan Army was simply outmatched in terms of numbers of soldiers.

Even now, the forces under General Revon had swelled after it had absorbed the remnants of General Phobus' Army, forcing General Carran to not meet them in places where they didn't have the geographical advantage.

'I just hope that I'm overthinking,' Henrietta thought. 'If Lux can overcome the disparity in numbers with his skills, we might be able to win this battlefield, just like we were able to win the Marshlands.'

Although Henrietta tried to assure herself that everything was going to be okay, she was still worried because the General they were facing was very different from General Phobus and his Vice General, who fought them in the Marshlands.

Military men with both brain and brawn were rare, but if one were to rise to the rank of General, this made them exceptionally dangerous, especially when they were commanding tens of thousands of men.

Henrietta's fears were proven true two days later when General Carran lost over five thousand of his troops in the surprise attack that General Revon had launched against them.

Due to their superiority in numbers, they were able to push the Yelan Army all the way back to their main camp, where the fighting had become extremely fierce.

Because everyone was fighting in close quarters, Lux wasn't able to use his skill, Corpse Explosion. If he ever decided to use his Trump Card, it was possible for him to accidentally wipe out more than a third of the soldiers belonging to the Yelan Army.

This forced him to use Corpse Explosion remotely, injuring soldiers here and there, but the damage they received wasn't enough to kill them completely.

Out of desperation, the Half-Elf was forced to use another one of his Trump Cards in order to deter the enemy.

"Skeleton Make... Catapult!"

Lux and Eiko summoned their doppelgangers and created six Giant Catapults.

However, the ammunition they used weren't rocks, but the Skeleton Gangbangers, who were holding a corpse in their arms.

Each catapult could hold up to six Skeletons each, and all of these skeletons huddled together, as if they were a football team preparing to make a touchdown.

"Fire!" Lux ordered and all six catapults threw their payloads in the air, which fell in the middle formation of the Ammarian Army.

Even before his Skeleton Gang Bangers touched the ground, Lux had already cast his Skill, which he had been waiting to unleash since the beginning of the battle.

"Corpse Explosion!" Lux shouted and a chain of explosions erupted within the center of the Ammarian Formation.

Screams of pain reverberated in the surroundings as Lux's deadly attack started to spread among the Ammarian Army's ranks.

However, before Lux's skill could spread like wildfire, several barriers appeared in the area where the skill was starting to expand, cutting off its advance before it could reach the other soldiers, preventing the Half-Elf from wiping out countless soldiers, like he did with General Phobus' army.

In that short span of time, Lux had been able to kill dozens of soldiers, but the numbers that he had slain didn't even surpass three hundred, making the Half-Elf order another barrage of Skeleton Gang Bangers to be hurled onto the enemy's ranks.

"Don't let those Skeletons land!" General Roven shouted.

Although he was told that the Necromancer they were facing was only at the Apostle Grade, the Ammarian General didn't underestimate Lux.

When it came to Necromancers, their Ranks didn't matter much.

As long as the Necromancer had the ability to use the skill, Corpse Explosion, they became a menace that needed to be purged as soon as possible.

## **Chapter 478: He Has The Devil's Luck**

Immediately, several Clerics within his army chanted as they pointed their hands and staffs at the Skeletons that were falling from the sky.

""Turn Undead!""

One by one, Lux's skeletons exploded mid-air and turned to ashes as one of the abilities that specialized in killing undead creatures was used against them.



This scene made the Half-Elf curse under his breath, but there was nothing he could do about it.

Just like he was able to raise the dead because of his profession, there were professions that countered his abilities.

One of those professions was Clerics, who were blessed by the power of Holy Magic, allowing them to banish and annihilate any Undead creatures from their sight.

Those that survived the Clerics' counterattack were obliterated by the spells that the magic casters had cast to prevent them from repeating their earlier suicide attack.

Still, Lux persisted and, this time, he simply used the corpses as ammunition. Although the outcome didn't reach the magnitude of his earlier attack, it still gave the Ammarian Army cause for concern.

Lux didn't stop using every trick in his book to try to deter the Ammarian Soldiers from pushing through their defensive line.

"Animate Undead!" Lux roared as he finally used the Necromancer Powers he gained long ago.

He raised the dead Ammarian Soldiers and forced them to fight against their former comrades, affecting their morale.

Right now, Lux could only revive 50 dead people, but since he had summoned his Clones and had Eiko with him, he was able to command 300 Undead Warriors, who fearlessly attacked their comrades without care.

