

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

## **- Chapter 513: - 544**

### **War Of Lions Mission Completion! |**

## **Chapter 513: War Of Lions Mission Completion!**

While the Yelan Army was celebrating, Lux and his teammates were currently in the Commanding Tent of the Yelan Army, where Great General Watson, Great General Sherlock, and the other high-ranking officers of the Yelan Kingdom had gathered.

"While we may have defeated Great General Gideon here in the Great Plains, the Ammarian Kingdom still has one more Great General commanding their army," Great General Sherlock said with a smile. "He is none other than Great General Rafael. He's the person who first hired your Mercenary Group, Lux."

The Half-Elf nodded. Originally, he thought that Great General Rafael would join the battle. However, the most he did was send manpower to the four battlefields, who were fighting against the Yelan Army.

"As long as he is still alive, the Ammarian Kingdom is still a threat," General Carran commented. "Even so, we will not lose to him."

The two Great Generals, as well as the other commanding officers inside the tent nodded their heads in agreement.

Great General Sherlock chuckled in order to decrease the tension inside the tent.

"Let's not worry about these things for now," Great General Sherlock said. "We have won the war, so we shouldn't have grim faces now, should we?"

"That's right!" Great General Watson laughed. "All of us are here because we decided to hand out great rewards to those that have helped us win this war. Now, Lux and the rest of you, come here."

Great General Watson made a gesture for the teenagers to follow him on the table where the map of the battlefield was laid out.

"We have promised you that for every General you defeat, we will pay you one million gold coins and give you a Pseudo-Legendary Equipment of your choice," Great General Watson said. "We also promised you that if you killed Great General Gideon, we will give you an additional one million gold coins each, and two Pseudo-Legendary Equipment of your choice."

Cai looked at Great General Watson with a disappointed look on her face before shifting her gaze to the tied up General, who had been knocked unconscious and sat slumped in the corner of the tent.

"I can still kill him...", Cai muttered. "That is still an extra million, and two Pseudo-Legendary Items. I can do this--all I need is a distraction. Fae Fae, you cast Solar Flare, while I stab that bastard dead while no one is looking."

Fei Fei resolutely nodded her head. As long as she would be able to help Cai, she was willing to follow her orders.

"O-Oi, we can hear you, you know?" Great General Watson's lips twitched after hearing the Boar's attempt to kill the Great General whom they had painstakingly captured. "Don't worry. Even if he is alive, we will still give you the rewards that were meant for his head."

Cai suddenly looked at Watson as if he was the most considerate man she had seen in her life, so she decided to set aside her attempt to kill the enemy Great General, who was unaware that the Boar had still not given up on taking his life.

"Now, here is the list of equipment we currently have," Great General Watson placed three scrolls on top of the table, to allow Lux and his comrades to browse its contents. "Feel free to check them, and pick out the ones you like. Take note that we only have one piece of each equipment, so if two of you fancy the same thing, you just talk it out among yourselves, okay?"

"Hahaha! Now we're talking!" Cai was the first to check the list of the Pseudo-Legendary Equipment, and looked at it with a solemn gaze as if her life depended on it.

Lux and the others didn't bother to fight with the shameless Boar, and just waited for their turn.

"These rings contain four million gold coins each," General Carran said as he handed several rings to Lux and his comrades as if they were candies.

Keane, who never had so much money before, didn't know what he was going to do with the sudden fortune that he received on the mission. He originally planned to give the money to Lux to help with their Guild Funds, but the Half-Elf turned him down.

"Just keep it," Lux stated. "You are no longer in the mountains where you grew up all your life. In order to explore this world, you will need money. Maybe you can even buy a better sword, or hire a blacksmith to craft you one when you have the chance."

After hearing Lux's explanation, the skinny swordsman looked at the ring on the palm of his hand and decided to wear it.

His reason for leaving the mountains was to find the peace he was looking for. He had forgotten his goal because many things were happening around him, and he found himself being carried by the flow.

Einar was a Barbarian Prince, so he wasn't too shocked about getting millions of gold coins. The same could be said for Henrietta, Val, and Malcolm. All of them were Guildmasters, so holding this much money was second nature to them.

As for Xander, he wasn't as calm as his comrades after receiving such a fortune.

He was the Guildmaster of the subsidiary Guild of the Rowan Tribe. Since the Rowan Tribe was a Nomadic Tribe who traveled from place to place, they didn't have many funds.

They thrived by hunting and peddling their wares in the towns they visited along the way. One could even say that being frugal had been their way of living, so getting this much gold coins at once made Xander suffer from brain freeze.

As the High Priestess of her Tribe, Cai also felt that she needed to contribute more to her people in order to make their lives more comfortable.

This was why, whenever she was in her Boar Form, she acted like a greedy pig and always looked for treasures.

She wasn't doing this for herself but for her people, who loved and cared for her since birth.

Her transformation into her Boar Form allowed her to be courageous and shameless, which was the exact opposite of her personality in her Human form.

"I'm done choosing!" Cai said as she used her hoof to point at two of the items on the list. "Um, I want this Endless Bag of Gold that gives 100 gold coins per day, and this Endless Sack of Gold that gives 200 gold coins per day."

"Okay," Great General Watson nodded as he gave Cai the two Pseudo-Legendary Items without batting an eye. "You can still choose two more. Have you already decided what to get?"

Cai then shifted her hoof to the second scroll and said her two other choices. "I want this Bag of Metals that produces two kilos of one random metal everyday, and this Bag of Pills that produces one random high-grade pill everyday."

"Good choices," Great General Watson gave the boar a thumbs up before handing the two other items to her.

Cai had chosen the items that would allow her Tribe to have a steady flow of money and resources everyday, which almost moved Xander to tears.

"...I should have been the one to look at that list," Einar scratched his head after hearing the names of the items that Cai had picked first.

As a Guildmaster, resources were very important because it allowed their Guild to be fully equipped and battle ready to hunt monsters, as well as dive into high-ranking Dungeons.

"She got us good." Val also clicked his tongue after Cai happily walked away to allow others to take their pick.

This time, it was him and Einar that moved towards the Scrolls and scrutinized them with a critical gaze.

"Xander, I'll leave this stuff to you," Cai said as she handed the things she collected to one of her retainers. "Make sure to use it well, understand?"

"Yes, High~ Cai!" Xander caught himself just in time and bowed respectfully towards the smug-faced Boar, who seemed to be very satisfied with her accomplishments.

"Um, I'm keeping my gold coins, okay?" Cai whispered to Xander. "Don't tell Gramps."

"Understood!" Xander replied and gave Cai the "my lips are sealed" gaze, which made the Boar pat the young man's shoulders.

Lux found this whole exchange funny, but he didn't do or say anything. He simply looked at Cai with his arms crossed over his chest.

Suddenly, a thought came to him so he walked towards the Boar and handed her the ring that contained the four million gold coins that was given to him.

"You saved my life, so this is a small compensation for it," Lux stated. "Don't worry. My life isn't worth a mere four million gold coins. I will also try to repay you in other ways in the future."

"Oh, you~ we're friends. You don't have to repay me for saving you," Cai replied as she grabbed the ring from Lux's hand and handed it to Xander. "Um, but since you insist, I will take the four million gold coins and look forward to how much you pay for the rest in the future."

Lux smiled and nodded his head.

What Cai didn't know was that Lux had a large supply of Draconium Ores in his possession, which he assumed to be worth billions of gold coins. A mere four million was nothing to him, so he was more than happy to give it to Cai, who was collecting riches for the sake of her people.

As for how he would repay her for saving his life, he would think of it slowly in the future!

Suddenly, Lux heard the sound of notification in his head as several rows of text appeared in front of him.

Cai and the others received the same notifications as well, which made them pause whatever they were doing and stare at the space in front of them to read the additional rewards they gained from completing their mission.

