

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

## **- Chapter 481: - 500**

### **Lux's Proposed Strategy |**

#### **Chapter 481: Lux's Proposed Strategy**

A day after his meeting with Jasper and General Revon, Lux told General Carran that he had found a way to pinpoint the location of two important people in the Ammarian Army, with one of them being the Ammarian General himself.

General Carran knew that this information was very critical. Having access to the enemy General's location at any given time was crucial to their victory.

But, there was one problem.

Only Lux was able to pinpoint General Revon's location, but only General Carran had the strength to face off against the enemy General.

The Yelan General knew how important Lux was in the war, so he couldn't bring him to the frontlines. He was well-aware that General Revon would definitely do his best to kill the Half-Elf at all costs.

Because of this, General Carran decided to assign a fast rider to always accompany Lux so that he would be updated on where General Revon was on the battlefield.

However, Lux had a better idea and tasked Ishtar to accompany the Yelan General to relay General Revon's location to the General in real time.

"This is a good idea." General Carran agreed. "Very well. I will leave four of my most seasoned men to protect you at all times. I'd like to give you more, but we lack manpower at the moment. Make sure to stay at the rear and update me of any changes happening on the battlefield."

"Understood, General," Lux replied. "I will make sure to always keep you updated during the battle."

After finishing his report, Lux once again gathered his teammates to tell them the strategy he had in mind.

"I'm sure that all of you want to participate in the war, and I will not hold you back from doing so," Lux replied. "However, I will choose what side of the battlefield you guys will be fighting on. Right now, I can pinpoint General Revon's and Jasper's location, so I'll make sure that all of you won't be fighting anywhere near them."

Lux knew that his teammates were strong, so fighting against ordinary soldiers wasn't a problem. Although their ranks had degraded everyone, except Malcolm who had kept his Initiate Rank, were still Grade A Apostles.

The ordinary soldiers that belonged to the Ammarian Army consisted of Grade C to A Apostles, so they should be more than capable to handle them. There were Initiate Ranked Soldiers, but Malcolm would be there to protect the others if the former were to appear and attack them.

Lux also assigned Lazarus to guard and relay his orders to his friends, giving them added protection.

Orion's role would be to guard him and keep him safe while he controlled his clones remotely on the battlefield.

"This is a good plan," Cai replied. "But I am worried about you, so Fei Fei and I will stay with you. Isn't that right, Fei Fei?"

"Wae!" Fei Fei replied.

Lux didn't mind if Cai stayed with him, so he nodded his head in agreement.

Xander sighed after hearing Cai's words because he really didn't want her anywhere near the battlefield, especially if there was a chance that a Ranker would suddenly appear in front of them.

The others also didn't have any objection to Lux's strategy.

"I also asked General Carran to give you guys the armor used by the Yelan Army," Lux stated. "This will allow you guys to blend in perfectly, preventing our former teammates from recognizing right away. From now on, Lazarus would be the one telling you guys where to go, so be sure to stick together."

"As for you Val, I'm sorry, but you are not allowed to use your Spider Form. you can only use it as a last resort. The moment you use that form, Jasper and the rest will know your identity and might send several Initiates your way.

"In order to fool them, I will send Pazuzu and one of my clones on the opposite side of where you guys are fighting to fool them into focusing on that location. I believe that everyone in the Ammarian Army wants to kill me, so they will swarm that place like flies."

The Barbarian Prince, Einar, smiled after hearing Lux's detailed plan. He was even touched that the Half-Elf was doing his best to prevent a repeat of what happened with the Vice General back in the Marshlands, where they were killed without having the power to even defend themselves.

"I have no objections with this plan," Einar replied. "How about you guys?"

"I have no objection," Keane replied.

"No objections here," Val stated.

Xander, Henrietta, and Malcolm all shook their heads, telling the Barbarian Prince that they didn't have any problems with the plan.

Lux nodded and ended the meeting. He still had things he needed to do before the next battle started, so he left the camp and looked for an ideal place where he could observe the battle from a safe distance.

After nearly two hours of looking, the Hal-Elf found a cave that was well hidden due to the vines that covered its entrance.

It had good elevation, allowing Lux to have a scenic view of the forest.

"Eiko, I will need your help," Lux said as he lightly patted the baby slime on top of his head and told her what he wanted her to do.

"Pa!" Eiko nodded in understanding and immediately did what her Papa asked of her.

While the baby slime was working, the Half-Elf opened his Soul Book once again to check the location of the purple dots that represented Jasper and General Revon.

Naturally, he didn't believe General Revon's excuse of asking him to join their side when Jasper asked to meet with him. Since he knew that their meeting might be a trap, he sent his clones instead of his original body.

The Half-Elf was sure that Jasper and General Revon knew that he would do this, so he believed that they had another agenda when they had set a trap for him.

As to what that agenda was, Lux had no idea. However, he had this nagging feeling that wouldn't go away no matter how much he tried to ignore it.

'There's no use of thinking about these things,' Lux thought as he gazed in the distance where the Ammarian Army camp was located. 'Whatever they planned to do, I'll be ready for it.'

Even though he was feeling slightly anxious because his instincts were telling him that something was wrong, he had no other option but to keep his calm and continue with the plan he had in mind.

Right now, he only needed to win.

Nothing else mattered.

Deep inside, Lux was very curious about what kind of rewards he would gain once he cleared the Gate of Conquest.

He already acquired two keys that would allow him to go to two SSS-Ranked Kingdoms after clearing the Gates of Death and War.

If the third reward was also a key that would send him to another SSS-Ranked Kingdom, Lux would need to revise his thoughts about the Sacred Dungeon.

A Dungeon that was able to give such rewards couldn't be a simple dungeon, which might be the reason why only those of the Initiate Rank and below could enter it, preventing Rankers and those stronger than them from uncovering the secrets that hid behind the Gates that represented the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

## **Chapter 482.1: The Longest Fifteen Minutes Of My Life [Part 1]**

For two days, the Ammarian Army didn't try to attack the Yelan Encampment, and because of this, an uneasy peace settled inside the Glouswell Forest.

Lux had been paying attention to Jasper's and General Revon's markers on the map, but aside from always seeing them together in the same area, there was nothing else that looked out of place.

Even so, the persistent feeling of dread he felt never eased up, making him wonder if he was just feeling stressed due to the current situation of the war.

According to Diablo's and Asmodeus' report, the Mountain Battlefield that was located on the Western Front of the battlefield was experiencing intense battles, which worried not only Lux, but also Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock.

General Hubert, the General of the Yelan Army who was tasked to hold the fort on the mountainous area, reported that they were slowly being pushed back, despite their geographical advantage.

This was bad news for the Yelan Army, but only the higher-ups were aware of it.

Great General Sherlock dispatched 5,000 soldiers to reinforce their Mountain Defenses in hopes that it would help them out in the battle that was being waged at their Western Front.

Naturally, General Carran had also been told of this news by Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock. However, there was nothing he could do about it.

Even he was having a lot of problems dealing with General Revon, whose army had swelled considerably after absorbing the remnants of General Phobus' men.

One mistake and it was possible for them to be overwhelmed by the Instinctive General's tactics, which were quite unpredictable.

While Lux and General Carran were pondering how they would be able to reverse their current situation, the Ammarian Army finally made its move.

"Report to me if General Revon made any sudden movements," General Carran said.

"I will," Lux replied. "Be careful, General. Something feels amiss. I don't know what it is, but I'm sure that our enemies didn't just sit idly on their camp these past few days."

General Carran nodded. He then ordered his four elite soldiers to never leave Lux's side and keep him safe.

While the General prepared to intercept General Revon's troops, the Half-Elf turned to his friends and asked them to go to the left flank of the battlefield, which was the furthest battlefield from where General Revon and Jasper were located.

"All of you be careful," Lux ordered. "Our priority is to clear this mission. If your lives are in danger, do not hesitate to retreat. Did I make myself clear?"

Everyone nodded their heads in understanding.

"Go," Lux said as he pressed his fist and palm together. "May fortune shine upon all of you."

The others returned his gesture before departing to join the battle.

Cai, who was standing beside Lux, raised its head towards the sky and frowned. Dark clouds started to gather in the sky, bringing in strong gusts of wind blowing in their direction.

"The spirits are restless," Cai muttered. "This is not a good sign."

Fei Fei, who was on top of Cai's head, also looked up at the sky and tilted her head to the side. She didn't know what her Master meant when it said that the spirits were restless.

Lux, who had strong hearing, heard the Boar's words and glanced in Cai's direction.

"Do you sense anything bad, Cai?" Lux inquired.

Cai nodded. "The Spirits are telling me that if I want to live, I should stay where I am right now. They added that following you is dangerous at the moment because you have been marked."

"I've been marked?" Lux asked with a serious expression on his face. "What do you mean that I've been marked?"

Cai took a deep breath before shifting its attention to the Half-Elf, who was waiting for its answer.

It then spoke in a solemn voice, different from its usual snarky comments that could irritate even a monk that was meditating to reach enlightenment.

"I can sense faint traces of a mark on your shoulder," Cai said as it narrowed its eyes. "There is also a faint mark on Eiko's forehead. Both of you have been marked, and I see the omens of death hovering over the two of you. If not for the fact that the Spirits of the Forest are gathering around me right now, I wouldn't have noticed it at all."

Lux's eyes widened in shock. He finally understood why he was feeling a sense of dread that wouldn't go away even after the passing of a few days.

"So, this was what they planned to do from the start," Lux muttered as he connected the dots together. "Thank you, Cai. Now I know what I need to do. For the time being, you stay here. Since the Spirits are telling you that you shouldn't move from this spot, then don't move from this spot, okay?"

Cai nodded its head in understanding. "Be careful, Lux. I'm sorry I can't accompany you right now."

"It's fine. You've already saved me big time," Lux replied before he shifted his gaze towards his four bodyguards who were all at the Initiate Rank. "The four of you, stay with Cai as well. I have to go somewhere."

The Captain of the four soldiers stepped forward and shook his head.

"The General has ordered us to accompany you," the Captain stated.

"But it will be very dangerous to come with me," Lux insisted. "Don't worry, I have plenty of life saving abilities that will keep me safe."

"The answer is still no. Even if we die, we will follow the General's order without fail."

"You're all so stubborn."

Lux crossed his arms over his chest. His four bodyguards were all Initiates, but if what Cai said was true, then the one who would come after him was none other than General Revon, who was a skilled Ranker.

The Ammarian General wouldn't even break a sweat when it came to killing four Initiates. His bodyguards would just lose their lives needlessly.

The Half-Elf didn't want this to happen, so he tried to convince the four soldiers to let him go alone. However, they didn't budge and insisted on going.

"Fine, since you don't want to follow my orders then have it your way," Lux said before activating his Boots of Teleportation.

The Half-Elf and the Baby Slime on top of his head were bathed in a silvery light for a few seconds before disappearing in front of everyone's eyes.

It took the Captain a few seconds to realize what just happened before cursing out loud.

"Find him!" the Captain ordered. "The General will have our heads if something bad happens to that Half-Elf!"

The four soldiers immediately spread in different directions to look for Lux, who had teleported to the cave he had discovered a few days ago.

Cai, who saw this scene, only smirked before turning its head in the direction that Lux had gone.

The lingering traces of death were still active, so the Boar was able to tell the general direction of where the Half-Elf was.

"Be careful, Lux," Cai said softly. "The shadow of Death creeps closer to you with each passing second."

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"We're finally here," Lux said as he glanced at the Skeleton Mages that gathered around him.

Before he had left the cave a few days ago, he summoned his Skeleton Mages to keep watch over it, just in case it turned out to be a nest of a Beast that had left to look for something to hunt in the forest.

However, as the days passed, no creature entered the hidden cave, making Lux assume that it had no owner.



Since his four bodyguards were adamant about staying with him, he had no choice but to use his teleportation boots to reach his secret hiding spot.

'It's a bit of a shame that the teleportation ability of the Boots of Teleportation is now on cooldown,' Lux thought. 'Fortunately, I just have to wait for fifteen minutes before I can use it again.'

Fifteen minutes might seem like a short time, but in a war, a lot of things could happen in fifteen minutes.

The first thing that Lux did was open his Elysium Compendium to see the current state of the battlefield.

A moment later, he noticed that one of the purple dots on the map, accompanied by over a dozen red dots, started to move in his direction.

Lux's face immediately became grim because he was able to confirm his suspicion that Cai's words were correct. The Ammarian General had indeed put a mark on him, allowing the latter to locate his current position on the battlefield.

"This is probably going to be the longest fifteen minutes of my life," Lux muttered as he gazed at the approaching dots that were headed in his direction.

Although he had other life saving artifacts, he didn't want to use them at the moment. Because of this, he decided to do what he could as he waited for General Revon to make his way to his hiding place.

'Fortunately, I prepared for something like this to happen,' Lux thought as he patted Eiko's head, who was now on his shoulder and looking at the map that the Half-Elf had projected in front of them.

"Eiko, we have work to do," Lux said.

"Pa!" Eiko replied.

Even though a Ranker was coming after them, the two of them were still calm because they had made modifications to the inside of the cave beforehand.

Since General Revon was firm in his decision to end their lives, the Half-Elf would be more than happy to return the favor.

Although he wasn't confident that he would be able to kill the Ammarian General, the Half-Elf was certain that he could at least send the General's subordinates to the afterlife.

## **Chapter 483.2: The Longest Fifteen Minutes Of My Life [Part 2]**

General Revon was paying close attention to Lux's whereabouts even before he ordered the attack on the Ammarian Camp.

He knew that as long as the Half-Elf wasn't eliminated, the chances of mutual destruction on both sides was high if the Yelan Army found itself driven into a corner.

Although he might win the battle, the loss of manpower was something he preferably wanted to avoid, so his purpose in this battle was to assassinate the Half-Elf using his elite subordinate who specialized in eliminating high-ranking officials in the battlefield

He was prepared to send these men deep inside the Yelan Army in order to reach the Half-Elf, but to his surprise, his senses told him that his target had moved away from the Yelan Camp, far away from where the fighting was taking place.

General Revon knew that this was a great opportunity, so instead of simply ordering his subordinates to head in Lux's direction, he took the initiative to personally deal with the Half-Elf, bringing his subordinates along.

As long as Lux was killed, he was confident that he could win against General Carran in a war of attrition. The Ammarian forces were more numerous compared to the defenders, who were desperately trying to hold their position, preventing the Ammarian Army from breaking past their defenses.

Since he was such a high profile character, General Revon made sure to use the dense forest as his cover, while he headed towards the Half-Elf who had isolated himself on the Western Outskirts of the Battlefield.

Suddenly, without warning, the Ammarian General raised his sword and slashed in front of him, creating a wind blade that sliced everything in front of it, including the giant Skeleton Cannonball that was aimed in their direction.

The Skeleton Cannonball was sliced in half and fell harmlessly on the ground, shattering into hundreds of pieces.

'I see, so you are aware that I am headed in your direction,' General Revon thought. 'Interesting. It's a shame that you refuse to join my side.'

General Revon could truly tell how dangerous the Half-Elf was, and this discovery amazed him. This was the first time that a Grade A Apostle had been able to throw a wrench in his grand plan, and the more he thought about it, the more he wanted to kill Lux and make sure that he wouldn't be able to live another day.

It was at this moment that the Ammarian General and his subordinates saw another Giant Skeleton Cannonball headed in their direction.

"It's useless." General Revon sneered as he sliced the incoming skeleton cannonball into two halves.

Just like he intended, his target was cut perfectly in half.

However, something else happened.

When the skeleton cannonball was cut in half, dozens of red-steel-balls burst out from inside its center and descended upon the General and his subordinates.

A moment later, a powerful explosion erupted within the forest, making the Half-Elf who was sitting in a meditative position clench his fist tightly because his attack managed to have the outcome he was aiming for.

Right now, he was sharing his senses with his Doppelganger, who was doing his best to delay the approach of the Ammarian General, allowing the cooldown of the Boots of Teleportation to finish.

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< Boots of Teleportation >

Cooldown: 00:12:16

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Twelve minutes still remained, but the distance that the Ammarian General needed to travel in order to reach him was less than three kilometers.

Even so, with his mount, General Revon could easily reach Lux's position in around five minutes, giving the Half-Elf no time to flee using his Boots of Teleportation.

However, before Lux could even celebrate, the General's mount, as well as a few of his subordinates', passed through the cloud of smoke that was caused by the explosion of the Blast Bombs that he and Eiko had prepared for the Ammarian General and his entourage.

'As expected, it is not easy to deal with a Ranker,' Lux thought. 'Also, I only managed to take out three of his subordinates.'