The Rank of the Undead Zombies that he had revived were only Rank 3 Monsters, but it was enough to cause a commotion in the area of the battlefield that he was fighting on.

The Ammarian Soldiers hacked their Undead comrades through gritted teeth, cutting off their heads and putting an end to their misery.

However, since Lux could raise new dead people every time an Undead was down, this scene repeated over and over again, making even the fiercest of warriors lose their composure because they were attacking their former friends and comrades at arms.

"Take out the Necromancer first!" General Revon shouted as he pointed at Lux, who was standing beside the Bone Catapults in the distance.

One of General Revon's trusted subordinates, who specialized in long range attacks, nocked an arrow on his bow and aimed at the Half-Elf from a distance.

After making sure that his aim was true, he released the arrow, which flew towards the Half-Elf with great speed.

A few seconds later, the arrow hit the Half-Elf's forehead, making blood spurt from the wound.

Jasper, as well as the other members of the different Factions who saw this, inwardly cheered because the Half-Elf, who was the greatest threat in the battlefield, was now dead.

However, their happiness didn't last for long when they saw the dead Half-Elf turn into particles of light.

One of the Bone Catapults also shattered, but the others remained.

This meant that the one they had killed was only a clone, while the original was still alive somewhere, waiting to detonate a series of Corpse Explosions on their heads.

Lux wasn't stupid. He knew that he would be targeted as soon as they deemed him the greater threat on the battlefield.

This was why, after summoning his clones, he and Eiko hid somewhere safe and commanded the clones remotely.

He also revived the dead from a safe distance, helping the battle in any way that they could.

Einar and the others didn't participate on the battlefield as per Lux's order.

All of them were protecting the Half-Elf as he remotely attacked their enemies.

It was at this moment when the Half-Elf realized that there was one more thing that he could do to even out the odds of this battle.

After reviving an Undead Zombie, he ordered them to throw the corpses near them at the back of the enemy ranks, allowing Lux to detonate them.

This strategy was quite effective because the injured soldiers at the back caused chaos, preventing those behind them to reinforce those at the front in fear that they would be caught up in the chain of explosions that might follow.

This allowed the Yelan Soldiers to get a second wind, as they pushed their enemies back with renewed vigor.

Seeing that his plan worked, Lux then summoned his Skeleton Army, as well as his Rock Golems, to join his Zombies in throwing the dead bodies behind the Vanguard of the Ammarian Army.

Since these corpses weren't Undead Creatures, the Clerics couldn't use Turn Undead on them.

Also, the soldiers that were near the path of falling corpses, immediately spread out in fear that it would explode in their faces.

As more soldiers tried to evade the corpse bombardment that was happening around them, the Ammarian Army started to gain more losses in the war.

Knowing that their momentum had been lost, General Revon glanced in the direction where one of the Half-Elf's clones was standing and ordered his subordinate to kill it.

Only after the second clone had turned into particles of light did the Ammarian General order his troops to retreat.

Continuing to fight while his troops' morale was failing wasn't a good idea, so he immediately cut his losses while he still could.

"He has the devil's luck." Jasper hissed before backing away from the frontlines of the battlefield. "We will retreat for now. Prince Enlil, please cover our retreat!"

His team listened to his orders, and Enlil, the Elven Prince, summoned gusts of wind to blow away the corpses that were flying in their direction.

They understood that this battle was lost, so they could only retreat as fast as they could in order to fight another day.

Seeing that their enemies were retreating, the Yelan Army cheered and General Carran snorted.

He then gave a side-long glance in the direction where the Half-Elf was hiding before shifting his attention back to the fleeing enemies.

The Yelan General didn't order his soldiers to pursue them because he knew that it would only work in their enemy's favor.

Although he didn't want to admit it, the one that deterred the enemy wasn't him, but the Necromancer, who had the ability to cause a one-sided genocide if the right conditions were met.

Lux, who had seen the retreat of the Ammarian Army, sighed in relief before chugging a bottle of mana potion.

Beads of sweat formed on his forehead, as he felt slightly nauseous after exhausting his mana twice over in the span of an hour.

Magic Casters who relied on their mana to fight usually didn't deplete their mana reserves because it would cause a backlash if they pushed themselves to their limit.

Eiko was faring slightly better than Lux, but the downside was that she was feeling very drowsy. The baby Slime was having trouble keeping her eyes open, and because of this, the one that fed her a mana potion was Fei Fei, who was tasked to take care of Eiko, while the others kept watch on their surroundings.