< War of the Lions (Completed!) >

Mission Rating: SS

< Team Completion Rewards >

â€" 3,000 Free Stat Points

â€" 10 Random Deimos-Ranked Beast Cores

< Bonus Rewards >

+20 to all Summon Skeleton Skills

+5 to All Summon Golem Skills

â€" You received the Key of EL Dorado

< Skeleton Grand Archers can now be evolved to a Stronger Class>

< Animate Undead [EX] Skill received a minor upgrade. Instead of reviving 200 Undead Creatures at the Initiate Rank, you will now be able to revive 300 Creatures. >

â€"The Commander of the Animated Undead Legion will always be equal in strength to its Master.

< You have unlocked the Unique Necromancer Skill, Skeleton Generator. >

(Note: Each individual will receive a different type of Bonus Reward depending on the contribution they made in the mission. While it is possible for everyone to receive similar rewards, the majority of the rewards will be exclusive to their respective professions.)

< Key of EL Dorado >

â€" Legendary Item

â€" Once a week, you will be able to instantly teleport to the Kingdom of El Dorado by using the Key.

â€" You may return to where you came from anytime by using the Key a second time.

â€" This Item can only be used by a D-Ranker

â€" Information of this key will be unlocked once the user has become a D-Ranker.

â€" This Item is Soulbound to Lux Von Kaizer

< Skeleton Generator [EX] >

â€" When using this skill, the user will be given an option to fuse any kind of resources to create Random Skeleton Classes. The rarer the items, the rarer the Skeleton Class that can be summoned.

â€" Examples of resources that can be used are Beast Cores, Monster Parts, Weapons, Armors, Items, Artifacts.

â€" Miscellaneous items can also be used, which might create an Accidental Fusion.

(Due to the effect of the Skill Evolution [EX] Skill, Skeleton Generator has automatically been upgraded to Skeleton Generator [EX]).

The Half-Elf then allocated his Free Stat Points inside his Soul Book and checked his information with a smile.

Name: Lux Von Kaizer

Age: 16

Race: Half-Elf

Profession: Lord of the Dead

Rank: Initiate

Health: 196,000 / 196,000

Mana: 430,000 / 430,000

Strength: 1250

Intelligence: 2050

Vitality: 1060

Agility: 1000

Dexterity: 1000

'Very nice!' Lux nodded his head in satisfaction.

After he was killed by Second, he lost two thousand stat points, and he had been wondering how he would be able to regain the points he had lost after he finished his mission.

Fortunately, the mission rewards gave him 3,000 Free Stat Points, which caught him completely by surprise.

Cai and the others also had very happy expressions on their faces. They, too, received the Team Rewards, which allowed them to step into the Initiate Rank once again.

Malcolm was also very happy because the boost in stats pushed him a little closer to becoming an E-Ranker.

However, the rewards didn't end there. Each of them received separate Bonus Rewards depending on their contribution to the completion of the mission.

Lux's Rewards made him smile from ear to ear.

He was very eager to use the Skeleton Generator ability, but he endured this impulse because now was not the right time to do that.

'I'll wait until I return to Barbatos Academy before I attempt to use this skill,' Lux thought as he gazed at the happy faces of his team members, who seemed to have struck gold, just like him.

Aside from the rewards he gained from the mission, he could still pick four Pseudo-Legendary Items from the list provided by the Yelan Army, which was a nice bonus to all the hardship that he had been through in order to clear the Gate of Conquest.

'I also need to have a talk with Keoza about that silver-haired man.' Lux sighed internally. 'Something is telling me that this will not be the last time I'd see him.'



Because he had been busy with his duel with Nero and monitoring the current status of the war, the Half-Elf didn't have time to ask the Crystal Dragon about the identity of the enemy that he had fought.

There was still one more gate that needed to be conquered to unlock the final gate of the Sacred Dungeon, and if his gut instinct was right, he would definitely come across that Abyssal Creature again, who posed a great threat to his survival.

## **Chapter 514: The Sooner, The Better**

"Thank you, Lux, for everything." Great General Watson shook Lux's hand after the Half-Elf finished picking the four Pseudo-Legendary Items he wanted from their list.

"May these items serve you well," Great General Sherlock added as he handed Lux a storage ring containing all the equipment that he had asked for.

The Half-Elf took the ring gratefully and also shook the Gnome's hand before thanking them as well.

At that moment, General Carran patted Lux's shoulder, making the latter look at the General who had fought alongside him during the previous battles in the Glouswell Forest.

"I hate Necromancers to this day, and I still do," General Carran stated. "In the future, if we meet again, but you are standing against the Yelan Kingdom, I swear to finish what General Revon failed to do and kill you."

General Carran's rugged hand rested on Lux's shoulder, but he didn't hold the Half-Elf in a firm grip. It simply rested there, as if implying that, for now, they were still not enemies.

"I, too, hope that there will not come a day when I will stand opposite the Yelan Kingdom," Lux replied. "I'm sure that fighting against you guys will leave a bitter taste in my mouth if that were to happen."

General Carran snorted before taking his hand away from the Half-Elf's shoulder.

"Are you all leaving now?" Great General Watson asked.

Lux nodded. "We have other battles to fight."

The Half-Elf didn't mention that there was a countdown timer that was ticking in front of him, and a glance was enough to tell him that they had only twenty more minutes before they were forcefully kicked out of the Gate of Conquest.

After bidding their final goodbyes, Lux and his team summoned their mounts and left the Yelan Army.

The soldiers who watched them leave all cheered, viewing them as heroes.

The friendly Eiko waved back at them, and told them, "Bye Bye!"

Everyone, including Malcolm, had smiles on their faces as they left the Yelan Camp and headed in the direction of the mountains.

When the countdown timer was up, all of them turned into particles of light and were teleported back to the entrance of the Gate of Conquest, which now had their names in it, written in bold letters to signify that they were the first ones to clear the dungeon in Hell Mode, which countless had failed.

Henrietta and Malcolm both received a notice that they were now able to enter the Domain of the Fallen anytime they wanted, and they were also allowed to bring five people inside the Domain with them.

This piece of good news made the two quite happy. Having more quotas meant that they could now bring a bigger party to conquer the Fourth Gate, which in turn would help unlock the Fifth Gate that required all the other four Gates conquered.

"Let's go back," Lux said with a smile. "I want to take a month or two vacation from all of these Dungeon expeditions."

Everyone glanced at the Half-Elf because they understood that this was his subtle way of telling them that he didn't plan on returning to the Domain of the Fallen anytime soon.

"Sounds good," Cai commented. "I also have many other things to do. But before that, I'll go drop by Barbatos Academy to see Iris. Xander, you tell gramps that I'll be back after a week, okay?"

Xander nodded his head in understanding. Cai's words were as good as their Chief's words, and the only one that could overturn them was Maximilian, who was almost finished with the experiments he was doing for the time being.

Lux then glanced at Malcolm, who was also looking at him with a serious expression on his face.

"We might have started on the wrong foot, but this time, allow me to thank you for everything," Malcolm stated. "I don't know what the future has in store for the both of us, but I hope that even when we face each other on opposing sides, make sure to take it easy on me, okay?"

Malcolm was a lot stronger than Lux, and he used to think that he could easily defeat the Half-Elf if they fought one-on-one.

But, now, he wouldn't be challenging Lux to a duel anytime soon.

The reason was simple.

Necromancers didn't do one-on-one battles, and he didn't want to suffer a one-sided beating from the Half-Elf's Undead Army, which had now become stronger than ever.

Lux smirked after hearing Malcolm's words. "I'll think about it."

Just like Malcolm, he didn't know if he would stand against the Vahan Empire and the Skystead Alliance in the future.

After what had happened in the Vahan Empire, the Half-Elf had a very bad impression of Emperor Andreas and his right-hand man, Aron. If possible, he didn't want to deal with them anytime soon.

'I'll wait until I become a Ranker,' Lux thought as he scanned the faces of everyone around him before giving all of them a thumbs up. "Let's go home."

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In front of the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen...

Several flashes of light illuminated the gate of the Domain of the Fallen, and from that light, the victors of the Gate of Conquest appeared in front of everyone, who were waiting for their return.