Although he had already expected General Revon to easily survive his attack, he was still disappointed that he hadn't been able to wipe out the General's subordinates, who were riding behind him.

'Let's go with Plan B then.' Lux immediately ordered his clone, and Eiko's Doppelgangers, to proceed with their next plan. Right now, it was a race against time, and he would do everything in his power to halt General Revon's advance.

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"Stick close to me!" General Revon ordered as he led his men in the direction where he could sense the Half-Elf.

If not for the fact that he acted quick enough and used his sword to create a gust of wind to blow away the Blast Bombs that were in front of him, his men would have already suffered under the Half-Elf's schemes.

However, even though he was a Ranker, he still wasn't able to save everyone, so three of his people died in the process.

General Revon looked calm on the surface, but deep inside, he was quite annoyed that he had lost three of the Initiates that he had personally trained to become Assassins.

They specialized in sneak attacking people, and weren't good in face-to-face combat. Also, the amount of Blast Bombs that exploded in front of them numbered in the hundreds, which was more than enough to kill an Initiate.

Eiko and her clones, as well as Lux, made the Blast Bombs with the intention of wiping out General Revon's subordinates' using the second Skeleton Cannonball as a surprise attack.

Unfortunately, they didn't succeed, so they proceeded with the second phase of their plan.

Several bone arrows, as well as dozens of elemental bullets, descended upon General Revon and his entourage, but the powerful Ranker simply used his Sword Aura to create strong gusts of wind, repelling these attacks with ease.

It didn't take long before General Revon saw hundreds of Undead Creatures, as well as Rock Golems blocking their path.

The Ammarian General was about to slash his sword to cut them all in half, but before he could even do that, he suddenly felt a powerful attraction pulling him towards his left side.

'This might be that taunting ability that Jasper had warned me about,' General Revon thought. 'The one that managed to bring down General Phobus.'

When he first heard about this ability, he only thought that General Phobus' willpower wasn't strong enough to resist it, so he didn't think too much about it.

Now that it was being used against him, he finally understood why this skill was something that he should be wary of because even though he was using his will power to break free from the invisible shackles that bound him, it was of no use.

Shifting his gaze to his right side, he saw a Giant Jade Golem in the distance whose finger was pointing in his direction.

With an angry roar, General Revon steered his Black Panther to face off against Orion, who used the skill, Duel [EX], to force the General to fight him.

His subordinates were surprised by the General's sudden action, which left them unable to react to the volley of bone arrows, elemental magic, in addition to another Giant Skeleton Cannonball that headed in their direction.

Knowing that this was a matter of life and death, the Assassins unleashed a barrage of their most powerful spells, and abilities, in order to defend themselves.

General Revon could only hear a series of loud explosions behind him, but there was nothing he could do about it. He could only grit his teeth as he charged at the Jade Golem, whom he wanted to crush with his own two hands.

Orion took a fighting stance, knowing full well that he could only survive two blows from his opponent.

The Jade Golem had the Guts skill, which allowed him to survive an attack that could otherwise kill him instantly. However, this wouldn't save him from the next blow from the Ranker, whom he was sure wouldn't show him any mercy.

Even so, the Jade Golem had no intention of backing down because his Master's life was on the line.

"Come!" Orion declared as he pulled back his arm in preparation to unleash his strongest attack.

When General Revon was only a few meters away from the Jade Golem, he suddenly felt four powerful energy sources headed in his direction.

However, since he was forced to duel with the Jade Golem, the only thing he could do was to summon a barrier around his body in order to protect himself from the attacks that had been timed perfectly to coincide with Orion's Duel [Ex].

As Orion and General Revon were about to exchange blows with each other, Four Dragon Breaths collided with the General's barrier.

At the exact same time, the Skeleton Bombs that Lux's and Eiko's clones created, that were buried in front of Orion, detonated as well, creating an earth shaking explosion that shook the entirety of Glouswell Forest.

## Chapter 484.3: The Longest Fifteen Minutes Of My Life [Part 3]

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< Boots of Teleportation >

Cooldown: 00:09:32

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The explosion was so powerful that even the soldiers fighting way off in the distance noticed it, making them wonder what was happening in a place that was devoid of any of their soldiers.

However, since they were currently neck to neck with each other, they pulled their attention back to their enemy and fought with everything they had.

The Ammarian Army didn't know that their General was currently dealing with a threat greater than General Carran at the moment, while the Yelan Soldiers weren't aware that their Trump Card was currently dealing with the greatest threat in the Glouswell Forest.

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At the center of a crater that was hundreds of meters wide, dense white smoke rose towards the sky, blocking anyone from seeing anything past it.

A moment later, the smoke was dispersed and the Ammarian General roared in anger.

The clothes in his body were covered in soot, and he received very minor injuries. However, his mount, the Black Panther, didn't survive Lux's devastating attack.

Although the Black Panther was a peak Rank 5 Field Boss Monster, it wasn't able to survive Lux's devastating attacks that were imbued by the Power of the Abyss. The Touch of the Abyss directly targeted the soul, so even if someone had strong defenses, they wouldn't be able to block it completely.

Even General Revon's wasn't an exception, and he sustained some injuries to his soul. However, that kind of injury wouldn't stop the Ammarian General from killing the Half-Elf who had already broken past his bottom line.

After finally deciding that he would no longer play games with his target, General Revon stomped his right foot on the ground, and was about to run at full speed to where the Half-Elf was when he felt another strong pull coming from behind him.

General Revon growled fiercely before turning his head to look at the person who dared to stop him from killing the person he wanted to kill.

There, he saw Lux's clone sneering at him and making the "come over here" gesture with his hands, making something inside the Ammarian General snap.

"You bastard!" General Revon growled before lunging at the Half-Elf's clone, who was looking at him with disdain.

"Do you think I'll just allow you to kill me so easily?" Lux asked with a sneer. "My life isn't cheap. Even if I am fighting against a Ranker, I will struggle to the bitter end."

"I'll seal your soul and torture you for a hundred years!" General Revon shouted as he swung his sword to end the clone's life. "I will not stop even if you beg me to kill you!"

"Whether you will be able to seal my soul or not is still uncertain," Lux replied. "Don't think too highly of yourself just because you are a Ranker."

Lux's clone then pressed his closed fists together, casting his strongest attack at him.

"Draco Meteor!"

Immediately, giant fireballs descended from the sky and fell toward where the Half-Elf was standing. Any ability that Lux used was empowered by the Touch of the Abyss. No matter how minor it was, any injury to the soul was harder to heal compared to the injuries of the flesh.

The fireballs descended from the sky, creating another round of explosions, but General Revon's furious roar overpowered the noise of the explosions,



showing just how much he hated the Half-Elf who kept on delaying his inevitable death by his hands.

Half a minute later, General Revon emerged from the devastated forest and ran towards the red-headed teenager, who had made him suffer more than General Carran whom he had faced repeatedly inside the Glouswell Forest.

He had already noticed that the injuries he received to his body were all minor injuries, and that he didn't even need to bother with them. However, the injuries he received to his soul were something that he couldn't turn a blind eye to, so with this, he planned to capture the Half-Elf and return to his camp to start the recovery of his soul.

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< Cooldown: 00:08:08 >

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Lux, who was inside his hiding place, raised his hand and summoned Pazuzu in front of him.

"Pazuzu, buy as much time as you can," Lux ordered. "I still have one clone to hold him off, and Eiko's two clones are also moving to intercept him. You are my last line of defense. Please, hold him off for as long as you can."

Pazuzu knelt like a knight and pressed his right fist over his chest. "The only time General Revon will be able to get past me is over my dead body, Master. I will do everything in my power to hold him back."

"I know," Lux nodded.

The Half-Elf then stood up and tapped Pazuzu's shoulder, signaling his Fortress Defender to stand up.

After doing that, he walked towards the entrance of the cave and summoned his Dragon Knight, Bedivere.

"Bedivere, help Pazuzu fend off General Revon to the best of your abilities," Lux stated.

"I will, Master," Bedivere replied as he pressed his fist over his chest, while mounted on the back of his wind dragon. "I will fight to the death for your sake."

Lux nodded. "Blackfire, come!"

A moment later, a black coffin appeared behind Lux. Its lid opened, and two black mists surged out from inside it.

Sid and Scarlet stood in front of Lux with different expressions on their faces.

The Dhamphir Assassin knelt and bowed his head with respect, while Scarlet only gave Lux a brief nod of acknowledgement.

"Sid, Scarlet, I call upon you now to protect me," Lux stated. "You are facing a Ranker, so don't hold back and attack with everything you have. I have managed to damage his soul, so he isn't at his peak. If you are lucky, you might be able to give him a scratch. Just make sure that the blades you use are coated with poison."

"Yes, Master," Sid replied.

"If I die from this, you better revive me," Scarlet said through gritted teeth. "I still have many goals in this lifetime, and I want to achieve them all."

Lux glared at the beautiful scarlet-haired Dwarf in annoyance. "I am doing my best to not raise any death flags, yet you casually jinx us. Girl, you need to learn how to choose your words."

Scarlet snorted, but she no longer said anything else. Lux was her Master, so she couldn't be too rude to him, so she decided to just shut up and do what he asked of her.

If Lux died, she would also die. Although dying in the Dungeon wasn't a permanent death, she knew that if she allowed the Half-Elf to die right now, the latter would lose more stats, making his rank regress.

And, if his Rank regressed again, wouldn't that make him weaker?

If Lux was weak, he might accidentally die if he was slapped by a monster while he was exploring Elysium.

If Lux died outside of the Dungeon, she would die for real as well. This was a fact, so no matter what would happen, she would not allow the Half-Elf to die.

His death would also be the end of her ambitions.

"Don't worry," Lux said as if to assure Scarlet. "If you die, I will make sure to revive you, okay?"

Scarlet nodded in relief after hearing Lux's assurance. Unlike Lux's Named Creatures, Sid, Scarlet, and Bedivere couldn't be summoned back to life so easily.

Once they died, the Half-Elf had to use Beast Cores in order to revive them, chipping away at valuable resources, which Lux could use to increase his strength instead.

The Half-Elf then glanced to the North and saw a dust cloud heading in his direction.

"Our guest is finally here," Lux stated. "Make sure to let him know that I am not someone he can kill just because he has the strength to. Let him know that even a rat will bite back once it is cornered."

""Yes, Master!""

Pazuzu, Bedivere, Sid, and Scarlet, all went to intercept the Ammarian General who planned to kill their Master.

Now that the Half-Elf's life was on the line, the four of them would do everything in their power to stop the General in his tracks, even if they had to sacrifice their own lives to make it happen.

Lux stared at his subordinates as they faced the enemy Ranker in battle.

He then took out the Dragon Token and held it firmly in his hand.

He didn't really want to use it until it was absolutely necessary. But, he wouldn't be shy when it came to using one of his Trump Cards in order to save his life.

Additionally, the Half-Elf was waiting for something else to happen.

He didn't just randomly decide to come to this cave in order to lure General Revon out to attack him.

If he genuinely wanted to play it safe, he would just have stayed in the Yelan Camp where he was heavily protected.

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity," Lux said softly as he stared in the direction where the Ammarian Army and Yelan Army were fighting against each other. "Whether you use this opportunity or not is for you to decide."

The Half-Elf stepped back inside the cave and sat in meditation. The seconds that passed felt like days, and the minutes felt like years.

Now that the final minutes of the clock were ticking down, it was only a matter of time before the conclusion to Lux's gamble would come to pass.

## **Chapter 485: I Have Come To Take Your Head**

Never in his life had General Revon suffered under the hands of a mere Apostle.

As someone of his Rank, he could easily crush hundreds of Apostles if he wished for it. But, the Half-Elf he was fighting against was using tactics that he never thought was possible.

Although the attacks that he received only made him suffer minor injuries, the damage in his soul was getting worse with each time he was exposed to Lux's Abyssal Touch, which could pass through any defenses, attacking his soul directly.

"You brat, don't let me get my hands on you!" General Revon said through gritted teeth as he neared the location of the hidden cave where Lux was currently staying.

However, just as he was getting near his destination, he felt a familiar strong pull once again, forcing him to veer off his path.

"Damn you!" General Revon glared to his right side and saw a familiar baby Blue Slime, which he had poked a few days ago. Back then, he thought that this particular Slime was harmless and would be of no threat to him.

But now, after experiencing Lux's annoying delaying tactics, the General was no longer in the mood to show any mercy to a low-ranked Monster, even if it was a baby.

General Revon's eyes turned bloodshot because right in front of the Baby Slime, dozens of red-steel balls were scattered, making him curse out loud.

"I'll kill you!" General Revon's blood-curdling roar was similar to that of a beast's that was about to annihilate everything in its path.

Even so, Eiko's clone held her ground and even spat a bone bomb in front of her, in addition to tossing another red-steel ball it had just created, adding to the number of bombs that were lying in wait for the Ranker, whose lips were already bleeding from viciously biting them out of anger.

"Boom Boom Bakugan!" Eiko's clone shouted as General Revon swung his sword down to obliterate it completely.

Just like what happened before, another explosion erupted, and this time, General Revon staggered a bit because he suffered another injury to his soul, making his vision spin for a brief moment.

Just before the Ranker was able to regain his senses, three Dragon Breaths hit him from three different directions.

One was from the sky, and the other two were from his left and right sides, making him unable to dodge them.

Clearly, these attacks were synchronized to hit him just as soon as he was engulfed in the explosions from the Blast Bombs and Skeleton Bombs that Eiko's clone had created.

General Revon skidded a few meters away from where he stood. Currently, his arms were crossed in front of his body in a defensive position, shielding his chest and head from the Dragon Breaths that had just hit him.

A moment later, blood spilled at the corner of the General's lips. For the first time, he had received a serious injury from the combined assault on his body.

Due to his soul being injured, he was unable to raise his barrier in time and got hit directly by the three Dragon Breaths, which further damaged his soul.

Suddenly, General Revon swung his sword backwards, deflecting two throwing knives that were hurled at his back.

After the Ammarian General deflected the throwing knives, he jumped away from where he stood and evaded a blood spray that came from above his head.

The place where he initially stood melted as if it was corroded by a strong acid, causing white smoke to rise from its surface.

Sid immediately flapped his wings and flew away as his bleeding palm healed at a very fast rate.

When he was reborn as a Dhamphir, Sid gained many new abilities like Superhuman Strength, Superhuman Speed, Flight, Enhanced Senses, Eidetic Memory, Superhuman Stamina, Fast Regeneration, and a few other things that made him several times stronger than his past self before he died in Lux's hands.

But, among Sid's new abilities was Blood Magic.

He could use his blood to empower a spell, transform into a weapon, as well as other Blood Arts that would make an Anemic Person shake their head in disgust just by looking at him.

The reason why he was able to accompany the Draconian Kobold, Cadmus, in the Savage Lands, was due to his unique ability that allowed him to match the explosive abilities of an E-Ranker.

General Revon was a C Ranker, which meant that he was many times stronger than Sid. However, after suffering several Soul Injuries, the General's reaction time had significantly slowed, allowing Sid to use sneak attacks against the weakened General.

However, even though he was confident that he was currently faster than his target, he still didn't dare to linger close to General Revon. He knew that one sword strike from a C-Ranker was enough to cut him in half, no matter how sturdy and durable his body was.

"You annoying insects!" General Revon roared as he raised his sword high up in the air. "Die!"

Suddenly, a powerful gust of air spun around the General, creating a powerful tornado, uprooting all the trees that were hundreds of meters around him.

Scarlet transformed herself into her Cambion Form and flew away to prevent herself from getting sucked up by the giant tornado that was slowly getting bigger and bigger.

"Pull back!" Bedivere shouted as he ordered his mount, who was desperately flapping its wings to escape the powerful suction that was pulling it towards the tornado.

"None of you will escape!" General Revon's roar reverberated in the surroundings as the tornado's size increased drastically.

Truth be told, the General was having difficulty moving his body, so he decided to create a tornado as a means to defend and attack the annoying insects that were coming at him from all sides.

He was beyond angry right now and was already going all-out to ensure that the pesky flies buzzing around him would be torn to shreds.

Just as he expected, Lux's and Eiko's last remaining clones were slowly being pulled towards the tornado.

The Half-Elf's clone had summoned a Skeleton Sword, and dug it on the ground to prevent himself from being sucked in, but it was only a matter of time before he and Eiko's clone would be torn to shreds by the powerful winds that were as sharp as knives.

Bedivere, Sid, and Scarlet were also unable to fly away from the vicinity and slowly lost their ground with each passing second.