While the two drank potions in order to recover their strength, the Yelan Army started to take the dead bodies of their comrades away from the battlefield. On the other hand, Lux's Undead Army collected the corpses of their enemies in preparation for the next battle.

Now that General Carran had seen first hand how deadly Lux was on the battlefield, he decided to assign a few of his strong subordinates to act as the Half-Elf's bodyguards to ensure his safety in the battles ahead.

Although he could be stubborn at times, the war had progressed to the point where he couldn't be picky about the methods that were used.

Since the Half-Elf had the ability to deter their foes, he was willing to give him preferential treatment, allowing him to fight safely at the back of their formation.

## Chapter 479: This Smells Like A Trap

"Now I understand why General Phobus lost his campaign," General Revon's second in command, Ronan, said with annoyance. "If not for the fact that we made preparations beforehand, we could have greatly suffered under that Necromancer brat's hands."

"To think that a mere Grade A Apostle can threaten my entire army," General Revon chuckled. "Now I understand why Carran hates Necromancers."

General Carran of the Yelan Army had told Lux that he hated Necromancers when they met. Even so, knowing that the teenager was responsible for reversing the tide in the Marshlands, he decided to allow him to join his campaign, as long as the Half-Elf didn't get in his way.

Fortunately, he did just that and Lux managed to help repel the Ammarian Army, whose number of soldiers surpassed the defenders of the Yelan Army.

"We need to take him out as soon as possible, or else, we will have a hard time reclaiming our lands. Our soldiers were already traumatized by today's battle, and we can't let it worsen," Ronan stated before shifting his attention to the blonde-haired teenager, who told them that he had a way of knowing the Half-Elf's exact location, allowing them to send assassins to kill him.

If not for the fact that Jasper had introduced himself as one of the members of Lux's Mercenary Group, the two high-ranking officers wouldn't have even bothered to listen to him.

"Yes," Jasper replied. "One of my members has a peculiar ability that allows her to send messages to a specific person, as long as she has an item that her target has used in the past."

The blonde-teenager didn't mention the fact that he utilized that ability to contact Lux in an attempt to switch sides to the Yelan Army.

Using the Half-Elf's handwritten letter as a medium to send messages to him, Jasper would be able to ask Lux to meet him in a place away from the eyes of the Yelan Army.

"Are you sure that he will meet up with you if you send him a message?" Ronan asked.

He was quite doubtful that Jasper would be able to succeed in luring the Half-Elf away from the Yelan Camp so easily.

"As long as the possibility exists, it's worth a try," Jasper replied. "Besides, we won't lose anything by trying."

What he wanted right now was to distinguish himself to General Revon, so that he could gain some influence and possibly trigger better rewards if they happen to win against General Carran and the Yelan Army.

General Revon rubbed his chin as he looked at Jasper's confident expression.

"Very well. Let's try it," General Revon stated. "Once we successfully kill the Necromancer, I promise to reward you generously for your contribution in this war."

Jasper smiled. "I will do my best to convince him. Once I get his reply, I will report back to you, General Revon, so we can plan his death."

General Revon nodded, and Jasper bade his farewell. Since the General of the Ammarian Army had decided to work with him to kill Lux, the only thing he should worry about was whether the Half-Elf would accept his invitation or not.

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Inside the Yelan Camp...

Lux had almost recovered from his Mana Exhaustion and was looking a lot better compared to how he looked an hour ago.

Eiko, on the other hand, was sleeping peacefully on top of his head. Even though she had already drunk mana potions, the Baby Slime was still exhausted, so she decided to sleep to recover her strength.

Currently, Lux was in a meeting with his team members and discussing their next course of action when, suddenly, the Half-Elf heard the voice of a girl inside his head.

"Sir Lux, can you hear me?"

Lux immediately thought that he was just tired and hearing things. But after hearing the same thing for the third time, he finally understood that someone was talking to him through telepathy.

The Half-Elf then raised his right hand to catch the attention of his team members before placing a finger over his lips, telling them to stop talking.

When everyone inside his tent quieted down, the Half-Elf replied to the one talking to him using his thoughts.

"Who are you?" Lux asked.

"Finally, I am able to talk to you, Sir Lux," the voice of a girl replied with relief. "My name is Jenna, and I am one of the representatives of the Xynnar War Pact."

"Okay." Lux frowned. "What do you want?"