"You did well, Lux," Gerald said as he happily patted the Half-Elf's shoulder before guiding him straight to where Natasha and Rainer were.

The Commander of the Wildgarde Stronghold knew that the other factions held a grudge against the Half-Elf, so in order to keep the Half-Elf out of harm's way, he immediately dragged Lux to their faction, preventing the others from calling out to him.

Cai and Keane followed behind because the Rowan Tribe's Faction stood next to the Wildgarde Stronghold's Faction.

Only Malcolm returned to the Skystead Alliance victorious, and the other representatives gazed at him with envy and jealousy, contrary to Aron, the right-hand man of Emperor Andreas, who patted his shoulder and praised him for making their Empire proud.

"You did well, Malcolm," Aron said as he looked at the last remaining representative of the Skystead Alliance who managed to clear the Gate of Conquest. "I'm sure our Emperor and your Father will be very proud of your achievements."

"Thank you, Your Excellency," Malcolm replied with a smile.

Aron then glanced in the direction of the Wildgarde Stronghold Faction. His gaze lingered on Lux for a while before he shifted it to Nero, who was still unconscious.

A few seconds later, Aron made a gesture for everyone belonging to his Faction to follow him.

"Let's go back to the Vahan Empire," Aron ordered. "We still have many things to do, and so little time to accomplish them."

He still needed to make a complete report of what happened inside the Gate of Conquest to his Emperor and ask Malcolm if he received a key after clearing the Dungeon.

A key that would allow them to realize their Empire's long cherished wish to expand their borders and make others submit to their rule.

Lux stared at Aron's retreating back from a distance and clenched his fist tightly.

He had sensed Aron's gaze upon him, and for a brief moment, he had felt the High-Ranker's killing intent.

'It seems that I really can't lower my guard against the Vahan Empire,' Lux thought. 'I better hurry up and become stronger. The sooner, the better.'

## Chapter 515.1: Eiko's Little Experiment [Part 1]

After leaving Elysium, Lux, Cai, Keane, and Henrietta, headed back to Barbatos Academy, where an excited Iris waited for them at the entrance.

Naturally, the first one to get hugged by the blue-haired beauty was none other than Cai, who immediately charged forward as soon as she saw Iris waving at them from a distance.

"It seems that she missed you very much," Henrietta whispered in Lux's ears. "She couldn't even wait for us to enter the gates and met us outside of it instead. Go easy on her tonight, okay?"

Lux pretended that he didn't hear Henrietta's last words and simply walked towards his fiancée with a smile on his face.

Eiko had already jumped off Lux's head and ran towards Iris, jumping into her Mama's open arms.

"I missed you so much, Eiko," Iris said before kissing the baby slime, who happily kissed her back. "Did you miss me too?"

"Ma!" Eiko replied before nuzzling Iris, which made the latter giggle.

Lux, who didn't want to get in the way of Eiko's reunion with Iris, walked towards Alicia and asked her a few questions, especially if they had seen everything that had happened inside the Sacred Dungeon through Henrietta's eyes.

"You did well," Alicia stated. "I didn't know that you were hiding so many secrets. For a moment, I thought I was looking at a different person."

"Keep those secrets as secrets," Lux reminded the beautiful Secretary. "This Dungeon expedition was incredibly difficult, so I was forced to show a few of my Trump Cards."

Alicia nodded in understanding. Although it was only for a brief moment, she saw the Crystal Dragon appear on the skies of the battlefield.

If not for the fact that Henrietta was being attacked and had no time to look at Lux's ongoing battle with Nero, they might have witnessed more things that they hadn't seen before.

In fact, the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy was very curious about how Lux fought against a Ranker despite being a mere Grade A Apostle, surviving the ordeal unscathed.

He was also very curious about how the Half-Elf fought against Nero, who for some unknown reason had managed to temporarily become a Ranker, and still managed to win.

Henrietta wasn't there when the Half-Elf fought against General Revon and only knew about it later when Lux went to look for Henrietta to ask the latter to take care of Cai in his stead.

The Guildmaster of the Serenity Guild only saw Keoza's appearance when Lux had summoned the Crystal Dragon because he had finally decided that enough was enough.

"The Headmaster knows that you will be busy today, so he ordered me to tell you to go find him tomorrow," Alicia said before walking towards Henrietta in order to discuss a few important things that happened in her Guild, Serenity, while she was away.

Serenity was the subsidiary guild of Barbatos Academy in Elysium, and only the elite members of the Academy were able to join it.

Lux then felt a longing gaze, piercing him from the side, so he turned his head to look at his beautiful fiancée, who was now pouting.

"I'm back, Iris," Lux said before heading towards his fiancée with a mischievous smile on his face. "Did you miss me?"

"I missed Eiko more than I missed you," Iris replied.

The Half-Elf smirked before moving closer to whisper something in Iris' ear.

"I'll make sure you don't get any sleep tonight," Lux whispered.

Immediately, a faint blush appeared on Iris' face before she playfully pounded on the Half-Elf's chest to vent out her frustration.

"Um, can you put aside the PDA for now?" Cai said with a snort. "It's still bright, and people are looking at us. Wait until both of you are in a room, okay?"

The Boar's reminder made the blush on Iris' face deepen, leading to her pushing Lux away before inviting Cai to enter the gates of the Academy.

Lux, who had been pushed away, only chuckled because he found Iris' reaction quite cute. For the time being, he decided to stop teasing his fiancée out in broad daylight.

He would just wait until the two of them were alone together before showering her with his love.

Iris led Lux, Cai, and Keane to her private residence inside the Academy where only a select few people could enter.

Henrietta accompanied Alicia to report to the Headmaster's Office, so she wasn't able to be with everyone for the time being. She had many responsibilities and reporting her impression of what happened inside the Sacred Dungeon to the Headmaster was one of them.

When they entered Iris' personal residence in Barbatos Academy, Lux and Keane sat on the sofa, while Iris took Cai to her bedroom to talk about a few things.

Eiko and Fei Fei stayed behind because Iris wanted to talk to Cai in private.

Eiko, who was left with her Papa, suddenly got an idea and crawled up on Lux's leg to ask him for a few things.

"Pa!" Eiko said as she looked at the Half-Elf with a sweet smile on her face.

Lux smiled and patted Eiko's head, making the latter giggle. Both of them shared a strong connection with each other, so the Baby Slime was able to transmit her thoughts to the Half-Elf without saying anything.

"You want some Beast Cores?" Lux asked.

"Pa!" Eiko nodded. "Deimos!"

"Deimos Ranked Beast Cores?" Lux blinked as he looked at the Baby Slime who nodded her head firmly.

After giving it some thought, Lux nodded his head and took out the ten Deimos Cores that he received as a reward from the "War of the Lions" Quest inside the Gate of Conquest.

Ten Beast Cores, which were all as big as Eiko, were placed on the carpeted floor, making the Baby Slime very happy.

"You can choose only one, okay?" Lux said. "I will use the others for my experiments."

"Pa!" Eiko replied, and immediately looked at the Beast Cores one by one, as if reading their information.

Lux didn't know whether Eiko was able to read the information of each Beast Core, but since the Baby Slime had a serious expression on her face, he became curious about what Eiko was planning to do.

Several minutes later, Eiko chose a bright-red Beast Core among the ten, leaving the others behind.

As Lux retrieved the remaining Beast Cores, the Baby Slime did something that he hadn't seen before.

A skeleton bowl, which was at least two-meters wide, appeared in front of Eiko.

Suddenly, a voice, whose gender couldn't be identified by Lux, spoke inside the room.

-----

< Greetings! Do you wish to Generate a Random Skeleton Creature? >

< Yes / No >

-----



"Un!" Eiko replied as she crawled up the edge of the Skeleton Bowl, overlooking the pitch-black darkness at its center with a smile.

It didn't take long for Lux to realize that Eiko had copied his skill, Skeleton Generator [EX] and had decided to play with it.