Just as all of them were about to reach their limits, a Giant Skeleton Cannonball flew towards the tornado, and behind it were two Dragon Breaths, pushing it from behind, and increasing its speed.

A moment later, the tornado twisted erratically before swelling in size. It didn't take long before an explosion was heard from within its center, and the tornado was dispersed completely, allowing Lux's subordinates to break free from its pull.

"Now, I finally know where you are hiding," General Revon spat a mouthful of blood as he narrowed his eyes in the direction where the two Dragon Breaths had come from.

His vision zoomed in on the Half-Elf and the blue baby slime, whose mouths were currently smoking due to attacks that they had just unleashed.

Since General Revon was unable to properly move his body, the only thing he could do was channel his strength and launch a concentrated long distance attack, in order to kill the Half-Elf where he stood.

"Time for you to die," General Revon muttered as he summoned a spear in his hands.

Wind magic started to gather from its tip as he prepared to unleash his strongest attack, which he originally planned to use against General Carran should an opportunity present itself.

However, right now, he wanted nothing more than to kill the Half-Elf, so he threw caution to the wind and prepared to throw his spear at the Necromancer who made him suffer repeatedly.

Just as he was about to unleash his attack, his sixth sense kicked in, telling him that a danger that could potentially end his life was coming from behind him.

General Revon's body moved subconsciously and used the spear in his hand to deflect a blue spear that was only two meters away from hitting his back.

A metallic ring spread in the surroundings, as the Ammarian General's skidded a few meters from where he stood.

The spear that had attacked him from behind flew towards the air and returned to its owner, which made General Revon's face turn grim.

"So, you're finally here," General Revon wiped the bloodstain at the corner of his lips as he looked at the Yelan General who was charging in his direction, mounted on the back of a Giant Black Bear.

"Yes," General Carran replied. "I have come to take your head and end your tyranny once and for all."



## Chapter 486: If I Survive This, You'd Better Compensate Me

Lux sighed after seeing that General Carran had finally arrived at the scene.

However, he didn't order his subordinates to leave. Instead, he ordered them to look for an opportunity to give the killing blow to the Ammarian General, whose injuries were more serious than the injuries that could be seen by the naked eye.

< Boots of Teleportation >

Cooldown: 00:04:19

Although his reinforcements had arrived, the Half-Elf didn't drop his guard because he knew that he wasn't out of danger just yet.

If not for the fact that General Carran had forced General Revon to deflect the spear that he had thrown at his enemy's back, the Ammarian General might have already killed the Half-Elf, ejecting him out of the Dungeon, and preventing him from rejoining the war.

The two Generals stared at each other for a brief moment before General Revon held the spear in his hands firmly, and gathered a great amount of wind magic in its tip, creating strong gusts of winds that blew towards him.

General Carran knew that his enemy understood that there was no way for him to escape, so he assumed that General Revon planned to end their faceoff with a single killing blow that would decide the outcome of the war.

"So be it!" General Carran also held the spear in his hand, and channeled his own unique magic in it.

General Carran's specialty was Metal Magic. This allowed him to manipulate any kind of metal, to a certain extent, as well as empower his weapon, and armor beyond its limit.

Black mists rose up from the ground and gathered on the tip of General Carran's Spear as he activated his Trump Card to face off against General Revon's own final gambit.

The black mists that were flying in his direction weren't actually gas, but iron filings, and other metals that were in his immediate surroundings.

General Carran condensed them together, increasing the size of his spear, making it harder, sharper, and countless times more deadly.

There was a time when General Carran had made a gigantic spear that easily pierced through the barriers of the Ammarian Army, and broke through the walls of their fortress, allowing the Yelan Army to capture one of their main strongholds, which allowed them to capture the lands belonging to the Ammarian Kingdom.

Lux knew that there was a very high possibility that he would be caught in the aftermath of the two General's confrontation, so he was paying close attention to the cooldown of his Boots of Teleportation.

As soon as the cooldown finished, he would immediately teleport away, and recall his Subordinates.

Although he felt regretful that he wouldn't be able to land the killing blow at the General, his life was more important than the rewards he would gain if he remained on the battlefield.

< Boots of Teleportation >

Cooldown: 00:02:23

Beads of sweat formed on top of Lux's head, as he continually shifted his attention between the battle that was about to start, as well as the cooldown of his life saving artifact.

Due to his constant glancing at his Soul Book, he noticed a green dot appear on the map, and it was currently speeding towards his direction.

Unlike the other green dots on the map, this particular green dot had a name, which meant that they were one of Lux's party members.

A quick glance was enough to tell him who it was, but before the Half-Elf could even tell the thick-skinned boar to stay away from the battlefield, Cai's voice reached Lux's ears.

"Lux, don't move from where you are!" Cai shouted.

The Half-Elf only understood what Cai had meant when it told him to not move from his spot when he heard General Revon's crisp and overbearing roar.

"Rend my foes to shreds!" General Revon roared. "Requiem of the Storm Winds!"

"Annihilate!" General Carran shouted as he pulled back his arm to throw the giant spear towards his enemy. "Florance, Spear of Giant Slaying!"

Both Generals threw their weapons at the same time, but to General Carran's surprise, General Revon didn't throw his spear in his direction, but towards the Half-Elf, whose eyes had widened in shock.

The wind hummed as the spear containing the full might of a C-Ranker headed towards the Half-Elf, whose body was frozen in place.

General Revon's attack had an added ability, and that was to immobilize his targets, preventing them from escaping his killing blow.

This was why General Revon was a feared enemy by the Yelan Generals because he had slain many of their comrades in the same manner. Only General Carran was confident enough to face off against him, so he was the one that was assigned to fight against the strongest among the Ammarian Generals.

Although he knew that it was futile, Lux still decided to summon several layers of Bone Walls in front of him, in an attempt to decrease the force behind the General's attack, giving him a chance of survival.

However, before he could even do that, he heard Cai's shout, which seemed to suppress all sounds in his surroundings.

"Fourth Gear!"

At that moment, a boar that was over five meters tall appeared in front of the Half-Elf, standing in the path of the destructive spear that was strong enough to obliterate an entire town.

"Twrch Trwyth!" Cai roared as she used her tusks to create a barrier and block the incoming spear that was meant to take the Half-Elf's life.

After the incident at the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen, her Grandfather, Maximilian, had given her two things.

The first one was the poison that could paralyze a Ranker.

The second one was the spirit of a powerful Boar who had reached the Argonaut Rank.

This was Cai's Fourth Form and Trump Card, allowing her to gain the strength of a Ranker temporarily.

Even so, the disparity between an E-Ranker, and a C-Ranker was immense, making Cai's hooves skid across the ground.

Due to his strong sense of hearing, the Half-Elf heard a faint cracking sound in front of him, making him feel as if he had lost all the breath in his body.

Cracks started to form on the surface of Cai's tusks, but the Boar held its ground as the power behind the spear decreased with each passing second.

"Lux, I apologize for the things I did to you in the past," Cai said as the cracks in its tusks widened. "Originally, I didn't want to come because the spirits were telling me that doing so would be extremely dangerous."

Cai's tusks began to splinter, as it resisted the pressure that was similar to a mountain pressing on top of it, with every fiber of its being.

"But, if something happens to you, Iris will be sad," Cai stated as bits and pieces of its tusks broke apart. "Iris is my first best friend, and I want her to be the happiest girl in the world. Which means that I can't just stand idly as you face someone that can end your life so easily. That's why... I decided to come."

"And Lux, if I survive this, you'd better compensate me."

A grunt escaped Cai's lips as one of its tusks shattered. Cracks immediately appeared in the barrier, making creaking sounds, alerting the Boar and the Half-Elf that it could shatter at any given moment.

"Iris... I'm sorry."

Cai's words, filled with unwillingness, spread in the surroundings as its last tusk broke apart, making the barrier in front of it shatter.

The Boar then decisively used its body to shield the Half-Elf behind its back.

General Revon's spear embedded itself halfway in the Giant Boar's body, which sent Cai flying.

Lux, who was behind the Giant Boar, was pushed away by Pazuzu, preventing Cai's body from colliding against his Master.

The Fortress Defender then activated his Shield Wall in an attempt to slow down the speed at which Cai was pushed back by the momentum of General Revon's attack, making his body smash against the trees behind him.

As much as possible, he didn't want the already seriously injured Cai to suffer more injuries as he used his body to break its fall.

After being pushed for hundreds of meters, Cai's body finally collapsed on the ground, while Pazuzu's body slowly turned into particles of light.

He had done his best to protect the Boar, who had saved his Master's life, from further injury. Pazuzu hoped that the next time Lux summoned him, he would still be able to see the annoying Boar, whose vocal antics could even force the dead to rise up from their grave, in order to slap it.

Lux, who had been pushed aside by his Fortress Defender, propped himself off the ground and immediately looked at the wreckage behind him.

Blood drained from his face when he saw the Boar's current circumstance, making him feel as if a stake had been stabbed in his heart.

"Cai!" Lux shouted as he flew towards the Boar, whose body glowed faintly.

Just as the Half-Elf landed beside Cai, the Boar's body shattered like a crystal glass that had fallen on the floor.

These shattered pieces soon dissolved into particles of light, revealing a naked beauty lying on the ground. A puddle of blood could be seen under her body, and her face was devoid of any colors.

Even so, a sad, yet beautiful smile could be seen on her face, despite the fact that her body was covered with her own blood, and all the warmth she currently had was slowly slipping away, like the sand inside an hourglass, whose time was about to run out.

## Chapter 487: To Damnation And Beyond

"Why?" General Carran asked as he looked at the Ammarian General who had been mortally wounded by his attack.

General Revon spat a mouthful of blood as he lay on the ground, dying. Instead of throwing his spear towards the Yelan General, he threw it towards Lux in an attempt to end the latter's life once and for all.

This move shocked General Carran and made him wonder why the Ammarian General did such a thing.

"Why?" General Revon asked back hoarsely. "Do you really not know the answer, or are you just pretending to be ignorant?"

The Yelan General narrowed his eyes as he looked down at the dying General on the ground.

"Tell me," General Carran insisted. "I want to hear it from your own lips."

Although he was hurting, General Revon managed to chuckle at the absurdity of the situation. Even he didn't think that at the last second, he would choose to target the Half-Elf instead of the Yelan General who fought against him.

However, he was sure that if he could turn back time and given the same choices, he would repeat what he had done today.

General Revon chuckled as blood dripped from the corner of his lips.

"I... have heard how formidable you are... and wanted to know if the stories were true," General Revon said with ragged breaths. "You are... indeed strong, but... not strong enough to tip the outcome in favor... of the Yelan Kingdom."

General Revon then coughed a few times before shifting his gaze in the direction where the Half-Elf was.

"It is not you... or me who will decide the outcome of this war..." General Revon closed his fists. As he tried to prop himself up. "The greatest... threat on this battlefield... is him."

He forced himself to stand because, as a General, he wanted to die standing on his two feet, instead of lying on the ground and waiting for death to take him.

General Carran didn't do anything and simply allowed the enemy general to do as he pleased. He had recognized the Ammarian General as a fearsome foe, so the least he could do was allow him to die in a way fitting of his rank.

"If he only chose my side... the one who would be dying would have been you," General Revon stated as he fixed his fading vision on the Half-Elf, who was desperately pouring bottles of healing potions on the body of the young lady, who risked her life to save him.

"You should... know what... Necromancers... are capable of doing," General Revon coughed once more as his body slowly but surely neared its limit. "After all... you also lost to one... right?"

General Carran didn't refute the Ammarian General's words. There was one time when he had accidentally come across a vagabond Necromancer, who was performing an unholy ritual on the border of the Yelan Kingdom.

The Necromancer was also a Ranker, and although he was a realm weaker than the Yelan General, that disparity was overcome by the hordes of Undead that obeyed his command.

General Carran had lost many of his trusted and loyal subordinates in that battle, and since then, he hated Necromancers with a vengeance.

If not for the fact that Lux had helped them out in the Marshland Campaign, he would have definitely ended the Half-Elf's life because of the grudge he'd held for the past few years.

"You... should be... careful, Carran," General Revon said as he faced the Yelan General. "Necromancers are... willful beings. You might be... his ally now... but who knows what will... happen tomorrow. It will be... best if you dispose of... him now... while you still ca—kreuk!"

The Ammarian General wasn't able to finish his words because a dagger had pierced through his neck, surprising even General Carran, who was only several meters away from General Revon.

"You talk too much," Sid stated. "Just go to hell where you belong."

The Dhamphir then twisted his knife, creating a gaping hole on General Revon's neck.

A moment later, the Dwarf Assassin casually pushed the general's body, making it fall on the ground, before making a slashing motion to his side, removing the blood that stained his dagger.

"Y-You!" General Carran shouted in both surprise and anger. "Why?! He's already dying!"

Sid shifted his gaze from the fallen General beside his feet to the Yelan General who was looking at him with bloodshot eyes.

"If he's still dying, then it means that he is not dead yet," Sid replied with a shrug. "My Master wants him dead, and I also want him dead. Because of this, he needs to die. Simple as that. Also, before you spout more rubbish, let me just say that you were only able to kill him because we had already worn him down.

"You heard what he said earlier. The one whom he thinks is the greatest threat to their Army in this war is not you, but my Master. So, if you want to win, don't make my Master your enemy. Even if he cannot kill you, he can certainly kill a lot of people."

Sid then shifted his gaze on his Master, who was still desperately pouring bottles of Health Potion over Cai's body.

"My master is too kind to be a Necromancer," Sid added. "If he wasn't, my sisters might be suffering right now and only the Gods know what might have happened to them. Fortunately, he isn't a bad person and allowed me to reunite with them. That is why..."

Sid then fearlessly pointed his dagger to General Carran, and looked at him with a steady gaze.

"Even if you are stronger than me, the moment you harm my Master will be the day that this blade will end your life," Sid declared.

The Dhamphir then flapped the wings behind his back and flew towards the sky. Although the battle had now ended, there was still the possibility that Ammarian Reinforcements would come to see what had happened on this side of the battlefield.



Sid would gladly risk his life to eliminate anyone who would dare to harm his Master, as well as make his little sisters cry.

He didn't care how strong they were, or how high their position was.

Assassins didn't care for such trivialities.

As long as that person must die, he would make sure that they died, not caring what methods he used to make it happen.

For him, his second life was precious, but his little sisters' happiness was more precious.

To that end, Sid would ensure that Lux remained alive, even if it meant that he, himself, would go to Damnation and Beyond.

## **Chapter 488: Unexpected News**

Inside the cave, a gentle refreshing breeze circulated around Lux and Cai as he used the skill, Healing Wind.

He had already poured all of his healing potions over her body, and right now, he was doing his best to stabilize Cai, whose heartbeat had become extremely faint.

Eiko, her Water Slime, and her Angel Slime were the ones that helped with removing the blood on Cai's body using gentle methods, as well as applying their own healing abilities to help the Half-Elf save the young lady, whose life hung by a thin thread.

After her body was cleaned up, Lux used a blanket to cover her as he focused his undivided attention on healing her.

Hours passed as Lux continued to use healing magic over and over again.

He had ordered all of his subordinates to prevent anyone from entering the hidden cave. Right now, no one knew about Cai's true form, and he intended to let it stay that way.

However, he ordered Ishtar to inform Xander about the current situation because he knew that the young man was loyal to Cai and served as one of her retainers.

Xander hurriedly came to where Cai was, but was stopped at the entrance of the cave. Only when Lux gave his permission was the young man let inside the cave to look at the situation of their Tribe's High Priestess.

He didn't interrupt Lux and the Slimes who were using Healing Magic to stabilize Cai's condition and sat a meter away from her, looking at her pale face that was as white as a candle.

Xander didn't have any healing abilities, so he did what he could do and stayed seated, waiting for the High Priestess of their clan to overcome her current situation.

Unlike the other representatives, Xander didn't have the artifact that allowed people to see what he could see. This was to ensure that their tribe's secrets would remain a secret and not be divulged to the outside world.

Finally, just a little past midnight, a sigh escaped Lux lips.

"She will live," Lux said with exhaustion.

After hearing these words, Xander also breathed a sigh of relief before giving Lux a respectful bow.

He then left the cave to stand guard and prevent anyone from trespassing.

Now that their High Priestess' safety was confirmed, he would now do everything in his power to protect her identity from their comrades, who were still unaware of the current situation.

Lux closed his eyes for a brief moment in order to recover a bit of his strength. When he opened them again, he looked at Cai's face, which had now regained a little bit of color.

Although she still looked pale, it was way better than her complexion a few hours ago.

"Iris, you have a good friend," Lux said softly.