"Sir Lux, there is an important matter that our leader, Jasper, wants to talk to you about," Jenna replied. "I know that you said that the next time that we meet, we will be enemies, but our leader wants you to hear him out one last time. He said that if you come, he will find a way to convince the higher-ups of the Xynnar War Pact to allow you to explore the Kingdoms that belonged to our Alliance.

"Also, he will ensure that the members of the Wildgarde Stronghold will gain special privileges, like access to Dungeons regulated by the Kingdoms belonging to the Xynnar War Pact."

Lux didn't reply right away and weighed the pros and cons of Jasper's proposal. After thinking for a few minutes, he agreed to meet up with the blonde-haired teenager in the same place where they had met last time.

"Thank you, Sir Lux." Jenna's voice that was filled with respect and admiration reached his ears. "Our Guildmaster will meet up with you an hour before sunset."

After Jenna finished her message, the Half-Elf decided to tell his team members exactly what had just transpired between him and Jenna, who was part of Jasper's Faction.

"This smells like a trap," Cai replied. "Jasper asking you to meet with him just hours after our skirmish with the Ammarian Army has ended is very fishy."

"I know a little about Jasper," Henrietta commented. "And what I can say about him is that aside from his fighting ability, he is also a shrewd Guildmaster. Just like Cai mentioned earlier, this smells like a trap. I'm guessing that they want to catch you alone or eliminate you because of what happened earlier."

"I agree with Henrietta." Malcolm nodded. "After witnessing your abilities, I'm sure that the higher ups of the Ammarian Army want to kill you badly. It's highly possible that they will lay an ambush for you. Also, I wouldn't be surprised if they send Rankers to deal with you this time. As long as you die, they will be able to overrun this camp without problems."

Now that he and Lux were in the same boat, Malcolm no longer held back and finally recognized the Half-Elf as his team leader for the duration of the mission.

Since he and the others could no longer switch sides, he needed the Half-Elf alive in order to have a higher chance of being able to clear the dungeon.

Keane, Einar, Val, and Xander had similar opinions, and they urged Lux to not honor his agreement with Jasper, who was currently leading the remnants of the other factions that survived their previous battle.

"I also feel that this is a trap," Lux stated. "But, this can also be an opportunity. I may not get this chance again, so it will be best to just meet with Jasper one last time."

Since the Half-Elf assured everyone to leave everything to him, they no longer insisted on letting Jasper wait forever at the meeting place that he, and Lux, had agreed to meet, an hour before the sun set.

## **Chapter 480: You Can No Longer Hide From Me**



Jasper leaned against a tree as he waited for the Half-Elf to arrive.

The sun was about to set, and he was feeling a little anxious about whether or not Lux would really appear to meet up with him.

Finally, after nearly two hours of waiting, he saw the Half-Elf walking in his direction.

Just as he expected, Lux came alone, not bringing even a single bodyguards with him.

"You came," Jasper greeted with a smile.

"Of course," Lux replied. "You promised to give Wildgarde Stronghold special privileges, so I came."

Jasper arched an eyebrow. "Oh? Is that the only reason you came? What will you do if I break my word?"

Lux shrugged. "Nothing. I'm just making sure that those watching this conversation understand that you promised me some privileges to make this meeting happen. If you break it, then you will have to worry about the repercussions when we leave this place. Do you really think that Commander Gerald is someone that you can bully?"

Gerald and the other Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold had truly cared for him while he was growing up inside the Fortress City.

Although he held a grudge against them, that didn't mean that he didn't have their best interest at heart. If there was something he could do to allow his hometown to gain benefits, he would gladly do it, even stepping foot into a trap in order to make it happen.

Jasper chuckled before clapping his hands together.

"Of course, I will keep my promise," Jasper said. "I said that I will find a way to convince the higher-ups to grant special privileges to Wildgarde Stronghold. However, if I don't manage to convince them, then it isn't my fault. After all, even though I can be considered as a Prodigy, I'm just one of their many underlings."

Lux smirked because he had a feeling that it would come to this. However, he wasn't worried. Since he was already here, he decided to enjoy this farce until the end.

"So, what did you want to talk about?" Lux asked.

"I'm not the one who wants to talk to you," Jasper replied. "It is General Revon who wants to talk to you."

As if waiting for that cue, the General of the Ammarian Army stepped out from the trees in a very casual manner as if he was just taking a stroll in the forest. He then walked towards Lux, eyeing the Half-Elf from head to foot.

"I don't see any fear in your eyes, which means this thing in front of us is one of your clones," General Revon said.

"I'm quite honored to see that General Revon has come personally to deal with me," Lux stated.