-----

< In order to create a Random Skeleton Specie, you will have to sacrifice materials for fusion. Take note that none of the items you are going to use can be refunded. Do you accept this condition? >

"Yes!" Eiko answered.

< A minimum of two materials can be used for fusion. The Maximum number of materials you can add to the Skeleton Generator is a hundred materials. Do you wish to create your Skeleton now? >

"Un!" Eiko nodded.

< Take note that there is a possibility of having an accident while fusing. Sometimes, the Skeleton Specie that you will generate from this accident is exceptionally weak or could be exceptionally strong. >

< You can now throw the materials inside the Skeleton Bowl to start the fusion! >

"Okay!" Eiko then tossed the red Deimos-Ranked Beast Core inside the Skeleton Bowl as the first fusion material.

A second later, she took out another red Beast Core, which was smaller than the first one she had, and threw it inside the Skeleton Bowl, which had now started to give off a faint light.

The second Beast Core that Eiko threw was none other than the Beast Core from the Bombardier Gorilla, which had been given to her by Glee, which allowed the baby slime to learn the skill, Blast Bomb [EX].

After throwing the two Beast Cores in, Eiko summoned a red-steel ball and happily tossed it inside the Skeleton Bowl as a fusion material.

Fei Fei, who was watching her best friend, found this amusing, so she joined Eiko in throwing Blast Bombs inside the Bowl, making Lux's expression look like he was constipated.

Soon, the two Baby Slimes were giggling as they tossed bomb after bomb into the bowl as if they were playing some kind of game.

Keane, on the other hand, found this scene quite amusing. He quietly watched the two Baby Slimes who seemed to be having a lot of fun.

Eiko paused for a bit because she suddenly had an idea. Instead of creating more Blast Bombs, she created several Skeleton Bombs, using the skill Skeleton Make.

After making her first Skeleton Bomb, she then tossed it inside the bowl, making the light shining at its center grow brighter.

The Baby Slime found this amusing and kept on tossing more Skeleton Bombs, while Fei Fei kept on throwing in Blast Bombs.

Several minutes later, the voice spoke once again, making the two Baby Slimes stop throwing more stuff inside the bowl.

< The Skeleton Generator had reached the maximum number of materials for fusion. >

< Do you wish to start the fusion? >

< Yes / No >

"Yes!" Eiko replied happily, confirming that she wanted the fusion to begin.

A moment later, several red lights danced inside the Skeleton Bowl.

Lux had no idea what would come out from his Baby Slime's diabolic concoction, but he had to admit that he was also very curious about what kind of Creature would emerge from the Skeleton Generator Skill.

This was the first time this skill was being used, so he was looking forward to the surprise that was waiting for them once the fusion was complete.

## Chapter 516.2: Eiko's Little Experiment [Part 2]

Eiko and Fei Fei looked at the center of the bowl, which was now sparkling like fireworks.

A moment later, a red orb of light floated upwards from the center of the Skeleton Bowl and hovered in the air for a few seconds before moving a few meters away from the two Baby Slimes, who were looking at it with great expectations.

When the red orb of light had floated to a safe distance away from everyone, it suddenly expanded until it became a two-meter tall Creature that looked more like a crystal than a skeleton.

-----

< Congratulations! >

< You have successfully created the Crimson Monkey Kong Skeleton Bombardier! >

< The stats of this Monster will always be equal to the stats of the one who summoned it. >

< Only one Crimson Monkey Kong Skeleton Bombardier can be summoned at any given time. >

< Please bestow a name to your newly created Skeleton! >

-----

Eiko blinked after hearing the voice that asked her to give a name to the two-meter tall Crimson Monkey Kong Skeleton Bombardier, whose entire skeletal body seemed to be made up of rubies.

"Boom... er?" Eiko tilted her head after giving a name filled with uncertainty.

It seemed like the Monkey Kong Skeleton liked the name that Eiko had given it, given how hard it thumped its chest with its bony hands and how loud it made gorilla-like noises.

-----  
< Congratulations! Boomer will now serve you as your loyal summoned Creature from this day forward! >

-----  
< Boomer >

"Need a Light?"

- Fused Skeleton Creature
- Crimson Monkey Kong Skeleton Bombardier
- Rating: S

Health: 124,800 / 124,800

Mana: 124,800 / 124,800

Strength: 624

Intelligence: 624

Vitality: 400

Agility: 400

Dexterity: 400

Active Skills: Blast Bomb [EX], Dynamite Punch, Dynamite Kick, Dynamite Body Slam, Leap

Passive Skills: Crystal Body

Special Ability: Bomb Specialist

-----  
< Crystal Body >

- Gives 20% Resistance to Physical and Magical Attacks

-----  
< Bomb Specialist >

- Has a 25% chance to deal 200% more damage when using Blast Bombs, or any Exploding Abilities.
- Has a 10% chance to deal 300% more damage when using Blast Bombs, or any Exploding Abilities.
- Has a 5% chance to deal 400% more damage when using Blast Bombs, or any Exploding Abilities.

-----  
< Boomer has been automatically assigned to become Eiko's Animated Undead Army Commander. >

< Thank you for using Skeleton Generator, your one-stop generator for anything Skeleton Related! >

< Skill will now go into a week-long cooldown. >

< Skill Cooldown Timer: 168.59.58 >

-----  
"Thank you, too!" Eiko replied as she waved at the Skeleton Bowl which was shrinking in front of her.

Fifteen seconds later, the bowl had shrunk into nothingness, leaving the two Baby Slimes who were looking at the Monkey Kong Skeleton with sparkling eyes.

"Yay!" Eiko happily jumped towards the Monkey Kong Skeleton who caught her easily with its bony hands.

Fei Fei, who also participated in Boomer's creation, joined Eiko, and soon, the two Baby Slimes were jumping on the Monkey Kong Skeleton's body as if it was some kind of ride in an amusement park.

"Unbelievable," Keane muttered before glancing in Lux's direction. "Just how many surprises does Eiko have?"

Lux only gave his friend a mysterious smile as a way to prevent his own surprise from showing on his face.

He didn't expect Eiko to actually succeed in creating a Skeleton of her own through the fusion of two Beast Cores, dozens of Blast Bombs, and dozens of Skeleton Bombs.

The Half-Elf then opened the Skill Book and looked closely at the information about the Skeleton Generator [EX] Skill to get a better understanding of how it worked.

-----

#### < Skeleton Generator [EX] >

- When using this skill, the user will be given an option to fuse any kind of resources to create Random Skeleton Classes. The rarer the items, the rarer the Skeleton Class that can be summoned.
- Examples of resources that can be used are Beast Cores, Monster Parts, Weapons, Armors, Items, and Artifacts.
- Miscellaneous items can also be used, which might create an Accidental Fusion.
- Materials used in creating Skeletons are non-refundable.
- Not all fusions can be successful. There is a 20% chance for the creation process to fail, which would put all your resources to waste.
- There is also a chance of creating powerful Skeleton Monsters, which you cannot control given your current Rank. When this happens, the created Creature will be locked inside the Skeleton Bestiary, waiting for you to reach the required Rank in order to summon them to serve you.
- Using more resources doesn't necessarily mean better results. It is possible to optimize the Skeleton Generator Skill by fusing materials that match the creature you are looking for, but take note that no one knows what the end result will be.

– All successfully created Skeletons will automatically be added to the Animate Undead Army, unless you specify them as part of your Necromancer's Covenant.

– Not all Skeleton Generated Creatures are equal. Depending on their type, they can become stronger or weaker than the one that summoned them.

-----

'I better ask Asmoedus to experiment using this ability a little later,' Lux thought. 'Although the one week cooldown is a pain, adding powerful Undead to our Army is always a good thing. The newly created Skeleton Creature is also automatically added to the Animated Undead Army unless I make them part of my Covenant...'

The Half-Elf crossed his arms over his chest as he looked at Eiko's new summon, who had the same number of combined stat points as her.

A quick glance was enough to tell that Boomer was an All-Rounder. It had ranged attacks, as well as close combat attacks. Although Lux felt that Eiko might become the leader of a terrorist organization in the future, he could only support his Baby Slime, who stood by him in the face of great dangers.