Whenever he and his fiancée were together, they would often talk to each other about random things. One of the main topics of their discussion was Cai.

Lux knew about Cai's true form, and Iris had confirmed this as well during one of their pillow talks.

This was why he wasn't too surprised when Cai returned to her original form.

"Thank you, Cai," Lux commented as he gave the sleeping young lady a bow of gratitude. "I will make sure to compensate you properly after this mission ends."

The Half-Elf then lightly patted Fei Fei, who was resting on top of Cai's chest. The Golden Slime had just finished crying a few hours ago and had fallen asleep due to exhaustion.

After making sure that Fei Fei was fine, he stood up and called for Ishtar to enter the cave.

"I will go and rest," Lux said. "Look after her and Fei Fei while I sleep. Wake me up when she regains consciousness."

"Yes, Master," Ishtar replied.

Lux went outside the cave to look at his subordinates, who had also stayed vigil while he was healing Cai.

Pazuzu, Orion, Lazarus, Sid, and Bedivere.

Scarlet couldn't stay any longer because her absence would complicate things, so she returned to the Kingdom of Gweliven once the battle was over.

Lux patted Xander's shoulder before using his boots of Teleportation to return to his tent, where he left a single Skeleton Mage as an anchor point.

When he arrived, the sound of merrymaking could be heard all around the camp.

He didn't know what happened after he had ordered Sid to kill General Revon. The Half-Elf had dedicated all of his attention to keeping Cai alive, in order to prevent her from getting kicked out of the dungeon.

Although the young lady wouldn't really die, her identity would be exposed, which might cause the Rowan Tribe to suffer some hardships.

He didn't know why Cai hid her true form under the guise of a thick-headed and shameless Boar, but something was telling him that her identity must not be exposed no matter what.

This was why he didn't bat an eye and used every resource at his disposal to keep her alive.

As Lux got out of his tent, he saw the merry soldiers drinking, eating, and some were even dancing near the bonfire, which proved how happy they were that they had won the fight against the Ammarian Army.

After asking a few soldiers, the Half-Elf found out that General Carran launched an all-out assault and killed countless Ammarian Soldiers as they fled in droves after seeing General Revon's body tied up on a pole for everyone to see.

Now that their General, and one of their most formidable Rankers, was dead, the Ammarian Soldiers had lost the will to fight, and no matter what the other commanders ordered, none of them listened, allowing the brunt of the Yelan Army to break through their defensive lines.

Blood dyed the land as General Carran and his elite soldiers cut through the enemy's ranks like a hot knife through butter. He knew that an opportunity like this wouldn't present itself again, so he used his powers to drain the iron from the blood of the slain Soldiers, and transformed it into countless Blood Spears that rained upon the Ammarian Army without any mercy.

General Carran wouldn't allow the survivors to regroup and make an exodus towards the Great Plains, further increasing the bulk of the main army of the Ammarian Kingdom.

However, no matter how hard he tried, it was impossible for General Carran to kill everyone.

Thousands of soldiers managed to escape, and he and his men were already too exhausted to chase them for miles.

In the end, General Carran returned to the main camp and declared that they were victorious, which was happily met with cheers by the Yelan Soldiers who had fought long and hard all throughout the campaign.

However, just as General Carran was sharing drinks with his soldiers and toasting them for their hard work, a messenger arrived at the camp, and hurriedly passed him a news that made the smile on his face disappear completely.

Their army protecting the Mountainous Region from the Ammarian Army was defeated, and General Hubert, who was stationed to protect their Western Flank, had been killed in battle.

The survivors of the battle fled the Mountains and went to the Great Plains where Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock received the news of their comrade's passing.

Both Generals were devastated at the loss of one of their Generals, as well as more than half of the army that had been guarding the Mountains.

Now that one of their defensive lines had been breached, it was only a matter of time before the Yelan Main Camp was attacked from two sides, making it difficult for them to feel happy about the two victories that they gained from the Eastern Front, where they had just defeated the enemy Generals whom they were contending with.

## **Chapter 489: One Last Push**

A day before Lux had fought against General Revon...

"So... this is my true power," Nero muttered to himself as he looked down upon the mountain that was blown in half.

Several dead bodies that belonged to the Yelan Soldiers that guarded it were torn to bits, and all of them had died a very painful death.

A man with silver hair, crimson eyes, and horns protruding on his head hovered beside him with a smile.

"That's right," the silver-haired man commented. "Wonderful, isn't it?"

Nero smirked as the wings behind his back flapped lightly. Just like the silver-haired man, there were two crimson horns protruding on top of his head, and his eyes that were as red as blood glowed faintly.

"With this... I will be able to kill him," Nero stated. "I will finally put an end to the person that denied me my true destiny."

The silver-haired man chuckled before pointing at the Yelan General, who had just arrived with the rest of his army to defend their territory.

"Well, the big fish has finally arrived." the silver-haired man smirked. "What are you planning to do?"

Nero snorted. "Nothing. I have already done my part. It is now their turn to earn their keep."

On the ground behind him, tens of thousands of Ammarian Soldiers rushed up to meet the Yelan Army in order to take advantage of the opening that Nero created.

General Herodes, the Ammarian General in charge of the Mountain Campaign, led his men to fight against General Hubert of the Yelan Army.

Nero watched this battle with a sneer as he crossed his arms over his chest. Now that he had eliminated nearly a third of the Yelan Army, he no longer needed to do anything. The Ammarian Forces could brute force their way using the momentum he created for them and their numbers.

On that day, General Herodes took General Hubert's head and raised it up high, marking their victory in the Mountain Campaign. Now that the Western Flank of the Yelan Defenses were open, it was now time for them to advance, and finally put an end to this war.

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Glouswell Forest...

After receiving the emergency report, General Fahad from the Marshlands traveled a whole day without rest in order to reach the Glouswell Forest.

He only brought four men with him, and left his right-hand man to defend the Marshlands while he was away.

There was still a possibility that the Ammarian Army might send another army to break through their Eastern Flank, so the Yelan General decided to leave the bulk of his army behind.

When he arrived at the Glouswell Forest, he immediately went to see General Carran, who was also making preparations to move a third of his army to reinforce the Great Plains, where the most important battle would be fought.

They knew that time was crucial, so they were making preparations in haste. While this was happening, Lux gathered his team and discussed with them the next course of action they'd take.

"Einar, you will be the temporary leader of our team," Lux said. "I have sent Cai on a secret mission, and I am still waiting for it to return. Xander will remain with me, for the time being. All of you will travel with General Carran and reinforce the main camp at the Great Plains.

"Diablo and Asmodeus are there, and you can talk to them if you want to pass a message to me directly. Do you have any questions?"

Henrietta was the first to voice out her opinion, and her words were something that didn't surprise Lux.

"I'm staying with you," Henrietta replied. "I was tasked to follow you around, so you're not getting away this time. The battle that just ended was an exception. Please, don't make things difficult for me, okay?"

Lux was about to turn her down, but he then suddenly remembered that since Henrietta was a girl, it would be best if she could be the one that took care of Cai while the latter was unconscious.

Henrietta had already told him that the only person who could see what she was doing was the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy, Alexander.

Lux knew that the other people, who might see the world through Henrietta's eyes, were none other than Iris and Alicia, who were also at Barbatos Academy.

They were the three people that the Half-Elf trusted the most, aside from his Grandma, and he had a feeling that all of them had already been aware of Cai's true identity from the start. As for Henrietta, he would force her to make an oath that she would not divulge Cai's secret to anyone.

Since there were people around, he decided to put this matter aside and simply nodded his head to agree to Henrietta's proposal.

"Okay, you can stay with me," Lux stated. "But, you will follow my orders, okay?"

Henrietta nodded her head in acknowledgement, which made Lux sigh in his heart.

"We will meet up with you guys as soon as Cai has returned," Lux said as he looked at his comrades. "Until then, do your best to not kick the bucket. We are almost finished with this mission. We just need one last push."

Keane reluctantly nodded his head. In truth, he was more comfortable staying with Lux or Cai.

Although he had already considered Einar, Val, and Xander his friends, he had always been with the Half-Elf and the annoying, and thick-skinned, Boar. Without them around, he felt a bit uncomfortable.

It was as if he had forgotten his mission of pursuing the true meaning of peace. Even so, he believed that Lux and Cai would not miss this opportunity, and would be there when the battle was in full swing.

Einar, Val, and Malcolm acknowledged Lux's orders and promised to do their best while he was away.

After their talks ended, Lux took Henrietta with him, while the others prepared for their trip toward the Great Plains.

Along the way, he told Henrietta of what had happened, and the true reason why Cai and Xander were absent in their meeting.

Naturally, the Guildmaster of Serenity, which was the main guild of Barbatos Academy, was surprised by Lux's confession.

Iris, who was listening to their conversation from inside the Headmaster's office, almost dropped the tea cup in her hand after hearing that her best friend had almost died after protecting Lux from General Revon's killing blow.

'Cai, I hope that you are safe.' Iris pressed her hands together as she prayed in her heart.



Cai was one of the people she trusted the most in her life. Knowing that she had almost suffered a fatal injury in order to save the man she loved was enough to make her worry.

Alicia was just as shocked after hearing the news. The Rowan Tribe was the Barbatos Academy's most staunch ally, and Cai and Xander were their two representatives in the expedition.

Alexander, on the other hand, still wore a calm expression on his face, but deep inside, he was already thinking about how serious Cai's injury was.

Even if someone didn't die in the dungeon, the injuries they received from it could remain even after they left it.

The only time they would be ejected from the Dungeon was after they had been dealt the killing blow.

If one of their arms or legs were cut off before they died, there was a high possibility that they would return to the real world without their arm and leg intact.

Iris, Alexander, and Alicia knew how high Cai's position was in the Rowan Tribe. If something really bad happened to her, the relationships between their two factions could become strained in the future.

The Chieftain of the Rowan Tribe was a Saint. Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian, was a ticking time bomb. Alexander was sure that if Maximilian found out that Cai returned to Solais with a permanent injury because of Lux, the chances that the Black Boar going on a rampage to hunt the Half-Elf were high.

'I just hope that her injuries can be treated,' Alexander thought. 'If not, I might need to find other ways to pacify Maximilian and prevent him from hurting Lux in his anger.'

Alexander knew full well that if Iris were in a similar situation as Cai, he would certainly start killing people. And the first one he would kill would be none other than the cause of her injuries.

Although they still hadn't seen Cai's condition, the Half-Elf's expression was telling them that it was very serious, which made Iris feel as if a rock was weighing on her heart.

## Chapter 490: You're A Real Bro

When they arrived at the location of the hidden cave, Henrietta saw Xander, as well as Lux's summons, guarding the entrance of the cave.

The Half-Elf gave Xander a brief nod before entering the cave, with Henrietta following close behind him.

There, Henrietta saw Cai lying down on a makeshift bed, covered with a blanket.

Lux knelt beside the young lady and placed his palm over her forehead to check her temperature.

He was worried that Cai would get a fever, but fortunately, her temperature was normal. After getting half a day's rest, her complexion had turned for the better, but there were still no signs of her waking up.

"Do you have any spare clothes with you?" Lux asked Henrietta after checking up on the beautiful young lady, who was sleeping with steady breaths.

"I do," Henrietta replied.

She understood what Lux was trying to say, so she took out a plain looking dress from her storage ring and moved towards Cai.

The Half-Elf then left the cave to allow Henrietta to take care of the Rowan Tribe's High Priestess, while he talked to Xander about the events that had happened while he was standing vigil outside the cave.

"I see," Xander commented after Lux finished his explanation, but his expression didn't change even after knowing that one of the Yelan Bases had fallen.

The Half-Elf could tell Xander placed more importance in Cai's well being than the outcome of the war. He didn't find fault in this because he knew how loyal the young man was to their High Priestess.

He simply sat beside him in order to organize his own thoughts.

"Xander, can you answer my question honestly?"

"Okay."

Lux smiled bitterly before asking the young man the question that he had been thinking about for most of the night.

"If Cai doesn't wake up, do you think that Sir Maximilian would kill me?" Lux asked.

After hearing Lux's question, Xander turned his head to look at the Half-Elf and chuckled. However, although the young man was laughing, his eyes weren't smiling.

"You don't have to worry about the Chief wanting to kill you first," Xander replied. "If our High Priestess doesn't wake up, the entire Rowan Tribe will have hunted you down before the Saint can even grab hold of you."

The young man then rested his hand on Lux's shoulders and held it in a firm grip.

"I will be the first to hunt you down if that happens," Xander said in a teasing tone, but the Half-Elf knew that he wasn't really teasing him.

Xander was merely stating a fact, which made Lux nod his head in understanding.

"Thank you," Lux commented as he pried Xander's hand over his shoulder. "You're a real bro."

Xander only smirked before closing his eyes to rest for a bit. He hadn't rested since he started to guard the entrance of the cave because he was afraid that someone might find their hiding place and attack Cai in her sleep.

Now that the Half-Elf had returned, he could finally take some rest.

Xander knew that as long as Lux was around, he wouldn't allow anyone to hurt the unconscious beauty, who had jumped into the fray to save his life.

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Great Plains Ammarian Main Camp...

"You did well, Nero," Great General Gideon said with a smile. "With this, we have been able to reverse our previous losses in this war. Although it is quite unfortunate that General Phobus and General Revon have lost their lives, the defeat in the Mountain Area finally allowed us to put an end to this war."

Nero returned Great General Gideon's smile with a smile of his own and briefly nodded his head in acknowledgement of the praise given to him.

"It is only natural to help my ally," Nero replied. "As long as you keep your promise, I will continue helping you."

Nero had already returned to his human form as he casually chatted with the Great General of the Ammarian Army, who had personally invited him to have dinner in his tent.

"It is only a small thing," Great General Gideon stated. "Still, for you to ask us to not interfere in your fight against your former Mercenary Leader... you must really hate him so."

Nero smirked after hearing the Great General's words. He did hate the Half-Elf, and he would not be able to rest easy until he personally crushed his head with his own hands.

For that, he accepted the silver-haired man's offer and gained the power to temporarily become a Ranker for the duration of his mission inside the Sacred Dungeon.

Although he took a shortcut to achieve it, his hatred for the Half-Elf knew no bounds. As long as he would be able to end the latter's life, the demon that had grown inside his heart would finally disappear, allowing him to fully master the power that had been bestowed upon him.

Nero didn't know who the silver-haired man was, or what the man wanted to achieve by helping him.

However, he didn't mind being used as a pawn just this once, as long as he would be able to see the desperation on the Half-Elf's face, and make him understand that going against him was the worst mistake he had made in his life.

'This war is just the beginning,' Nero thought. 'After I return to Solais, my conquest will finally begin.'

From somewhere inside the Sacred Dungeon, the silver-haired man chuckled after hearing Nero's thoughts.

Since he had found a very willing pawn to help him escape the prison he was in, he would gladly offer him his assistance until he broke free from the chains that bound him.

After that, he would return to Elysium and take revenge against the descendants of those that had imprisoned him inside the Domain of the Fallen.

For that to happen, he needed to let Nero get his revenge first, so he could further corrupt his heart and soul until he could bend to his will.

"Ah... the passion of youth," the silver-haired man muttered as he glanced to the East and focused his attention on the red-headed teenager, whom Nero wanted to defeat no matter what. "Such raw feelings of hatred is the perfect nourishment for my soul."

The silver-haired man chuckled as he watched the armies of the two Kingdoms gather at the main battlefield for one last battle that would decide the outcome of the war.

For him, the outcome of the war wasn't important.

In his eyes, people killing each other was just a form of entertainment.

The only battle he wanted to see was the fight between Nero and the foul-smelling Necromancer that had already conquered two of the gates of the Sacred Dungeon.

Once the Four Gates of the Apocalypse had been conquered, the Fifth Gate would open, and they would finally enter the world where he resided.

He had been waiting for that moment for hundreds of years, but he didn't want Lux to be the one to break his seal.

No.

He wanted someone he could manipulate and control, and the person he chose was none other than Nero.

"Little children, do beware," the silver-haired said with a devilish smile on his face as he imagined the faces of Nero's acquaintances when they met the young man again at the Great Plains.

"All of you are in for a scare."

## **Chapter 491: Just Who Do You Think I Am?**

Two days had passed since General Carran killed General Revon, and now, he was headed for battle once again, bringing five thousand of his men.

That was the number of men that accompanied General Fahad and General Carran to the Great Plains to reinforce their main camp from the pincer attack of the Ammarian Army that would be coming from the Mountain Regions at their side as well as the Army stationed in the Great Plains.