General Revon chuckled as he patted Lux's shoulder.

"I was very impressed with what you did earlier," General Revon commented as he poked the Baby Slime that was on top of Lux's head. "I was wondering if I could convince you to work for me. Whatever promises the Yelan Army gave you, I plan to double them all. The treasury of the Ammarian Army is bigger than that of the Yelan Kingdom. I'm sure that you will not be disappointed if you work for us."

Eiko's clone, who was being poked by the enemy General, spat a blob of water at General Revon's head, which the latter evaded with ease.

"Quite a feisty pet you have there." General Revon chuckled. "I've seen many people tame powerful beasts, but this is the first time I've seen someone tame an ordinary Blue Slime."

Eiko's clone then summoned a red-steel-ball and tossed it at the enemy general, who was making fun of her.

General Revon casually flicked the Blast Bomb with his finger and obliterated it before it could even explode.

"So, how about it, Lux?" General Revon pressed both of his hands over the Half-Elf's shoulder and stared at him straight in the eyes. "Want to join my side?"

"No," Lux replied firmly. "I've already made my choice. I'll stick with it till the end."

General Revon sighed before shaking his head helplessly.

"What a shame." General Revon then raised his hand, pressing his thumb and middle finger together. "Don't regret your choice, okay?"

The Ammarian General then snapped his fingers, making a loud and crisp sound.

A moment later, the Half-Elf's body exploded in a shower of blood, making Jasper wince.

"Ah, I almost forgot about you," General Revon said as he raised his foot to step on the baby slime, who had fallen on the puddle of blood and flesh.

A second later, his foot came down and crushed Eiko's clone, killing it instantly.

After making sure that his targets were all eliminated, General Revon smirked as he raised his hand.

"Now, you can run, but you can't hide from me." General Revon sneered.

The Ammarian General had the ability to locate the people that he had touched.

Although the one he talked to and touched was Lux's clone, it was a perfect replica of the Half-Elf, allowing General Revon to pinpoint the red-headed teenager's location.

The General had also poked Eiko's clone, which also allowed him to locate where the baby slime was currently.

After confirming that his ability had locked onto his targets, the Ammarian General smiled before returning to his camp.

The purpose of meeting with Lux was for him to use his ability to track his location. Once the battle started, he would order his Assassins to eliminate Lux as soon as possible to prevent him from continuing to be a threat to their mission.

Jasper gave the puddle of blood on the ground a side-long glance before following behind the Ammarian General.

He had accomplished his mission and would gain the rewards that the General had promised him for helping him put a tracker on the Half-Elf's original body.

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Yelan Army Camp...

"Mumumumu!" Eiko jumped angrily in place, on top of Lux's head, as soon as her Papa's clone, and her own clone were killed.

Clearly, the Baby Slime didn't like seeing Lux get killed even if it was just a clone, making her very angry.

"It's fine, Eiko," Lux caught the jumping Baby Slime with both hands before coaxing her to calm down.

"Did it work?" Lux asked Eiko, who was still in a bad mood.

"Pa!" Eiko replied.

A devilish smile appeared on Lux's face after hearing Eiko's reply.

"Good." Lux patted the Baby Slime's head, which allowed Eiko to calm down a bit more.

After Eiko had secretly killed Second, who was hiding thousands of meters under the ground, the Half-Elf checked the Baby Slime's information in his Soul Book once again.

There, he found that Eiko had somehow acquired a Unique Skill called Fairy Princess' Grudge Domain [EX].

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### < Fairy Princess' Grudge Domain [EX] >

- When Eiko has a grudge on someone, and treats them as an enemy with the intention of harming and even killing them, she will be able to detect their exact location as long as they are within a ten-mile radius of her location.
- It doesn't matter if the target is in the sky, at the bottom of the sea, or beneath the earth. Those who bear the Fairy Princess' Grudge cannot escape her sights as long as they are within Eiko's Grudge Domain.

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"Jasper and General Revon, you can no longer hide from me," the Half-Elf said as he opened his map, allowing Eiko's ability to fuse with it.

Since Eiko was his Beast Companion, he was able to pinpoint the location of the people whom she held a grudge with on his map, even if he didn't have her Unique Skill.

Neither side knew that they could now pinpoint each other's location anytime they wanted.

While both sides were thinking that they managed to get an advantage during their little meet-up earlier, the one who would truly benefit from it would be known a few days later, once both armies clashed again and performed their respective roles on the battlefield.