As if waiting for that moment, Iris' Unicorn, Astra, walked inside the room.

The Unicorn didn't want to see Eiko at first because he knew that the Baby Slime would challenge him to a duel as soon as she saw him.

However, the Unicorn wouldn't feel at ease if he wasn't around Iris because he would keep worrying about her safety. This was why, even though he knew that Eiko would definitely challenge him, he still decided to appear. Anyway, he was confident that the Baby Slime was no match against him.

Just as he expected, the moment Eiko saw him, the Baby Slime's fighting spirit was immediately ignited.

"Fight!" Eiko shouted.

Astra snorted and ignored the Baby Slime's words. Right now, he wasn't in the mood to fight, so he strutted inside the room like the arrogant Unicorn he was.

Boomer, who was allowing the two baby slimes to jump all over its body, shifted its gaze to the Unicorn whom its Master wanted to fight.

Astra then shifted his gaze at Boomer and gave the Monkey Kong Skeleton the "what are you looking at?" glare, which made the Monkey Kong Skeleton roar in the Unicorns' direction.

Lux, who saw this scene, scratched his head and decided to intervene. They had just returned from the Gate of Conquest, and he didn't want to have any conflicts for the time being.

However, just as he was about to tell Eiko to give Astra a break, Iris and Cai emerged from the blue-haired beauty's bedroom and looked at Boomer in surprise.

Eiko, who had seen her Mama, forgot about the Unicorn and immediately jumped towards Iris, so that her Mama could pamper her.

Astra was already used to Eiko acting spoiled whenever she was with Iris and had already accepted that there was nothing he could do about it.

However, a glint of mischief flashed in the Unicorn's eyes as he looked at the Monkey Kong Skeleton.

Iris had told him not to fight against the Baby Slime, but that didn't mean that he couldn't fight against the Baby Slime's minions.

Having found this loophole, the Unicorn arrogantly raised his head at the Monkey Kong Skeleton and neighed at it.

Clearly, the Unicorn wanted someone to bully, and what better candidate than the weird-looking-monster that had appeared before him for the first time in his life.

Boomer understood what Astra wanted to do, but it didn't matter. Although it had just been born, it was already a strong monster.

Because of this, the Monkey Kong walked towards the Unicorn and looked down on him with contempt.

Eiko, who shared a connection with Boomer, immediately felt her Summon's desire to fight her Rival.



Because of this, she jumped out of Iris' embrace and teleported on the Monkey Kong Skeleton's head before looking down on the Unicorn that she still hadn't beaten yet.

"Fight!" Eiko shouted.

While this was happening, Lux and Iris glanced at each other and sighed at the same time. It seemed that their Baby Slime really was a battle junkie.

Since both sides seemed to really want to have a go with each other, they moved to the training area to provide a proper place for the Baby Slime and her Summon's fight against the Unicorn, who wanted nothing more but to teach Eiko a lesson that would let her know that he was a wall that the Baby Slime wouldn't be able to break so easily.

## **Chapter 517: I'll Take The Lead For The First Round**

"Wuwuwuwu!" Eiko cried sadly in Iris' arms after Astra had beaten her and Boomer at the same time.

To be perfectly honest, even Lux thought that the Unicorn would not be able to beat Eiko and Boomer's combination, especially after what the Baby Slime had been through in the Gate of Conquest.

However, to Lux's and Eiko's surprise, Astra had also acquired a Doppelganger Ability, allowing him to create not three, not four, but five copies of himself!

Despite the fact that Eiko had used everything in her arsenal to put the smug-faced Unicorn in his place, Astra had simply become more powerful than ever.

Iris whispered in Lux's ears that when Astra managed to gain the Doppelganger Skill, it had also become a Peak Rank 5 Alpha Monster, who could only be defeated by a complete party of Initiates.

An Astra without a Doppelganger and an Astra with a Doppelganger were two different beasts, and coupled with the Unicorn's speed and firepower, he was now the strongest fighter among Iris' personal Guardians.

In short, the Unicorn was now similar to Cadmus, the Draconian Kobold, whose strength allowed him to survive in the Savage Lands that were outside the borders of Leaf Village.

Eiko might have gained a lot of battle experience after fighting against Rankers, but Astra had long fought against Monsters that were far stronger than him in order to protect his Master, Iris, from any kind of harm.

"There, there. Don't cry, Eiko," Iris coaxed the crying Baby Slime in her arms. "Don't worry, someday, you will become more powerful than Astra. When that happens, you will definitely win."

Eiko raised her head and looked at her Mama and nodded.

"Un!" Eiko answered with tears in her eyes. "Eiko will win!"

"That's right. Eiko is strong. Eiko will win!"

"Eiko will win!"

Lux could only smile after seeing this lovable exchange between the two.

The three of them were now inside Iris' residence and just spending some time together before leaving for dinner in three hours.

Cai and Keane were guided by Alicia to the rooms that were prepared for their stay in Barbatos Academy, and they decided to rest a while because they were still tired from their journey.

Astra, who was very satisfied after he beat Eiko, went to his own den to rest. Although he didn't want to admit it, the battle he had with Eiko and Boomer had exhausted him more than he expected.

He knew that Eiko was growing at a very rapid pace, but he didn't expect that the Baby Slime would use the terrain to her advantage, even digging under the ground to use sneak attacks against him.

Eiko had also become more flexible and more patient when initiating attacks. If not for the fact that Astra could instantaneously blink a few meters away from his location, he would have suffered several close calls against the Baby Slime, whose Dragon's Breaths only missed him by a hair's breadth.

When dinner came, Lux, Cai, and Keane, were surprised to see that the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy had joined them in the dining room.

"All of you did well in conquering the Gate of Conquest," Alexander said as the food was being served at the table. "There were many close calls, but all of you were able to survive, and that is all that matters."

Alexander then shifted his gaze to Lux, which made the latter look back at his Stepfather with a serious expression on his face.

"There is one last gate remaining, and I'm sure that the different Factions will undoubtedly ask you to assist them in conquering that last stage," Alexander added. "This time around, they will stick to you like glue. I don't know how much they had seen during your battle with Nero, but the few glimpses that Henrietta managed to see were enough to tell me that you have a few Life Saving Trump Cards in your disposal.

"The Vahan Empire is giving me mixed signals, and there is a chance that they will either try to woo you and make you their friend, or they will send people to eliminate you, so that you will not get the opportunity to reach a stage that can threaten them.

"Fortunately, I doubt that they will do anything to you until all the gates have been opened. There is also the issue with the Fifth Gate that can only be unlocked after all the other four gates have been cleared. For now, focus on getting stronger and find ways to acquire life-saving artifacts that will help you survive an assassination from a Ranker."

Lux nodded his head because he also felt that the Vahan Empire was plotting something against him. However, just like what Alexander said, they would probably not do anything until all the gates, including the Fifth Gate of the Sacred Dungeon, had been cleared.

"I will do my best, Father," Lux said. "For the time being, I don't plan on going to the Sacred Dungeon for a month or two. I still have a lot of things to take care of in my Guild, and politics is not my cup of tea. If possible, I'd like to let the experts handle the talking for me."

The corner of Alexander's lips rose slightly because he could tell that the Half-Elf was subtly asking him to be his spokesperson for the time being.

Everyone felt that they could talk down on Lux because he was still young and weak.

However, the words of a Saint were different. There were only a handful of people that could talk to Alexander on equal terms, and those people are very few and far between.

"Very well," Alexander replied. "I will tell them that I asked you to do a mission for the Academy to make them stop bugging you for a period of time. Use that time well, and prepare for the conquest of the Gate of Famine."

Alexander then shifted his gaze to Cai and Keane and gave the two a brief nod.

"Look after Lux when you guys are in the Dungeon," Alexander said. "As you know, this punk can be very reckless at times. Also, thank you Cai for saving him. What you did was very selfless and very brave."