Even though they had won two campaigns, they would all be in vain if the Yelan Main Camp was defeated by their enemies.

This was why the two Generals made haste and left with as many men as they could. Although five thousand men was a pitiful number, it was all that they could take right now.

Both armies had lost many men during their previous campaigns, and they needed to leave a large enough force to defend the territories they left behind.

Lux watched them leave from a distance and wished he could go with them. However, since Cai's condition still hadn't stabilized, he decided to remain with her until she woke up.

The good news was that Cai seemed to be recovering well.

According to Henrietta, aside from the faint scar that could be seen on Cai's chest, there were no other injuries that could be seen on the surface of her body.

What Lux was worried about was her internal injuries.

He had used every potion in his disposal, and Eiko's slimes had also done their part and healed her, but he had no way to determine whether Cai still had some internal injuries that they were not aware of.

Lux wasn't proficient in healing magic, and the Lady Cleric that he had asked to help him from the Yelan Camp said that Cai was recovering well.

However, the Cleric also said that the injuries Cai received from the attack of the Ranker would take at least a month or two to fully heal. She advised Lux to not let the unconscious young lady participate in any more battles in the future because she had just escaped death by a hair's breadth.

If Lux hadn't immediately fed her the healing potions he had and received healing magic from the Slimes, Cai would have died within minutes of taking General Revon's full powered attack.

"Tomorrow," Lux said softly. "If tomorrow, she still hasn't woken up. I will ask Bedivere to carry her until we reach an area near the Great Plains."

The Half-Elf knew that he couldn't wait any longer than that because Diablo had told him that the Ammarian Army was already on the move.

According to his estimate, the final battle might start three to four days from now, and the journey to the Yelan Main Camp from Glouswell Forest was a day and a half when mounted.

Naturally, not all the troops that accompanied General Fahad and General Carran had mounts. Because of this, the two Generals, and those with mounts went ahead first, while the foot soldiers would do their best to arrive in time for the great battle.

The Half-Elf had his Thunder Warg King, Jed, and his mount had the ability to fly. This was also true for Xander's mount, which was a flying Manta Ray.

Bedivere could take Cai and Henrietta with him as they flew in the sky with his dragon mount, so their travel time would be significantly faster than the rest of General Carran's troops.

"I just hope she wakes up tomorrow," Lux muttered as he returned to the hidden cave to check Cai's condition.

Henrietta, who had become Cai's personal attendant, reported that there were no significant changes in the young lady's condition. Her breathing was stable, and from what Henrietta could tell, Cai's life was no longer in any danger.

"I think she is just physically, mentally, magically, and spiritually exhausted," Henrietta commented. "This is a very common thing, especially when diving into high-ranked Dungeons. It would be best if we just let her rest for now."

Lux agreed with Henrietta's words and told her his plan.

The Guildmaster of Serenity listened and nodded her head in agreement to Lux's words.

"Let's just sneak her inside the Yelan Camp and have one of your Named Creatures guard her," Henrietta proposed. "As long as you, I, and Xander don't say anything, no one will know about Cai's true identity. You're also quite close to Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock. I'm sure they will be willing to accommodate her if you request it."

The Half-Elf nodded because Henrietta's proposal would solve most of their problems in the case that Cai didn't regain her consciousness when morning came.

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The next day, just when the sun was about to rise from the East...

"Make sure you don't drop her, okay?" Lux said in a teasing tone as he tied Cai to Henrietta's waist with a rope.

He did this to ensure that the sleeping beauty wouldn't accidentally fall from the sky whenever Bedivere was forced to make some evasive maneuvers during an emergency.

Henrietta didn't reply and simply arched her eyebrow as if telling the Half-Elf "Just who do you think I am?"

After making sure that Cai was securely tied in place, Lux gave Bedivere a nod to tell him that everything was ready.

Bedivere returned his Master's nod before lightly tapping his partner's back, signaling to the Dragon that it was time to go.



The Dragon flapped its wings twice as if testing the weight on its back. It planned to fly at a speed that wouldn't harm the sleeping lady on its back because it knew that she was a very important person to its Master.

The Dragon then flapped its wings for the third time and soared towards the sky.

Seeing that Cai was firmly secured on its back, it started to circle around Lux, waiting for its Master to join it in the skies.

"Let's go," Lux summoned Jed.

The Thunder Warg King let out a growl of acknowledgement as Lux mounted its back.

Xander also summoned his Manta Ray, which was the Rowan Tribe's personal mount. He urged the Manta Ray to fly closer to Bedivere's Wind Dragon in order to protect his High Priestess in case they encountered any danger in their travels.

Lux then lightly tapped Jed's back, and the Thunder Warg King dashed on the ground before jumping high in the air.

Within moments, it was running several meters above the ground using air steps.

With Lux in the lead, all of them traveled towards the Yelan Main Camp, unaware that someone was observing them from a great distance, wishing that he could travel faster, so that he could watch a good show.

## **Chapter 492: Don't Tell Me It Died?**

The trip from the Glouswell Forest to the Great Plains wasn't a smooth ride.

Due to the upcoming battle, Lux and his friends encountered several of the Ammarian Army's flying scouts and engaged them in a dogfight.

Fortunately, the number of the enemies they faced only came in threes and fours, so Lux and Xander were more than enough to handle them.

The mounts of the Ammarian Kingdom were Griffins, which were Rank 4 Monsters. Although they were wary of the dragon, when they saw that there was only one knight accompanying a few teenagers, they thought that it would be fine if they attacked and eliminated them before they could regroup with the Yelan Main Camp.

They wanted to weaken the Yelan Army as much as possible right now, and having a Dragon Knight join their ranks was something that the Ammarian Aerial Scouts weren't willing to ignore.

But, that was their biggest mistake.

Although Xander was an Earth Mage, he was quite proficient in aerial combat as well. The thing that surprised the Ammarian Scouts, as well as Lux and Bedivere, was Xander's Mount.

The Manta Ray was surprisingly fast, moving like a fish in the water even though it was flying in the skies.

As if feeling a bit of Rivalry, Jed also performed extremely well, making incredible last second turns in the air, allowing Lux to kill the Ammarian Soldiers mounted on the Griffins' backs.

Bedivere had told him that, if given time, he would be able to tame the Griffins in order for them to become their allies.

Just like Diablo, who had the ability to tame Land Beasts, Bedivere was able to tame Flying Beasts because of his profession.

A Dragon Knight who could tame Dragons had a high chance of taming aerial Monsters weaker than him.

Bedivere's Rank would always be the same as Lux., meaning, if Lux regressed, the Dragon Knight's Rank would also regress to the Apostle Rank.

However, this was not a problem because Griffins were Rank 4 Monsters, which was almost the same rank as him.

Beasts were inherently stronger than Humans, so even if they were equal in Rank, it would still take two to three Humans to subdue a Rank 4 Monster on their own, unless these Humans had very high fighting abilities that could easily overpower the difference in strength.

Since they were in a hurry, Bedivere didn't have the leisure of using normal means to tame the Griffins.

Instead, Lux simply killed one of the Griffins, and used his skill, Animate Undead, to revive it, striking fear in the hearts of the Flying Beasts that they had captured.

Those who were too prideful to be subjugated were beaten up until they could no longer move.

Eiko then swallowed them up, making the other Griffins think that the Baby Slime had eaten their allies whole, making them more willing to accept the mark that Bedivere placed on their foreheads.

Since their former Masters were now dead, their contract with them had expired as well, allowing Bedivere to create a new contract and allowing them to become their new allies.

'Having Griffins as mounts for the guild isn't a bad idea,' Lux thought. 'After this expedition is over, I will ask Cethus back in the Outer Reaches if there are any Griffin territories around.'

In order to lure more Griffins to them to be subjugated, Lux and Xander put on the clothes of the dead Ammarian Scouts and rode their mounts.

They then followed behind Bedivere, making the other Scouts that they came across think that the two Griffins were pursuing the Dragon, who was carrying Yelan Soldiers on its back.

The Griffins that had been subjugated could only look at their comrades, who had fallen into Lux's trap, in pity because they knew what fate awaited them next.

A day later, a dozen Griffins were flying in the sky, in pursuit of the Wind Dragon, inciting more Scouts to join the fray.

Lux had revived the dead Scouts and ordered them to ride their mounts, making it look like they were in hot pursuit of a single Dragon.

By the time Lux arrived near the Yelan Main Camp, the Aerial Knights of the Yelan Army, which were riding Hipogriffs, immediately prepared to engage

them in combat, thinking that the Ammarian Army had launched a sneak attack from behind.

Lux had managed to capture twenty Griffins on their trip, which was enough to make the Yelan Defenders think that the Ammarian Army had sent an elite unit of Aerial Knights to launch a preemptive strike at their camp.

After the anxious Hippogriff Riders confirmed that Lux was on their side, they allowed them to continue to their Main Camp, which surprised Einar, Keane, Val, and Malcolm, who had only arrived half a day earlier.

Lux had summoned his clone to talk to his comrades, while his real body talked to the two Great Generals, asking them if they could give Cai a personal tent.

Bedivere landed at the very rear of the Yelan Camp in order to hide Cai from the eyes of Lux's comrades, who carried artifacts that allowed those who were waiting outside the Domain of the Fallen see and hear what they were seeing and hearing.

"This is not a problem," Great General Watson said with a smile. "Cai has done a wonderful job and should be treated as a VIP."

After hearing Lux's report on how he managed to weaken General Revon, which allowed General Carran to deal the killing blow, the two Great General's impressions of Lux rose by a few notches.

For an Apostle to be able to stall an enemy General, who was a Ranker, was a great achievement, which was enough to reward the Half-Elf with military medals.

However, due to their current situation, they were unable to hold such a ceremony. They still had to prepare for the Ammarian Army that was about to attack them on two fronts.

"We will also dedicate one of our Lady Clerics to attend to her while she is unconscious," Great General Sherlock said. "She had already done her part in this battle. The rest is up to us."

Lux nodded her head in agreement.

He couldn't always be with Cai, so having someone to look after her would be a good thing.

Although Henrietta could check up on her from time to time, she couldn't be with her all the time because it would raise suspicions.

Keane, who treated Cai as a close friend, waited for everyone to disperse before meeting with Lux in private.

"Please answer me honestly. Where is Cai?" Keane asked. "Don't tell me it died?"

Although Keane found Cai to be very irritating at times, he also acknowledged the Boar as one of his trusted companions who had fought life and death battles by his side.

Aside from Lux, Cai was the only one that interacted with Keane a lot in the tournament and even invited him to their Tribe when he had no place to go.

Lux sighed because he knew that lying to Keane would only sour their relationship with each other. Just like Cai, he treated Keane as a close friend, so he couldn't treat him the way he treated Einar and the others.

"Come with me," Lux replied and guided Keane to the rear of the Yelan Camp where Cai's tent was located.

As soon as they entered the tent, Keane immediately saw a meter-long-boar that was sleeping sideways on some soft bedding and snoring like a pig.

Lux was taken aback because he didn't expect Cai to have returned to her Boar form after he left her to check on the rest of their comrades.

"Oi, stop sleeping like a pig," Keane said as he lifted his hand to smack Cai's head, but before he could do anything else, Lux hurriedly grabbed the skinny Swordsman's wrist, preventing him from hurting the sleeping boar.

"Da waaaaaaaaaaaaae!" Fei Fei glared at Keane and even summoned a Blast Bomb in her hand, ready to throw it at the skinny Swordsman who was about to smack her Master.

"Calm down, Fei Fei," Lux hurriedly pacified the Baby Golden Slime, who had stayed by Cai's side while she remained unconscious. "Keane doesn't know that Cai is hurt. If he knew, he would never hurt it."

Keane's body stiffened after hearing Lux's words, which made him look at the snoring boar in shock.

"Cai is hurt?" Keane asked. "How?"

"It's a long story," Lux replied. "Let's talk about it later. Just know that Cai has been seriously injured because it saved my life when General Revon was about to kill me. I didn't tell you guys anything because I was worried that your moods would be affected. Because of this, I waited until Cai had recovered enough to travel. I'm sorry for keeping this a secret from you."

Keane didn't speak for a few seconds as he digested the things that Lux had told him.

In the end, Keane sighed and knelt beside the Boar and apologized to the disgruntled Fei Fei, who was still holding the Blast Bomb in her hands.

"I'm sorry, Fei Fei," Keane said softly. "I didn't know. You must have been very worried about it."

Fei Fei pouted before making the Blast Bomb in her hands disappear. She knew that Keane was one of her Master's closest friends, and he would never do anything to hurt her.

However, the Golden Slime was still a baby, so she still couldn't fully control her emotions.

Right now, anyone who wanted to hurt Cai was her enemy, so even if Keane was her Master's friend, she would not hesitate to attack in order to protect her Master from further harm.

After getting Fei Fei's forgiveness, Keane sat cross-legged beside Cai as if wanting to keep watch, while he waited until the Boar woke up.

'I wonder how Keane would react if he knew that Cai was actually a girl,' Lux mused. 'I'm sure that he will be very shocked.'

The Half-Elf didn't have the right to divulge Cai's secret to others, especially Keane, whom the Boar treated as a very close friend.

Henrietta was an exception because he needed someone to take care of Cai. Although he and Cai were close, he didn't want to do her wrong by doing things like cleaning her body while she was unconscious.

The Half-Elf had made an exception and pushed this responsibility to Henrietta. Since Serenity was a Guild that belonged to Barbatos Academy, and their main ally in Elysium was the Wildgarde Stronghold and the Rowan Tribe, he deemed that it was safer for her to learn about Cai's real identity than anyone else.

This way, she could also help protect Cai's identity from being exposed in the future.

Now that one of Lux's worries had been settled, he decided to send Ishtar and Lazarus to do a bit of scouting and watch the movement of their enemies, who were preparing to launch a decisive battle against them, pushing them out of their territories, so the Ammarians could reclaim the lands that rightfully belonged to them.

## **Chapter 493: Identity Of The Unknown Ranker**

The air inside the Main Commander's Tent was tense as all the high-ranking officers of the Yelan Army had gathered to discuss their strategy.

Great General Sherlock had invited Lux to join them. He believed that the Half-Elf had the right to participate in their meeting.

Lux felt quite flattered when he received an invite, but he didn't actively participate in the discussion. He just stood in a spot where he could see the map of the battlefield on the table, where several wooden figures were placed.

The Generals all had grim expressions on their faces when their scouts reported the estimate of how many soldiers they would be facing when morning arrived.

"The Army led by their Great General, Gideon, should have no less than 200,000 men," The Captain of the Yelan Scouts, who had risked his life and the lives of his men in order to observe the Ammarian Main Camp, reported.

He paused for a bit before continuing his report to ensure that everyone was taking his words seriously.

"My subordinates, who I ordered to check the Army led by General Herodes, reported that his troops numbered around 70,000. Right now, they have cut off our routes of escape, leaving us no choice but to fight them here in the Great Plains or retreat to the Glouswell Forest, where we can take the narrow path that would allow us to return to the borders of our Kingdom."

All the Generals inside the room frowned, aware of the fact that they only had 150,000 soldiers in their army.

Even though the Ammarian Army was 200,000 men strong, they could still fend them off even despite having fewer men.

However, since their Western Flank had been breached, and an army that was estimated to number around 70,000 had blocked their path of escape to the mountains, they were in a relatively more difficult position.

Just like the Scout Captain said, they could choose to retreat to the Glouswell Forest and withdraw completely from the Ammarian Lands, or they could try to fight both armies, who were going to attack them from two sides.

"If we retreat now, they will take this as an opportunity to launch a direct attack on our Kingdom," General Fahad said. "I say we stop them here and kill as many of them as possible, preventing them from eyeing our homeland for a period of time."

General Carran looked at the map of the battlefield as he checked the position of the enemy troops, as well as their own troops.

They had always fought against the Ammarian Army, and every time, they were outnumbered, but this time around, something different had happened.

An unknown Ranker had joined the Ammarian Army and used a devastating attack to blow away the fortification that had been erected in the Mountains to protect their Western Flank.



In fact, they were so confident that General Hubert would be able to easily hold the line because he specialized in defense and fortress sieges. His death was truly a surprise to them because they believed that as long as the Yelan General was holding their western post, the enemy could only dream of breaching their defenses.

And yet, General Hubert was killed, and only a quarter of his army managed to escape. This made Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock very wary of the unknown Ranker who had appeared out of nowhere.

"According to the reports of the survivors, the one responsible for destroying most of the fortifications made by General Hubert was a Ranker who shoots black lightning bolts from his fingers," Great General Sherlock said.