Cai, who had been praised by a Saint, looked so smug, making Lux very tempted to give her a spanking.

However, since she really did save his life, he decided to be nicer to her and spank her at a later date.

Alexander talked to them about other things, especially about the latest news related to the Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, and Xynnar War Pact.

He wanted to let the teenagers know that although they were united while clearing the Sacred Dungeon, they all had separate agendas in mind, and it would be best to not trust the others completely.

After dinner, everyone retired to their rooms to rest for the night.

Lux, Iris, and Eiko took a bath together before going to bed.

The Baby Slime enjoyed being pampered and washed by her Mama inside the bathtub that could easily hold five people.

The Half-Elf was well behaved and didn't attempt to make any moves on Iris while they were in the bath. He simply allowed the blue-haired beauty to lean her back against his chest as he held her waist in place.

After the bath, the three went to the bedroom. Lux and Iris only wore bathrobes. Eiko was tired and would yawn from time to time.

She had fought a long and hard battle against Astra, so after eating delicious food and having a relaxing bath, the Baby Slime became too sleepy to keep her eyes open.

Soon, Eiko had fallen soundly asleep inside her basket without a care in the world.

Not far from her, Iris took the initiative to kiss Lux as the Half-Elf's naughty hands started to fondle her soft breasts and played with the pink tips that had become hard under his touch.

"Mmh... kiss..."

Iris missed Lux terribly, so as soon as she was sure that Eiko was fast asleep, she pinned the Half-Elf on the bed and pressed her lips against his, fanning the flames of desire that both of them had been suppressing since the moment they had been reunited.

"I love you, Lux," Iris said softly as soon as their kiss ended.

"I love you too, Iris," Lux replied as he rested his hand at the back of Iris' head before pulling her close to him, kissing her forehead.

Iris then sat on Lux's stomach before removing her bathrobe, letting the Half-Elf see her young, and seductive body that she would show to no other man but him.

"I'll take the lead for the first round," Iris stated.

Lux nodded as he looked at his beautiful fiancée's face, whose soft right hand was playfully rubbing his hard and throbbing shaft on her petals, which were wet from the desire, lust, and love that she felt for him.

Inch by painful inch, he slid inside her, making the Half-Elf feel as if he was going to die if Iris were to stop midway and deny him of the release that was threatening to fill her up and melt her from the inside out.

## Chapter 518: A Battle That He Had No Possibility Of Winning

The sound of muffled moans could be heard inside the room as Iris used her hand to cover her lips to prevent her seductive voice from leaking out.

Lux held her legs in place as he increased the movements of his hips, making indecent sounds.

This was their third round of making love with each other, and both of them enjoyed their long-awaited union after being apart from each other for a long period.

A minute later, Lux's body shuddered as a grunt escaped his lips.

Iris, who had also reached her limit, clenched the bed sheets as Lux's essence seeped deep inside of her, basking in the afterglow of his warmth and love.

After his long and sweet release ended, Lux panted for breath as he looked at his beautiful fiancée.

Iris' face was flushed, and her hair was a mess. Her body glistened with sweat, and the reddish marks on her skin that Lux had planted when he kissed her body all over were truly a sight to behold.

Iris had many admirers within the Six Kingdoms and even in the world of Elysium. If they could see her now, they would probably curse the Half-Elf to death for being rough with the young lady of their dreams.

"I love you, Iris," Lux said softly as he bent down to kiss her lips.

The kiss wasn't long and only lasted for a few seconds, but it was enough to convey his heartfelt love towards his fiancée, who loved him just as much.

"I love you too, Lux." Iris' eyes were misty as she gave her beloved a loving smile. "You were a bit rougher compared to last time."

Lux caressed Iris' face as he looked at her with concern. "I'm sorry. Did I hurt you?"

Iris shook her head before wrapping her arms around Lux's body, pulling him close to whisper in his ears.

"I'm not a delicate vase that easily breaks," Iris whispered. "You can be rough with me as much as you want. I guarantee that I can take it."

Iris' words were like the whispers of a devil, encouraging Lux to do bad things. However, the Half-Elf controlled himself and only gave her a brief smile. He laid beside his fiancée, wrapping her in a loving embrace.

"You little succubus, don't regret your words when I lose control one day," Lux said before lightly spanking Iris' backside, making the blue-haired beauty giggle.

"Let's change the sheets first, then take a bath after," Iris proposed. "I don't want Eiko to sense anything out of place when she wakes up tomorrow morning."

Lux nodded and helped Iris "clean" the crime scene, leaving no evidence behind. After replacing the sheets, which had been covered with the traces of their lovemaking, the two went to take a bath together.

However, due to Iris' casual teasing inside the bathtub, the two engaged in another round of pleasure before calling it a night.

---

In the morning the next day...

"Pa!"

"Ma!"

"Pa!"

"Ma!"

Eiko lightly tapped Lux's and Iris' cheeks to wake the two of them up.

The Slime had woken up an hour ago, but she decided to crawl towards the large bed and sleep between her Papa and Mama.

She only rested for another hour. Now that she was feeling more awake, she decided to rouse Lux and Iris so that the three of them could have breakfast together.

Seeing her attempts fail, Eiko decided to focus on Lux and poke his nose repeatedly. Eventually, the Baby Slime found doing that fun and thought that it was like a game, so she continued playing with Lux's nose while giggling.

"Morning Eiko," Lux said as he sleepily gazed at the Baby Slime, who looked back at him with an innocent smile on her face.

"Morning!" Eiko greeted Lux and planted a kiss on his nose.

Perhaps, unable to hold back her strong urge, the Baby Slime poked her Papa's nose once more before giggling. In response, the Half-Elf lightly poked the naughty baby's forehead, which made her jump away while still giggling.

Iris was already awake and giggled like Eiko after seeing what the Baby Slime had done to her fiancé, who was shaking his head helplessly.

"Let's get some breakfast," Lux said as he eyed Iris and Eiko, who were still giggling at him.

Iris nodded. She gave the mischievous Baby Slime a quick peck on the cheeks before walking towards her closet to change her one-piece nightgown.

Half an hour later, the three went to have breakfast together, only to find that Cai and Keane had just finished theirs.

"Ah! Good timing, My Daddy," Cai said as she was about to leave the dining area. "Alicia told me a while ago that Grandpa sent a message to the Headmaster, asking you to come with me to the Rowan Tribe in three days. He said that you and he have something very important to talk about. Oh! He also added that Iris can come as well."

After passing on her Grandpa's message, Cai chatted with Iris for a while before leaving the dining area in a good mood.

Her Grandpa had been too busy as of late to see her, so knowing that he had finally finished his experiments made the Boar look forward to going back home to spend some time with her family.



Keane, on the other hand, bumped fists with Lux before leaving the dining area.

Henrietta had asked the swordsman if he could spend some time sparring with her Guild Members to give them a better understanding of what it would take to become one of the representatives that would come with her to conquer the Gate of Famine.

The Guildmaster of Serenity didn't dare to challenge it alone. She had a feeling that the last gate would probably be harder than the Gate of Conquest that they had just cleared.

Besides, the journey toward the Sacred Dungeon after entering the Domain of the Fallen was lined with peril, and it would be too dangerous to go without a raiding party, which included the Half-Elf, who had led them to victory.

Alexander had also made his intentions clear by telling Henrietta to ignore any invitations, which would likely come from the Factions, asking her to join their expedition to challenge the Gate of Famine.

The Headmaster of Barbatos Academy didn't want to lose the elite members of his organization by letting the other factions use their people as cannon fodders just to see what the Fourth Gate had in store for everyone.

"I wonder why Sir Maximilian asked me to go to the Rowan Tribe to see him," Lux said as he added some honey to the pancake on Eiko's plate.

"It must have to do with what happened to Cai in the Gate of Conquest," Iris replied before adding one more layer of pancake to the Baby Slime's plate, making Eiko nod her head in satisfaction. "Maybe he is going to ask you to take responsibility for her."

Iris gave the Half-Elf a mischievous wink, making the latter almost choke on the pancake he was eating.