"Also, this same Ranker had the ability to create a giant Shadow Ball, capable of mass destruction. According to the survivors, this attack was strong enough to create a giant hole in the mountain, killing our defenders with one blow."

When Lux heard that the opponent Ranker was able to shoot black lightning bolts with his fingers, the image of Nero popped up inside his head.

However, he immediately dismissed this because Nero had just become an Initiate Rank. It was impossible for him to become a Ranker in a short period of time.

"When I asked the survivors to describe the Ranker, they said that he had long, dark-brown hair, and two bat-like wings protruding behind his back," Great General Sherlock added. "He also had two crimson horns on his head, which were the same colors as his eyes.

"The Ranker was also wearing black plated armor, covering most of his body, which they hadn't seen before. I'm guessing that he just recently joined the Ammarian Army because we have no records of such a powerful individual on their side."

The Generals as well as the Commanders glanced at each other with worried looks on their faces.

Just like their Great Generals, they had never seen someone that matched the description of the survivors who had fled the mountain to escape.

It was at this moment when Great General Sherlock shifted his attention to the Half-Elf who had remained silent during their discussion.

"Do you perhaps know who this person is, Lux?" Great General Sherlock asked. "Is he perhaps one of your former mercenary members?"

Lux was about to shake his head, but the part about their enemy being able to shoot black lightning from his fingers made him have a nagging feeling at the back of his mind.

After organizing his thoughts, the Half-Elf held Great General Sherlock's gaze before giving him an answer.

"None of my previous members were Rankers," Lux replied. "However, I do know someone that can shoot black lightning bolts from his finger. However, the rank doesn't match. He is still of the Initiate Rank. I think he might not be the one that you are referring to."

Great General Watson who had his arms crossed over his chest, lightly cleared his throat to catch everyone's attention.

"Maybe he came across a miraculous encounter," Great General Watson said. "Although it is still uncertain that he is the person you have in your mind right now, it will be better if you tell us his abilities, so that we can prepare countermeasures just in case your hunch is right."

"Getting information about our new opponent is vital in this war. As long as we know who we are fighting against, we will not be caught by surprise, which is what happened to General Hubert."

All the Generals shifted their attention to the Half-Elf, and the latter nodded his head, agreeing to share Nero's information with them.

Although he was still doubtful that the identity of the unknown Ranker was the teenager with dark-brown hair, he still couldn't refute Great General Watson's comment about Nero having a miraculous encounter, allowing him to temporarily raise his rank to become a Ranker.

'If he really is capable of temporarily boosting his strength to the level of a Ranker, I'm sure that the first one he will target in the battle will be none other than me,' Lux thought. 'I better make preparations for the worst case scenario.'

After facing off against General Revon in the Glouswell Forest, Lux had gained insight for how he could fight against stronger enemies using all of the abilities he had at his disposal.

## **Chapter 494: Do You Dare To Fight Me One On One?**

"They're finally here," Einar said as he looked at the two massive armies coming toward them from their left and right sides.

Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock had decided to use a tactic that would allow them to fight and retreat at the same time, killing as many Ammarian Soldiers as possible.

Lux, who was looking at his map, frowned at the sight of countless red dots that were headed towards them like a giant wave that would wash away everything in their path.

The Half-Elf then raised his head to look at the actual army that was represented by those dots and took a deep breath.

Countless Griffins were flying in the sky, and War Beasts of every size marched towards their camp at a steady pace.

Clearly, the Ammarian Army intended to use everything in their power to crush their opponents and make the Yelan Kingdom understand that conquering their lands had been a very big mistake.

The Ammarian Kingdom had always been the conquerors.

They had never been the defenders, and for them, wiping the Yelan Army from their lands was a way to remove the stain and humiliation of being conquered by a kingdom that was a few times smaller than theirs.

"Are you guys ready to die?" Val asked in a teasing tone.

Einar snorted as he looked at the Spider Boy with disdain.

"The only one dying here will be you," Einar stated.

Val smirked as he looked at the Barbarian Prince who seemed unfazed by the armies that were now making their way to their location.

"Wanna make a bet?" Val inquired. "The first one to die will pay the other one million gold coins."

"Sounds good," Einar replied with a sneer. "Since you want to give me your money so badly, I will gladly accept your donation."

"Prepare to cry, Barbarian Boy."

"Prepare to die, Spider Boy."

Malcolm glanced at the two teenagers who were younger than him by a year with disdain. He didn't know where their confidence was coming from, but he could tell that surviving this battle would be difficult if they fought on the front lines.

"By the way, where is Xander?" Henrietta asked because she couldn't see the young man anywhere.

"He's looking after Cai," Keane replied. "The Pig isn't feeling well, so he decided to guard it just in case some of the others decided to cook it for lunch."

The corner of Henrietta's lips twitched as she looked at the skinny swordsman, whose gaze was directed at the approaching armies.

Lux, on the other hand, couldn't help but smile when he heard Keane's words.

He had forced the skinny swordsman to get a few hours of rest and let Xander look after Cai for the time being.

The Half-Elf knew that Xander would do better, knowing he would prioritize protecting Cai's life instead of participating in the war.

This was how loyal the Rowan Tribe was to their Tribe Chief, as well as their High Priestess. Even if they failed their mission, Xander wouldn't bat an eye and remain by Cai's side until the bitter end.

"Although it is not confirmed, there is a possibility that Nero might have found a way to temporarily become a Ranker," Lux said as he faced his team members. "I'm sure that all of you know that I am on the top of his Kill List,

and you guys are in second. Jasper and the others might still be alive, and there is a high possibility that all of them are working with Nero to eliminate us.

"Your role is to eliminate Jasper and his cohorts while I fend off Nero. Before you guys say anything, I will tell you now that I won't be able to fight him for a long time.

"I don't know how high his Rank is, but if he is just as strong as Second or General Revon, then I will definitely die in his hands. So, make sure to eliminate Jasper and his team then come help me right away. Do I make myself clear?"

Keane, Einar, Val, Henrietta, and Malcolm all nodded their heads to acknowledge Lux's order.

"Now this is the plan. I will use myself as bait and drag Nero to..."

Lux gave his detailed plan to his teammates, and told them about the things that they should watch out for.

Jasper had the ability to merge with the ground and move undetected, which made him a very slippery opponent.

Since Lux would be fighting against Nero, the Half-Elf decided to leave one of his clones with Keane and the others to help them locate Jasper, should the latter and his cohorts decide to sneak attack them.

After knowing that there was a possibility that Nero might be the one who had a hand in destroying the fortifications in the Mountain Stronghold, the Half-Elf had snuck outside of the Yelan Camp and set up a battlefield that would ensure his survival under Nero's assault while he waited for his friends to dispose of Jasper and his cohorts.

Just as Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock were about to give their orders to prepare for battle, something unexpected happened.

A lone person with bat-like wings fearlessly flew toward the Yelan Camp and stopped hundreds of meters away from their first defensive lines.

After taking a closer look, they noticed that it was only a teenager with long dark-brown hair that fluttered in the breeze.

The first thing they noticed aside from his bat-like wings were the two crimson horns protruding from his head, as well as his eyes that glowed blood red.

"Lux Von Kaizer! Come out!" Nero shouted.

Lux didn't recognize him right away because of the drastic changes in his appearance. However, after hearing his voice, he confirmed that the devil-like person hovering in the sky was none other than Nero, who had a grudge against him.

Lux coated his entire body with the Favonius Legacy, which allowed him to fly, and flew above the Yelan Camp, facing Nero who now reeked with the smell of Abyssal Monsters.

"So you fell into the corruption of the Abyss," Lux said before crossing his arms over his chest. "What do you want?"

Nero calmly gazed at the person whom he wanted to kill the most. With his current strength, he could easily crush the Half-Elf in an instant, but he didn't do that because he wanted to see despair on the Half-Elf's face before he gave him the killing blow.

Also, he knew that Henrietta had an artifact that allowed the Headmaster of Barbatos to see and hear what she was seeing and hearing. Since that was the case, he was confident that Iris was also able to view the war through Henrietta's eyes.

He wanted her to witness the moment when he crushed the Half-Elf's heart and tore Lux's head from his body. Because of this, he was able to endure the strong urge to attack the Half-Elf this instant.

"When the war starts, do you dare to fight me one on one?" Nero asked with a sneer. "Or do you plan to hide behind those Rankers down there to protect you?"

Lux was tempted to give Nero the middle finger because of how shameless he was. Right now, the Guildmaster of the Storm Dragon's Guild was a Ranker, yet he was challenging the Half-Elf whose rank had degraded to that of an Apostle.

"I guess your shame also disappeared the moment you lost to the seed of corruption in your heart," Lux replied.

Nero shrugged off Lux's words because, for him, it didn't really matter whether the Half-Elf accepted his challenge or not. He just wanted everyone to see that he was no longer the same person who had lost to Lux in the Tournament that was held a few months ago.

"So, do you dare to accept or not?" Nero asked again. "It doesn't really matter what your answer will be. I'll crush you and the Yelan Army together if that is what you want."

Right now, he was oozing with confidence. Even though he was only hundreds of meters away from the Yelan Camp, he showed no fear because he had the ability to escape anytime he wanted.

"You've already lost to me twice," Lux replied in a teasing tone. "First in the tournament, and second in the Marshlands. You were an Initiate and yet you ran away after fighting me, an apostle, in a fistfight. Since you can't beat me in the Initiate Rank, you are hoping that you can beat me as a Ranker. Nero, do you even have the face to show yourself to the people of the Six Kingdoms?"

Contrary to his expectations, Nero didn't have an angry reaction. In fact, the devil-like young man even chuckled after hearing Lux's words.

"True, I lost to you twice." Nero nodded to acknowledge Lux's words. "But, what of it? In the end, the last one standing is King. When this battle ends, the only thing that everyone will remember is that I am the winner, and you are the loser."

"You talk too much," Lux stated. "If you want to fight then let's fight. Since you are the one that challenged me, I will choose the time and place where we will fight. Are you fine with that?"

Nero nodded. "I don't mind. Consider it as me being generous to you."

"Good, when the sun is at its peak, meet me over there." Lux pointed in the direction that was a distance away from where the two armies were going to fight. "We will have our duel there."

Nero shifted his gaze in the direction where the Half-Elf was pointing before giving Lux a brief nod.

"Very well," Nero replied. "Let's use the first clash of both armies as a warm up for our duel. Make sure that you don't die before I kill you."

Nero turned around to fly in the direction of the Ammarian Camp.

Since the Half-Elf had already agreed to duel with him, he would just kill some time by watching the battle between the two sides.

Even if he didn't lend his hand, Nero was sure that the Ammarian Army still had the advantage in the battle. Now that he had the power to tilt the tide of battle in his favor, he believed that everything was within the palm of his hands.

That included the Half-Elf, whom he thought was stupid for accepting his one-sided proposal despite the vast difference between their ranks.

## **Chapter 495.1: What A Disgusting Strategy [Part 1]**

"Everyone, prepare for battle!" General Fahad commanded.

In a moment, they would be facing off against General Herodes' Army, which would attack them from the rear.

Since their manpower was limited, Great General Sherlock could only give him 30,000 men to face off against General Herodes' 70,000 army.

The remaining 120,000 soldiers of the Yelan Army would face off against the Ammarian Main Army, which numbered a little over 200,000 soldiers.

After Nero's challenge, Lux came looking for Great General Watson and Great General Sherlock to propose a strategy that he thought would be the best way to deal massive damage to the Ammarian Army.

In truth, the two highest commanding officers of the Yelan Army had already made a strategy against their enemies. However, after hearing Lux's proposal, both of them thought that this was indeed a brilliant plan, and although the price they had to pay was high, they immediately called for an emergency strategy meeting, summoning all of the commanding officers of the Yelan Army.

After hearing Lux's proposal the other Generals, Commanders, and Captains, had bitter expressions on their faces, but understood that this was all for the



greater good. Since they were fighting a war where the fate of their Nation hung in the balance, they couldn't be too picky with the methods used for the battle.

Truth be told, Lux didn't have any intention of using this strategy at the beginning, but since Nero wanted to fight, and the Ammarian Army wouldn't show them any mercy, he decided to go all out and devastate his enemies.

He would show them that even though he was only an Apostle, he was an Apostle that could make the impossible happen.

Also, the Half-Elf wasn't really that scared of his duel with Nero because of one simple reason.

Right now, Nero had fallen into the corruption of the Abyss, and that meant...

'We'll see if you can still act cocky later,' Lux sneered at Nero, who was hovering above the Ammarian Army, as if he was the one leading them to battle.

Great General Gideon, who was commanding the Main Army, looked at the Yelaniums who had taken a defensive stance and raised his arm.

"Advance!" Great General Gideon commanded and the Ammarian Army moved as one.

Nero, who was hovering above them, simply crossed his arms over his chest. He planned to watch the battle from above, like a nobleman looking down on a circus troupe that was there to entertain him.

"Steady!" Great General Watson ordered when he finally saw the enemy army move.

The archers had nocked their arrows on their bows, while the magicians started chanting.

General Carran, who was mounted on a giant black bear, was at the very front of the Yelan Army, raising their morale, and driving away the fear in their hearts.

The strongest General of the Yelan Army looked at the approaching Ammarians with a calm expression on his face. After hearing Lux's plan, he

couldn't help but laugh in his heart because their enemies would definitely be surprised at the gift that he prepared just for them.

The Generals knew that sacrifices were needed to win this war, so they no longer hesitated and agreed to Lux's plan, even though it went against their morals.

"I'm sure they will understand," General Carran muttered. "This is for the good of the Yelan Kingdom."

When the Main army started moving, General Herodes' army also moved in order to attack the rear of the Yelan Army.

"Kill them!" General Herodes shouted as he pointed his sword in front of him. "Show them the might of the Ammarian Kingdom!"

""Kill!""

""Kill!""

""Kill!""

The loud chants of the Ammarian Army reverberated in the battlefield as they marched onwards, boosting their morale, and making the ground tremble under their feet.

Great General Sherlock and General Fahad narrowed their eyes as their enemies came within firing range.

However, they still didn't order their archers and mages to attack. Both of them deemed that it was still too early to attack, and doing so would not give them the outcome that they were looking for.

Only when the Ammarian Army was five hundred meters away from them did the two Generals give the order to attack.

"Open Fire!" Great General Sherlock shouted.

"Kill!" General Fahad ordered.

Immediately after that, countless arrows and spells rained down the Ammarian Army, who had deployed their barriers to protect themselves from the deadly barrage that was meant to decrease their numbers.

While this was happening, the Griffins and Hippogriff Riders clashed in the sky, making a different kind of rain fall towards the ground, dyeing it with the color of blood.

The attacks continued, but the Ammarian Army only suffered minimal casualties, as some of the barriers protecting them broke apart after repeated bombardment.

Second had used a similar tactic back in the Marshlands, and seeing that the Yelan Generals were unfazed about what was happening, Lux assumed that this was a standard strategy of the Ammarian Army.

As the enemies inched closer to their front lines, General Carran raised his spear high up in the air, and the archers immediately retreated.

The men behind them stepped forward and planted their giant shields firmly on the ground, while their spears pointed outwards.

This formation was called the Phalanx Formation.

It was an ancient battle formation back on Earth, but here in Elysium, it was a standard military formation, allowing both attack and defense at the same time.

"Brace!" General Carran ordered as the heavy cavalry of the Ammarian Army advanced towards them.

Just like a wave hitting a cliff, the Yelanians held strong as the mounts of their enemies were stabbed by their sharp spears, making their riders fall forward face-first into the wall of sharp spears that were waiting for them.

The first, second, and third wave of soldiers was easily dealt with, but not the fourth wave.

Using the corpses of their slain comrades as stepping stones, the Ammarian Army was able to break past the blockade, and engaged the Yelan Army in close combat.

General Carran found himself facing off against two Rankers, who were hell-bent on preventing him from helping his men.

"It will be my honor to take your head today, General Carran," one of the two Ammarian Rankers said. "I will display it in our family's residence as a trophy and keep it as our family heirloom."

"That is if you kill him first," the second Ranker said. "If I kill him, I will be keeping his head."

"Fine. May the best man win."

"Make sure you don't change your mind later."

General Carran remained silent as he looked at his two opponents with a calm expression on his face.

Unlike his two opponents, he had no time for nonsense and was simply waiting for their next course of action.

Fifteen minutes after the two sides clashed, the sound of a horn spread across the battlefield. This was the retreat signal from the Yelan Army.

"Retreat!" General Carran ordered before using a powerful attack to blow away the two Rankers that were facing off against him.

He then immediately retreated alongside his men to initiate the second phase of their plan.