Although he felt like Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian, was an easy-going person, his fiance's words made Lux suddenly feel as if he was about to head to a battle that he had no possibility of winning.

## Chapter 519: Creature Of The Cold White Silence

After breakfast, Lux bid Iris goodbye and headed to his Fiance's private training room near her personal residence in the Academy.

Having seen Eiko fuse some materials and succeed in creating Boomer, the Half-Elf thought that now would be a good time to also create a brand new Skeleton Creature of his own.

However, before that, he planned to revive General Revon's corpse first and turn him into the Commander of his Animate Undead Legion.

The war inside the Gate of Conquest had allowed Lux to gain a lot of materials that he and Asmodeus could use for their experiments.

In fact, aside from human soldiers, the Half-Elf had also taken dozens of dead Griffins and Hippogriffs with him, which he also planned to revive as part of his Animate Undead Army.

Lux had also captured several live Griffins, which he planned to put under Bedivere's command, allowing his Dragon Knight to create an Aerial Cavalry. He knew how important it was to have mounted flying fighters during wars because they were very mobile in the battlefield.

"Should I try it first, Master?" Asmodeus asked after activating the Skeleton Generator Skill, which summoned the Skeleton Bowl in front of them.

"Go ahead," Lux stated.

-----

"Come forth, Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King!" Asmodeus raised his hand, and the Rank 5 Field Boss, who hadn't made an appearance since the fight against the Death Tyrant in the Gate of Death, had finally made its appearance.

The giant Skeleton, which was made up of obsidian bones and wearing a black crown on its head, appeared in front of them.

Lux had given Asmodeus one of the Deimos Cores he had in his possession to allow him to revive the first Undead that his Archlich had tamed long ago.

Asmodeus was only capable of taming one Undead Creature. If he tamed another, the first one would disappear, replaced by the newest one.

The Archlich felt that he might find another strong Undead in the future, so he decided to experiment if it was possible to use Undead Creatures as materials to create a new breed of Skeleton Creature that would fall under the Archlich's Animate Undead Legion.

-----

"Can I use this Undead Monster as a material for fusion?" Asmodeus asked the Skeleton Bowl. It seemed to have a level of intelligence that could answer any question as long as it was related to generating a new monster.

-----

< Yes. In fact, fusing Undead Monsters together is highly recommended in order to give birth to more powerful varieties. Would you like to use the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King as a material for fusion? >

-----

Asmodeus nodded.

Although the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King was a powerful monster in its own right, the Archlich didn't mind using it as an experiment material.

Asmodeus believed that, in the future, he would have plenty of opportunities to tame more powerful Undead and make them his subordinate.

The Giant Skeleton King was then sucked in by the Skeleton Bowl, which released a white mist that oozed over its surface.

The Archlich then took out one of the two Rankers that he had collected during the battle in the Great Plains, as well as the corpse of a Griffin. He tossed them into the bowl to be used as fusion materials.

He then took out the white Deimos Core that he had asked Lux for earlier and added it as the final ingredient to his experiment.

"I'm done," Asmodeus stated. "Continue the fusion."

-----

< Understood. Fusing Materials... >

< Fusion Rate... 1% >

< Fusion Rate... 35% >

< Fusion Rate... 72% >

< Fusion Rate... 100% >

-----

The white mist that hung over the Skeleton Bowl thickened, greatly reducing the visibility within Iris' personal training grounds.

Lux and Asmodeus couldn't see past a meter in front of them, but that was fine.

The dancing white lights in front of them were enough to let them know that the creation of a new Skeleton Creature was nearing its end.

A few minutes later, the Half-Elf and Archlich both heard a ringing sound before the voice that came from the Skeleton Bowl informed them of the result of the fusion.

-----

< Congratulations! >

< You have successfully created an Ithaqua! >

< The stats of this Monster will always be equal to the stats of the one that summoned it. >

< Only one Ithaqua can be summoned at any given time. >

< This Creature is a bit special, and its name cannot be changed whatsoever.  
>

< If this Creature dies, you will need to sacrifice one Argonaut Ranked Beast Core to revive it! >

-----

The white mist in the surrounding dispersed, and a Skeleton Monster like no other appeared in front of Lux and Asmodeus.

It was nearly eight meters tall, and it looked like a Wendigo, with deer-like bony horns on its head and glowing red eyes that could instill fear in its foes.

Its body was as white as snow, and faint tendrils of cold mists oozed from its body. Perhaps, its most noticeable feature was its webbed feet and long, slender, bony hands that were like spears, able to pierce anyone with a single poke.

-----

< Ithaqua >

"If you listen carefully on cold winter nights, you can hear me calling your name."

– Fused Skeleton Monster

– Creature of the Cold White Silence

– Creature Rating: SS

Health: 400,000 / 400,000

Mana: 20,000 / 20,000

Strength: 700

Intelligence: 200

Vitality: 1000

Agility: 200

Dexterity: 400

Active Skills: Summon Blizzard, Ice Punch, Ice Fang, Icicle Shards, Glacial Lance, Ice Wall.

Passive Skills: Ice Body, Snow Cloak

Special Ability: Glacial Madness

-----

< Ice Body >

- Gains 100% resistance against Ice Attacks

-----

< Snow Cloak >

- Gains the ability to move stealthily inside a Blizzard, making it nearly invisible. This allows it to attack its enemies when they least expect it.

-----

< Glacial Madness >

- Increase Physical and Magical attacks by 100% when fighting in a Blizzard.
- Increase movement and attack speed by 300% when fighting in a Blizzard.

-----

"Hiss... this one is a tactical fighter," Lux said after reading the information about the newest member of Asmodeus Animated Undead Legion.

Currently, the Ithaqua was not as strong as the Red-Eyed Obsidian Skeleton King, but since it was a creature that would grow as Asmodeus' Rank increases, it was a worthy addition to the Archlich's Undead Army.

Also, its ability to summon a Blizzard, which would immediately give it a home-court advantage, greatly enhanced its fighting prowess by leaps and bounds.

In addition, the Undead weren't affected by the cold, which made blizzards the perfect cover for them to whittle the stamina and endurance of their enemies away until they dropped dead.

"Ithaqua is a good monster," Asmodeus nodded his head in satisfaction. "I can already see him working hand in hand with Morpheus and using their enemies' blind spots to strike them down with Death Rays."

Lux chuckled hearing his Archlich already forming several battle simulations that would allow his Animated Undead Army to showcase their deadly might.

While Asmodeus was pondering on how he could put Ithaqua to good use, the Skeleton Bowl slowly shrank before disappearing.

Just like what happened with Eiko, Asmodeus' Skeleton Generator Skill had entered a week-long cooldown, preventing the Archlich from continuing his experiments for the time being.

"Now, it's my turn," Lux said as he activated the Skeleton Generator Skill, so he could also create a new Skeleton Creature of his own.

## Chapter 520: Animate Undead [EX]

"First things first, I'll revive General Revon," Lux muttered as he took the General's dead body out of his Bounty Ring.

He gave the corpse a long and hard gaze before taking out a Deimos Rank Beast Core from his storage ring. A moment later, the Half-Elf activated his Animate Undead [EX] skill, and a prompt appeared in front of him.

-----

< You have chosen to revive a dead Humanoid Creature. >

< Choose between the two options for the Revival of your Undead Creature >

Choice 1: Revive the Creature as a Zombie

Choice 2: Revive the Creature using Advance Customization

-----

During the war against the Ammarian Army, Lux had set the setting of the Animate Undead skill to choose the first option, so he could just raise the slain Soldiers as ordinary Zombies. That was the most convenient choice. A Zombie might be weak, but it didn't require him to use any resources.

But General Revon wasn't an ordinary soldier. Lux planned to create the Commander of his Animate Undead Legion, so he had to make sure that his new subordinate wouldn't just be any "regular" Zombie that was meant to be used as cannon fodder.

After choosing the Advance Customization option, several rows of text appeared in front of the Half-Elf, which made him rub his chin as he pondered his next move.