After seeing the Vanguard of the Yelan Army retreat, the Ammarians shouted their war cries and chased after them. However, a barrage of arrows rained down on them, forcing them to defend themselves, stopping them in their tracks.

As General Carran and the Vanguards retreated, they ran past several clerics, who were busy chanting a spell.

When the last Yelan Soldier went past them, the Clerics immediately summoned barriers in front of them, preventing the Ammarian Army from continuing their pursuit.

"Mages, destroy it," General Herodes raised his hand and countless mages hurled their powerful spells against the barriers, who were getting in their way.

Just like other soldiers, the Clerics also retreated after summoning their barriers. The barriers they put up were only a temporary one, and weren't meant to last.

Its purpose was only to give their side precious minutes to regroup with their main army as it slowly retreated towards the East, just as they planned earlier.

As the barriers broke one by one, the Ammarian Army surged forward like a swarm of locusts, who had no intention of letting the Yelan Army escape them.

It was at this moment when Lux, and Eiko, alongside their clones, activated their trump card at the same time.

""Corpse Explosion!""

""Boom Boom!""

Immediately a shower of blood erupted from everywhere in the battlefield as Lux's deadly skill started its one-sided massacre.

Great General Gideon who saw this, immediately ordered the spell casters to erect barriers to prevent the deadly corpse explosions from spreading.

However, they were simply too far from the vanguard, and by the time the barriers were erected, thousands of their men had already been killed in the span of half a minute.

The two Rankers then found themselves isolated from their main army, because all of the men behind them had perished due to the surprise attack that Lux had launched.

This time, the Half-Elf didn't hesitate and detonated the dead bodies of the Ammarians, as well the Yelan Soldiers, who fought bravely to protect their kingdom.

Great General Gideon, as well as the other Generals were well aware of Lux's ability. They just didn't expect that he would use it in this manner.

The two Rankers exchanged a glance at each other and were about to run back to their Main Army when they felt a very powerful force pull them towards the Yalan Army in the distance.

Nero, who was paying close attention to the war, arched an eyebrow after seeing this scene.

He knew that Lux had this kind of ability, and found it very annoying. Depending on the circumstances, this skill could easily break the momentum of the Half-Elf's enemy, allowing the red-headed teenager to take advantage of his enemies' "taunted" state.

## **Chapter 496.2: What A Disgusting Strategy [Part 2]**

"Sh\*t!" one of the Rankres said through gritted teeth as his feet skidded on the ground, trying to fight the strong pull that had taken hold of his body.

Even so, the force was simply too powerful to resist.

With their Main Army erecting barriers to prevent the spread of the Corpse Explosion Skill, no reinforcements would come to save the two of them.

The two Rankers glared angrily at Lux's Fortress Defender and Jade Golem who stood in the distance.

"Damn you!" one of the Rankers shouted as he turned into a fireball and charged in Orion's direction, who had already taken a fighting pose to receive his attack.

The other Ranker did the same, but he headed towards Pazuzu.

After mastering the art of Duel [EX], and dying several times because of it, the Fortress Defender and the Jade Golem had created a strategy that would prevent them from dying, which they had shared with their Master, Lux.

As soon as the two Rankers exchanged blows with the Half-Elf's two Named Creatures, Lux immediately summoned the two of them to his side, preventing them from dying.

Pazuzu and Orion both had the skill, Guts, which prevented them from dying from a single attack.

As soon as their health started to decrease rapidly, the Half-Elf summoned them to his side, and initiated the second part of his plan, which made the two Rankers cough up blood due to how shameless it was.

Lux's two Clones also activated Duel [EX] forcing the two Rankers to charge at them, while they were standing in front of the Yelan Army.

"T-Time out!" one of the Rankers shouted in fear when he saw Great General Watson and General Carran move to intercept the two of them at the same time.

The other Ranker also shouted in desperation, but unlike his comrade, the latter tried to use a life saving artifact that could allow him to escape this deadly clash.

But, before he could activate it, Asmodeus' Death Tyrant, Morpheus, shot a Petrification Ray at the Ranker's hand, turning it to stone.

"Nice one, Morpheus," Lazarus, said as he hovered beside the Death Tyrant who was very pleased with himself.

Both of them were floating Skulls, and the two were like kindred brothers-in-arms who immediately hit it off as soon as they met each other.

Morpheus gave an eerie chuckle, which was enough to give the Vanguard of the Yelan Army goosebumps due to how unworldly its laughter was.

The two Rankers did their best to defend themselves, but since their bodies weren't cooperating with them, Great General Watson's sword and General Carran's spear found their marks.

The Great General managed to cut off one of the Ranker's arms, which was holding his life saving artifact that had turned to stone.

General Carran, on the other hand, managed to stab his spear through the other Ranker's chest, making the latter cough up blood.

What surprised Great General Watson, and General Carran was the fact that after the two received serious injuries, they didn't stop to charge towards the clones of the Half-Elf, who were being protected by two more Rankers, who served as Great General Sherlock's bodyguard.

Two blood curdling screams filled with unwillingness spread along the side of the Yelan Army as the two Rankers were attacked by the powerful fighters of the Yelan Army, who made sure that both of them wouldn't be able to leave alive.

"What a shame," Asmodeus said with a sigh. "Those were two fine specimens. These Yelan punks don't know when to hold back."

The Archlich liked to collect the bodies of strong individuals to experiment on.

Although he could use Animate Undead to turn them into his minions, he wanted to have their bodies intact as much as possible.

Half a minute later, the two Rankers' dead bodies, which had been mutilated by their attackers, dropped on the ground.

Asmodeus reluctantly collected their bodies before joining the retreat of the Yelan Army, who had managed to distance themselves from their enemies, who were too anxious to pursue them.

There were still many dead bodies that were blocking their way, and they were afraid that if they went near them, the Half-Elf would detonate them, starting a new wave of terror that already gripped their hearts.

Meanwhile, General Fahad, who had lost nearly five thousand soldiers, also retreated. He did his best to fend off General Herodes' Army for as long as he could, allowing Lux to carry out his plan.

Although he had lost many men, his opponents also suffered the same in order to prevent the Main Army from getting attacked from behind, while they retreated after fending off General Herodes' Army for as long as he could.

Asmodeus' two clones, who were stationed on his side, also used the skill, Corpse Explosion, which killed a quarter of the Ammarian Army, forcing General Herodes to give an order to stop their pursuit of the fleeing Yelanians, who had created a strategy that would grant mutual destruction to both sides.

"What a disgusting strategy." Great General Gideon spat on the ground as he looked at the retreating army in the distance. "Mages, burn those bodies until nothing is left!"



"G-General?" The Commander of the Mages in the Army looked at their Great General in shock. "B-But our soldiers' bodies are mixed up with them. Can we spare them?"

"No," Great General Gideon replied firmly. "It is better that we dispose of them using our own means, than have those bodies explode right under our noses."

"B-But, General..." the Commander of the Mages wasn't able to finish his words because his body froze when Great General Gideon's eyes, filled with killing intent, landed on his body.

Great General Gideon narrowed his eyes as he stared down the Commander who dared to oppose his orders.

"Obey your orders, Soldier," Great General Gideon growled in a voice that was as cold as ice. "Or else, I will let your body burn alongside the dead. Do I make myself clear?"

"Y-Yes, General!" The Commander immediately moved into action and ordered his subordinates to set the dead bodies in front of them ablaze, until only ashes were left.

Nero, who watched the battle from start to finish frowned. Although he hadn't joined the battle earlier, he had seen first hand what the Half-Elf was capable of doing.

"What do you think? Will you need help in dealing with that pesky Half-Elf?"

A playful voice reached Nero's ears, and the latter's frown deepened.

"No need," Nero replied. "I can take care of him myself."

"Are you sure about that?" the silver-haired man's voice asked inside Nero's head. "The way I see it, he will give you a lot of trouble in your duel."

"They are just petty tricks," Nero replied. "In the face of absolute strength, all of his schemes are meaningless."

A laugh filled with amusement echoed inside Nero's head for a few seconds before disappearing completely.

For some reason, the brown-haired teenager sensed a faint tone of ridicule in his benefactor's laughter, which made him subconsciously clench his fist

because the Half-Elf he wanted to duel with had once again shown that he was someone that shouldn't be underestimated.

## Chapter 497: Do You Have A Chance Of Victory?

The Yelan Army knew that if they stayed any longer on the Great Plains, they would end up cornered sooner or later, so they had decided to retreat from the very start.

Aware that they wouldn't be able to retrieve the bodies of their countrymen once they did that, they decided to follow through with Lux's plans to use their corpses as fuel for his Corpse Explosion.

Although this was something they didn't want to see happen, they believed that their countrymen would be happy if their remains had been used to protect their Kingdom.

"As expected, they had no plans to pursue us right away," Great General Sherlock said as he gazed in the distance.

"They're busy burning the bodies of the dead from a safe distance as a precaution against Lux's ability," Great General Watson commented. "Still, it won't be long before they make their move."

Great General Sherlock nodded.

They had already prepared for this outcome.

Before the war started, he had sent two thousand of his men to build a makeshift camp that they would retreat to, which was only five miles away from the Great Plains.

At least, with this arrangement, they wouldn't have someone attacking them from behind, and they could use all of their forces to face the Ammarian Army head-on.

After arriving at the make-shift camp, the rest of the Yelan Army immediately helped to finish the temporary fortifications for the upcoming clash against their enemies.

"We've lost around 15,000 men," Great General Watson stated as the Generals, Commanders, and Captains of their army met up to discuss the next stage of their plan. "The Ammarians lost three times more than that, but they still outnumber us almost two to one."

Great General Sherlock nodded. "Now that they know what Lux is truly capable of, they will do their best to prevent it from happening again."

The two Great Generals as well as the other commanding officers, glanced at the Half-Elf who was standing in the corner of the tent. Because of him, they were able to retreat safely and deal a bitter blow to their enemies.

"If it was me leading the Ammarian Army, I would definitely eliminate Lux first," General Carran said while giving the Half-Elf a steady gaze. 'I hate to admit it, but General Revon made the right decision when he tried to kill Lux back then. This brat is more of a threat than me on the battlefield.'

General Carran had asked General Revon back then why he chose Lux over him, and the General's response was...

"Do you really not know the answer, or are you just pretending not to know?"

Even as he was dying, General Revon was firm that the one who would decide the outcome of the war was not the Great Generals, but an Apostle Necromancer, who had the power over the dead.

"If I was Great General Gideon, I would simply wait for Lux to be defeated by that devil-like Ranker who issued him a challenge," General Fahad commented. "Lux, I hate to say this, but right now, you are our main deterrence against the Ammarian Army. If possible, I ask you to not honor that unfair duel.

"I didn't know what fortuitous encounter your ex-mercenary member had when he left your side, but right now, he is an E-Ranker, who has fighting ability that matches a D-Ranker's. It is simply impossible for you to win against him."

Lux smiled after hearing General Fahad's words.

The Yelan General was a D-Ranker at its peak, which was slightly weaker than Second, who was a C-Ranker in its initial Stages.

Even he, who was a D-Ranker, acknowledged Nero's current strength, who had challenged Lux to a one-on-one duel.

"I agree with General Fahad," General Carran stated. "No one here will judge you if you chose to not honor your duel with that brat named Nero. I'm sure that even the enemy Generals don't expect you to show up. Right now, they all want to see you dead, and this is a good opportunity to do that. As long as you die in the hands of that devil, nothing will stop them from reclaiming their lands."

General Carran knew that if the Ammarian Army decided to advance straight to the Yelan Kingdom's borders, they would be hard-pressed to defend it.

"While it is true that not honoring the agreement will keep me somewhat safe, it will not solve our problems," Lux replied in a firm voice. "The reason why we were able to retreat safely is because Nero didn't join the battle. According to the reports of the survivors under the command of General Hubert, Nero played a crucial role in destroying their fortifications, and allowing the Ammarian Army to advance.

"If I don't face him, he will certainly join the battle and we will be hard pressed to fight against a Ranker who can fly in the sky. I have fought against him twice, and I can tell you that he is not only strong, but very cunning as well. Right now, his confidence is at its peak because of his current Rank.

"I believe that he will not kill me instantly, but slowly torture me to get revenge for the defeats he suffered from me in the past. That mentality of his is perfect for what I have in mind. Believe me when I say that although it is difficult, the one who will have the last laugh between us is not yet set in stone."

Great General Watson frowned after hearing Lux's words. He could hear a certain amount of confidence from the Half-Elf's tone, which made him wonder if it was really possible for a Grade-A Apostle to fight against an E-Ranker, whose fighting strength was equal to that of a D-Ranker.

"Lux, my boy, let me ask you this question," Great General Sherlock crossed his arms together and gave the Half-Elf a solemn gaze. "Do you have a chance of victory?"

Lux didn't hesitate and nodded his head.

"I do," Lux replied. "I have already made preparations. Nero's current strength will be the source of his own downfall."

A sigh escaped the Gnome's lips because he could tell that Lux was very serious about fighting against Nero.

"Very well." Great General Sherlock nodded. "If you defeat him, and we win this war, I will give you a Legendary Item."

The Half-Elf's body stiffened after hearing General Sherlock's words. He didn't expect that the Great General of the Yelan Kingdom would offer him a Legendary Item as a reward if he won against the bastard who had hated him since they had met in Wildgarde Stronghold many years ago.

"I will do my best," Lux replied.

A few hours later, the Ammarian Army and the Yelan Army once again faced each other, but this time, Great General Gideon didn't give his men the order to attack.

Instead, Nero, who didn't join the battle earlier, hovered between the two armies and called out to Lux to start their battle at an earlier time.

"No need to wait for noon to arrive," Nero stated. "Let's fight now, Lux. Or are you going to tell me that you're backing out?"

Lux rose up from the Yelan Army and stared at Nero, who had transformed into a devil under the corruption of the Seed of the Abyss.

"Why would I back out?" Lux asked. "It's not everyday that I'm given an opportunity to use a Ranker's face to wipe the floor. If you want to fight, then let's fight."

"Good," Nero replied. "But, I have one more condition. Bring Henrietta with you. No, bring all of your allies with you. I don't mind if all of you work together to fight against me."

"Sure," Lux replied. "But, bring your lackeys with you as well. It's about time we end this once and for all."

The corner of Nero's lips rose before glancing in the direction where Jasper and the other survivors of the different factions were.

"You heard him," Nero stated. "All of you are going to follow us as well."

For him, this was the perfect opportunity to let all of the Factions watching outside the Domain of the Fallen to see how formidable he was. He didn't care if they would think badly of him for bullying a Grade A Apostle when he was already a Ranker.

What he wanted from them was recognition of his strength, which would open up new opportunities for him in the future.

Nero also wanted Iris to see Lux's desperation, as well as his sorry state after her beloved Half-Elf suffered under his hands. This was his revenge for everything that had happened back in the tournament, and he would make sure that the Half-Elf would have a very slow and painful death.

After both sides had stated their conditions, the Half-Elf flew Eastwards.

Nero and his lackeys all followed him, while Keane and the others weren't far behind.

After many twists and turns, the Factions that were originally meant to work with each other to clear the dungeon, were now at each other's throats.

Although their reunion was something that none of them wanted, all of them understood that it was time to eliminate their rivals as soon as possible.

## **Chapter 498.1: I'm a Necromancer. We Don't Do One-On-One [Part 1]**

Nero's Master, Rainer, had been wearing a frown on his face after he first saw his Disciple ever since the latter broke the artifact that allowed them to see and hear whatever he was seeing and hearing.

The last time they saw Nero was when he was about to face off against Lux.

Everyone in Wildgarde Stronghold was now fully aware about the bad blood between him and the Half-Elf, who was currently in the limelight.

Truth be told, Rainer was long worried that the pent up jealousy, envy, and hate that Nero held towards Lux would hasten the growth of the Seed of the Abyss in his heart, which would lead to the corruption of his mind.

However, a glance was enough to tell him that although Nero had fully embraced the Seed of the Abyss in his heart, he was still sane and was able to make rational decisions.

This was very different from the time that Lux had lost control over the power of the Abyss in his heart when Eiko was killed. Back then, the Half-Elf had lost all sense of reason, and the only thing on his mind was to kill those who dared to kill the Baby Slime, who had treated him as her Papa.

'Nero, just what happened to you?' Rainer didn't know if he should be happy or not after seeing his disciple's current form.

Although Nero was still in control of his body and seemed to be thinking properly, he was still worried that this might just be a temporary thing.

If Nero had truly transformed into an Abyssal Creature, then he would no longer be treated as a Human, but an enemy that they would have to deal with when he returned from the Sacred Dungeon.

Gerald and Natasha also had complicated looks on their faces. Nero was a prodigy that belonged to their Faction, and seeing him like this made them feel bitter inside.

'In the end, you still kept your grudge against Lux,' Gerald thought. 'As for what happens next, we will just wait until this mission ends.'

Natasha, who served as the healer of Wildgarde Stronghold, understood that it would be extremely hard to revert Nero back to what he was before the Seed of the Abyss had taken hold of his body.

Although there were cases where people had managed to overcome the power of the Seed of Darkness, those that had succeeded could only be counted with the fingers of one hand. That was how difficult it was to remove the hold of the Abyss on a person's heart once the Seed had fully grown.

The other Factions whose representatives were on Nero's side were feeling hopeful that they might be able to win the war. They didn't really care what

happened to Nero afterwards as long as their representatives cleared their mission.

Aron, who was the right-hand man of Emperor Andreas, looked at the devil-like teenager with great curiosity.

He could tell that Nero was an ambitious person, and this was someone that he would like to pull to their side if possible, if not for the fact that the youth had now transformed into an Abyssal Creature.

'Unfortunately, he had been corrupted by the Abyss.' Aron sighed in his heart. 'Such a waste.'

Truth be told, the main reason why Aron felt a strong urge to get Nero to their side was his hatred towards Lux.

Just like the devil-like teenager, Emperor Andreas had also started to think that it was better if the Half-Elf was disposed of in order to nip the bud of a future hindrance and keep it from growing. Aron had the same thought, and this desire to eliminate the Half-Elf had only grown stronger after seeing how formidable the latter was in large-scale battles.

Wars weren't fought in one-on-one battles like tournaments. It was a fight between armies, and Lux's Corpse Explosion skill was a very disgusting ability that each side would want to have.

A few minutes later, everyone outside the Domain of the Fallen saw the Half-Elf landing on the ground, which was the location that he had chosen to fight against Nero.

Nero landed hundreds of meters away from the Half-Elf with his arms crossed over his chest.

The two only stared at each other, and waited for their allies to arrive.

The Half-Elf wasn't comfortable facing off against Nero when Jasper and the others were there to potentially "sneak attack him", while he was busy fighting against a Ranker.

In order to prevent that from happening, he needed Keane and the others to protect his back, while he focused all of his attention on the Abyssal Monster in front of him.



Several minutes later, Jasper and his team arrived. They didn't stand beside Nero and simply went to a place where they would not be hit by stray attacks that could potentially harm or even kill them.

Keane and the others arrived shortly after, and just like Jasper and the others, they also looked for a place where they could watch the battle safely.

Einar and Jasper gave each other a brief glance before shifting their gaze back to Lux and Nero.

The two temporary leaders didn't intend on simply watching Lux and Nero fight.

They wanted to eliminate each other as well, so that they would have the upper hand in the war when it resumed later.

"Everyone's here," Nero said. "Let's start. Are you now ready to die, Lux?"

The Half-Elf didn't reply and simply covered his arms with dragon scales and took a fighting stance.

Seeing that he didn't plan on replying, Nero smirked and flapped his wings to fly high in the sky. A moment later, the devil-like teenager dove toward the ground with a sneer as he pulled his arm back to punch the Half-Elf, and break the bones in his body.

Lux remained standing, and didn't move from his position.

When Nero was only a few meters away from him, his body stiffened because he suddenly felt a strong pulling force coming from his right side.

This brief pause was enough for Lux to take action, so he immediately crossed the gap between them and delivered a punch to his enemy's face.

Nero forced himself to dodge to the side, while fighting the effect of the Duel [EX] that Pazuzu had cast on his body.

Lux's punch grazed Nero's face, but he had already prepared for such a scenario.

A moment later, a Dragon Breath slammed against Nero's body, making the latter grunt and skid on the ground for several meters before coming to a complete stop.

At that moment, the effect of Duel [EX] suddenly disappeared, and Nero once again regained control of his body, which surprised Lux who had orchestrated the attack.

This was the first time it happened, and it made the Half-Elf wonder if an Abyssal Creature had a certain resistance to his tried and tested taunting skill that had helped him face off against strong opponents in the past.

"Such a troublesome skill." The silver-haired man who was watching the battle from a great distance chuckled. "We can't have that, can we now?"

Earlier, he had snapped his fingers to break the effect of Pazuzu's taunt skill, which he deemed was a very troublesome ability in one-on-one battles.

Naturally, Nero and Lux weren't aware that someone was interfering in their battles, and both teenagers thought that the Seed of the Abyss was the one responsible for negating the effects of Pazuzu's Duel [EX].

Nero, who had been hit by the Dragon Breath of Eiko's clone, hurriedly flapped his wings to distance himself from the Half-Elf who had successfully dealt the first strike in his body.

He was too confident in his strength that he thought that he could brush away all the Half-Elf's attacks with ease.

But, the Dragon Breath that he had managed to barely block earlier left a sting in his soul, which made him remember that he wasn't the only one on the battlefield who had the power of the Abyss, which resided at the deepest part of their heart.

## **Chapter 499.2: I'm a Necromancer. We Don't Do One-On-One [Part 2]**

"Does it hurt?" Lux asked with a sneer. "It hurts, right?"

"Not as much as the pain you will feel after I'm done with you," Nero replied in a heartbeat.

The devil-like teenager then hurled several black lightning bolts at the Half-Elf, who immediately summoned several Bone Walls to block its path.

These bone walls immediately shattered to pieces, but the lightning bolts failed to hit their target because the Half-Elf was no longer in the place where he originally stood.

Lux had changed his armor to the armor that he had prepared for the tournament when he fought against Nero in the past.

It was none other than Lux's Dragon Regalia, which allowed him to use the skills, Lightning Strider, that would allow him to instantly teleport to any place within a twenty-meter radius around him, and Improved Lightning Reflexes, which enhanced the speed of his movements, allowing him to dodge and execute maneuvers that required fast movement.

His armor and these two skills allowed him to go toe-to-toe with the young man who had the power to control black lightning bolts at will.

"Coward, fight me one-on-one if you dare!" Nero shouted.

"Yeah, no," Lux replied while giving Nero the middle finger. "I'm a Necromancer. We don't do one-on-one."

When the Half-Elf summoned the Bone Walls earlier, he had also summoned his other Named Creatures at the same time, allowing them to position themselves throughout the battlefield.

Orion pointed his finger at Nero, and used his skill Duel [EX], prompting the latter to attack him.

This time around, the skill connected, and Nero used his incredible speed to reappear in front of the Jade Golem to deliver a powerful blow on its body.

But, at that exact moment, a devilish smirk appeared on Eiko's face, whose head was barely poking out of the ground.

A moment later, the ground under Nero's feet cracked as countless Blast Bombs exploded at the same time, engulfing him in a fiery blaze.

When Lux had summoned the Bone Walls earlier, he ordered Eiko to go hide underground.

The Baby Slime obeyed and used her Dig skill, so that she wouldn't be killed by their opponent.

Eiko's other clones were also underground and were creating small tunnels, allowing them to travel from one point to another without much difficulty.

It was Eiko's clone that had used a Dragon Breath earlier to hit Nero.

Although Nero seemed well on the surface, he wasn't unscathed from the Dragon Breath that collided with his body, despite having managed to block it at the last second.

The reason behind this was simple.

Eiko was able to copy Lux's abilities, and among the skills she copied was her Papa's Abyss's Touch [EX].

This skill dealt 200% more damage against Abyssal Monsters, which made Lux very confident that he would be able to fight against Nero because all of his attacks were "super effective" against his enemy.

A moment later, Lux heard a pained shout, which was like music to his ears.

He had already summoned Orion to his side to prevent the Jade Golem from dying. Although his Named Creature was a Revenger, he didn't like to see him die every time he appeared on the battlefield.

Besides, Orion could help him better if he was alive rather than if he was dead.

After seeing that her plan had worked, the Baby Slime hid underground once more and, with her two clones, began to create several Blast Bombs in order to prepare for their next attack on the very cocky Ranker, who was about to experience a world of pain from the power of Lux's Abyssal Touch [EX].

The silver-haired man who saw this from far away pinched the bridge of his nose because he didn't know whether he should continue to interfere with the battle or not.

He had already helped Nero once, which was something he shouldn't have done in a one-on-one duel.

Nero was already a Ranker, and his opponent was an Apostle, but the Half-Elf's way of fighting had improved by leaps and bounds after gambling with his life in a fight against General Revon.

It was during that battle when Lux truly felt the power of the Necromancer Class, which allowed him to fight with everything he had.

"This isn't a one-on-one battle," Jasper stated as he looked at Nero who had flown up into the sky after suffering an injury from the trap that Lux had laid out for him.

"It definitely isn't," Einar replied as he took out his War Axe from his storage ring in preparation to fight against Jasper and his team, along with his own teammates. "The moment Nero challenged Lux to a one-on-one battle, he should have taken this into account. A Necromancer doesn't fight alone. It has been one against many from the very start."

Jasper nodded his head in agreement as he took two swords out of his storage ring.

"Well then, shall we start?" Jasper asked as he pointed his sword towards Einar.

It was now time for them to settle their differences with each other as well.

"Let's," Einar replied with a fearless smirk. "Right now, I feel like I can beat an Initiate."

Jasper snorted. "Dream on, you're not Lux."

"That, I'm not," Einar took a step forward as he held the War Axe firmly in his hands. "I'm more handsome than him."

Diablo, who was standing beside the Barbarian Prince, gave Einar a side-long glance before shifting his gaze back to his Master.

The Death Knight was very tempted to tell the Barbarian that he should take a good look in the mirror before saying that he was more handsome than his Master.

However, since both of them were on the same side, he would just pretend that he didn't hear Einar's words, and simply focused his attention on the battle that was happening in the distance.

Lux had a reason why he didn't ask Diablo to participate in the battle.

His Death Knight had a more important duty to do, and he would do it to ensure that his Master would come out of his battle victorious.

## **Chapter 500.1: Time For Round Two. Come Here, You Bastard! [Part 1]**

Jasper's team and Einar's team started to duke it out with each other, which made the Factions who were watching outside the gate of Domain of the Fallen sigh in dissatisfaction.

Originally, all of them wanted to have the teenagers work together and complete the mission as one team, but due to a conflict of interest, all of them were at each other's throats now.

Even those who initially believed that Nero would allow their representatives to breeze through the final battle found themselves dumbfounded about the fact that an Apostle could fight against a Ranker, even able to push the latter back.

This was something that never happened in the past, and they didn't think it was possible.

"This is why those idiots from noble families fall short. They've only attained their Ranks through the use of their family's resources," one of the Representatives from the Xynnar War Pact complained. "When faced with a person of equal rank, they are simply cannon fodders who can't even do anything!"

"True. But, he is now a Ranker and, this time, his opponent is just an Apostle," a member of the Skystead Alliance. "Is he that incompetent? I mean, I can understand if his opponent was also a Ranker. But an Apostle? You gotta be kidding me."

The member of the Skystead Alliance then glanced in the direction of Gerald, Rainer, and Anastasia and sneered.

"This is the result of bad upbringing," the member of the Skystead Alliance stated. "In the end, a paper tiger is no match against a true tiger."

Several of the people around him nodded their heads in agreement. They also glanced in the direction of the three Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold, who were watching the projections.

Gerald was seething in anger, but he kept his rage in his heart. He didn't want to bicker with anyone because it might only worsen the situation.

His greatest regret was seeing Lux and Nero, who both belonged to their faction, fight against each other with the intention to kill.

Rainer and Anastasia also remained silent and simply watched the glimpse of the battle between the two rivals.

After careful thought, all of them came to the collective opinion that since Nero's strength was just forcefully upgraded to a Ranker, the prodigy from the Wildgarde Stronghold didn't have the battle experience to handle his newfound powers.

This conjecture of theirs was partly true because Nero wasn't truly in full control and mastery of the power of the Abyss that he had just gained, but what others didn't know was that if it were other people who were fighting against Nero, they would find themselves being pushed back because of the latter's current strength.

They didn't know that Lux was only able to make Nero suffer due to his passive ability, Abyss Touch [EX], which was specially designed to fight against Abyssal Creatures.

Also, there was the fact that Lux, Eiko, and the Half-Elf's Named Creatures had the ability, Duel [EX], which forced anyone to exchange a single attack with the one that cast it.

These two skills combined allowed the red-headed teenager to deal consecutive attacks against Nero, who was being repeatedly affected by the taunting spell.

The silver-haired man who was watching the battle had a complicated look on his face as he watched the battle unfold between the two.

On one hand, he wanted Lux to lose against Nero because the teenager he had chosen would play an important role for him.

On the other hand, he could sense something in Lux's possession that had the power to threaten his life should he make an appearance on the battlefield.

Because of this, he decided to observe the battle for now without interfering, just to better understand what was making him feel a little anxious in his heart.

'I wish I could see more of the battle between Lux and Nero,' Aron thought with regret.

Since most of the representatives inside the Sacred Dungeon were fighting against each other, those outside were only able to see glimpses of the battle between the Half-Elf and the Devil-like creature, who were the leaders of each Faction.

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Nero unleashed a barrage of black lightning bolts from his position in the sky towards the Half-Elf on the ground.

Black blood seeped out from the corner of his lips as he glared hatefully at the red-headed teenager on the ground who was doing his best to avoid the long-range attack that he was unleashing from the sky.

After being repeatedly taunted by Lux's summons, Nero had suffered a lot of damage, not only to his body but also to his soul.

The damage he received grew increasingly more serious every time he came within range of the Half-Elf's minions, who had the power to forcefully taunt him from a distance, causing him to suffer injuries and grievances each time.

"Come down and fight here, coward!" Lux shouted in disdain. "What's wrong? Are you afraid of a weak Apostle like me?"

If Lux wanted, he could fly in the sky and engage Nero in Aerial Combat.

However, if he did that, it would be a bit hard to synchronize his attacks with his allies because most of them couldn't fly.

Also, while fighting with Nero, he couldn't shake off the feeling that someone was observing him closely.



Whoever that someone was, Lux knew that they were a powerful being, whose strength surpassed the Abyssal Monster he was currently facing.

Because of this, the Half-Elf decided to play safe for the time being, just in case someone was planning to ambush him while he was engaged in a duel against Nero.

'Is it perhaps a Ranker from the Ammarian Kingdom?' Lux thought as he continued to taunt Nero with his words. 'I might get killed if they suddenly sneak attack me, so it is better if I just fight here on the ground.'

Right now, Lux's forces had positioned themselves in key locations around him, ready to intervene if a Ranker from the Ammarian Army decided to use this opportunity to eliminate Lux.

They always had two individuals who could cast Duel [EX] at any given time in case of emergencies.

Naturally, Nero also tried to target Lux's Summons, but the Half-Elf would just summon these Monsters to his side, evading Nero's attacks with ease.

Nero endured Lux's hateful taunts because he knew that if he came within range of the Half-Elf's ability, he would experience another round of suffering once again.

The stalemate between the two lasted for nearly ten minutes before something unexpected happened on the battlefield.

A silver-haired man appeared in the sky between the two fighters.

Lux and Nero looked at this newcomer with varying expressions on their faces.

In Nero's case, he felt a little intimidated because the silver-haired man, who was his benefactor, had a disappointed look on his face.

Lux, on the other hand, found himself feeling angry because the silver-haired man didn't appear alone. Hovering beside him was a meter-long Boar, who was still unconscious.

"Who are you?" Lux asked as he tried to reign in the anger in his heart. "What are you planning to do with Cai?"

The silver-haired man smiled after seeing the Half-Elf's seething expression. After watching the battle for so long, he knew that he had to intervene, or else, his chosen candidate was going to lose in the long run.

Even though he felt that Lux possessed something that could endanger his life, he thought that as long as he had a hostage and played his card right, he had nothing to fear against the hidden danger that threatened him.

"I've grown bored of watching this battle," the silver-haired man replied. "So, let's do it this way. You are going to fight Nero without using that disgusting taunting skill of yours. If you use that skill again, I will kill this Boar. Easy to understand, right?"

The silver-haired man summoned a silver sword and placed it over Cai's neck, and made a chopping gesture, which made Lux seethe in anger.

The Boar was currently in a weakened state because she had done everything in her power to keep Lux alive.

Seeing that Cai had been captured, the Half-Elf knew that Xander, who was duty-bound to protect her, might have been incapacitated by the unknown enemy that appeared in front of him.

Now that the enemy was using Cai as a hostage against him, he felt as if something inside him had snapped completely.