-----

< Take note that the choices here only show the type of Profession they can revive to. Their abilities and appearance are generated randomly. >

< If you are going to choose a Profession that has a low percentage of success, the chances of reviving the creature will decrease drastically. If the revival fails, the corpse, as well as the materials used for the Advance Customization method will disappear. >

< To increase the chances of success, select the Profession you like and pool in resources to increase its percentage! >

<[Possible transformations of your Animated Undead]>

Dread Warrior = 100%

Doom Knight = 90%

Revenant = 85%

Gladiator = 70%

Weaponmaster = 50%

Dragon Slayer = 26%

Fallen Wargod = 5%



-----  
The Half-Elf's gaze locked onto the lowest option on the list, which was Fallen Wargod.

Lux didn't know what a Fallen Wargod was, but the name sounded cool, so he was itching to try. He looked for things that could increase the chances of successfully reviving a powerful Undead.

Similar to how he made Bedivere a Dragon Knight, Lux decided to rummage through his stockpile of items and take his chances.

'Right now, I have six Argonaut-Ranked Beast Cores, eighteen Deimos-Ranked Cores, and a hundred Rank 5 Beast Cores,' Lux thought. 'I already used a Deimos-Ranked Core to activate this option, so using the rest is not a good idea. In that case, let's use the Rank 5 Beast Cores for now.'

The Half-Elf then selected the Fallen Wargod Profession and used ten Rank 5 Beast Cores to increase its percentage.

When he checked the new success rate, his jaw dropped in disbelief. This result wasn't something he expected.

-----  
Fallen Wargod = 15%  
-----

'You must be kidding me...' Lux gasped in surprise after seeing the unfair exchange that was presented in front of him. 'I was planning to use the other Rank 5 Cores for the Skeleton Generator Skill, but it looks like I will have to change my plan.'

The Half-Elf thought that adding ten Rank 5 Beast Cores was already generous enough, so when he saw that it only managed to increase the success rate by 10%, he felt like puking blood.

'Should I just settle for the other professions?' Lux scratched his head in dismay. 'Why do all the Advanced Necromancer Skills require so many resources?'

The Half-Elf stared long and hard at the rows of text in front of him before heaving a sigh. After strengthening his resolve, he added sixty more Rank 5 Beast Cores to the Fallen Wargod Profession, raising its percentage level to 75%

Now, out of the hundred Rank 5 Beast Cores in his possession, only 30 remained.

The Half-Elf felt very bitter about it, but since he already made his decision, he finally activated the skill to revive the commander of his Animated Undead Legion with grit teeth.

A loading bar then appeared in front of him, which would determine whether the revival would be successful or not.

-----

< Attempting Revival... >

< Attempting Revival... 10% >

< Attempting Revival... 30% >

< Attempting Revival... 50% >

-----

Lux almost stopped breathing when the loading bar slowed down at 50% and stayed in that position for ten seconds.

Was it a failure?

Fortunately, the bar started to move once again, making the Half-Elf pat his chest in relief.

When the bar reached 100% the Half-Elf did a fist pump as several rows of texts appeared in front of him.

-----

< Congratulations! You have successfully revived a Fallen Wargod! >

< This creature will automatically be assigned as the Commander of your Animated Undead Legion. >

< Do you wish to give the Fallen Wargod a name? >

< Yes / No >

-----

The Half-Elf chose Yes without hesitation, and looked at the kneeling Wargod in front of him.

The Fallen Wargod's entire body was made up of silver steel, which gave him a look similar to a Living Armor. Eight long sharp blades floated behind its back like wings, making him look like a Steel Archangel that had descended from the heavens to start a slaughter.

His golden eyes locked onto his Master's body as he waited for the latter to give him his orders.

"Rise, Revon!" Lux ordered.

Revon, Lux's Fallen Wargod, stood up and pressed his closed fist over his chest as he gazed at his Master, who had just summoned his Soul Book to check the information about him.

-----

< Revon >

"Haven't I Fallen far enough?"

– Fallen Wargod

– Rating: SSS

Health: 206,000 / 206,000

Mana: 100,000 / 100,000

Strength: 1,500

Intelligence: 1,000

Vitality: 2,060

Agility: 300

Dexterity: 1,500

Active Skills: Impaler's Wrath, Sword Dance, Piercing Strike, Mighty Cleave, God's Strength [EX]

Passive Skills: Weapon Master [EX], Ambidextrous [EX], Auto Block [EX], Enduring Soul [EX]

Special Ability: Destiny Bond [EX]

-----

God's Strength [EX]

– Increases the physical attack of the Fallen Wargod by 500% for one minute.

-----

< Weapon Master [EX] >

– Able to wield any kind of Weapon with Great Mastery.

-----

< Auto Block [EX] >

– If the Swords hovering behind the War God are not being used to attack his enemies, they will automatically parry any kind of physical attack that is about to hit the Fallen Wargod's body.

-----

< Enduring Soul [EX] >

– If the Fallen Wargod's Health reaches zero, it will not die. Instead, it will regain all of its Health instantly, allowing it to fight at its peak for a second time.

– This ability can only be used once, every three days.

-----  
< Destiny Bond [EX] >

– The stats of this creature will always be equal to the stats of Lux Von Kaizer.

-----

"Oh... My... God!" Lux shuddered after seeing Revon's stats.

He thought that Zagan and Ithaqua were already OP, but after seeing Revon's information, he felt like he was still a frog in the well—ignorant about the ways of the world.

After a few minutes, Lux finally calmed down a bit. He realized that although Revon had far outclassed his other subordinates when it came to stats, Diablo and the rest had their own specialties, allowing them to beat opponents stronger than them.

Diablo had the Ethereal Ability, which allowed all of his attacks to ignore any kind of defense and deal True Damage to his targets.

With the current set of armor he wore, his damage would still outclass Revon when the battle became a war of attrition.

Ishtar specialized in freezing her opponents and launching long-range attacks that would make them feel pain before they could even get to her.

Pazuzu didn't deal a lot of damage, but his specialty lay in his defenses. He was the toughest among Lux's Named Creatures, and he would continue to play a vital role as his Fortress Defender.

Orion, on the other hand, was a Revenger. If he were to die in the hands of a Black Dragon 1000 times, his stats would increase drastically and allow him to beat the crap out of all Black Dragons in existence.

Asmodeus could use all of Lux's abilities, making him very versatile. The Half-Elf had no doubt that as long as he increased his Rank and gained more skills, his Archlich would become a one-man army of his own.

Lazarus was the same. Its Stealth, in addition to its high-magic output, could make it a Magical Turret that could appear and disappear on the battlefield.

The Half-Elf sighed a second time. Once again, he realized how much he was truly blessed by all of his subordinates, whose unique abilities make up for his shortcomings.

Now, with Revon as an addition to his ever-growing army, the Half-Elf felt much more at ease. The stronger his subordinates were, the stronger he became.

This was not as simple as  $1+1 = 2$ .

It was more like  $1+1 = 11$ .

That was how Necromancers grow their strength. They were not individuals that fought one-one-one battles.

They fought with an army of Undead by their side.

He might not be a match against High-Rankers right now, but he was confident that no Initiate or lower-end Ranker in the world would be able to survive the damage that he was able to unleash once he fought with everything he had, alongside his Undead Army.

"There's still one last thing to do," Lux said as he eyed the Skeleton Bowl that was patiently waiting for his attention.

Taking out a Draconium Ore and a Deimos-Ranked Beast Core from his storage ring, the Half-Elf was finally ready to try his Skeleton Generator, which would allow him to create another powerful subordinate that would help him in the battles to come.

## Chapter 521: An Interesting Development

When Lux stood in front of the Skeleton Generator Bowl, the same voice that spoke to Eiko and Asmodeus talked to him as well.

< A minimum of two materials can be used for fusion. The maximum number of materials you can add to the Skeleton Generator is a hundred materials. Do you wish to create your Skeleton now? >

"Yes," Lux replied.

< Take note that there is a possibility of having an accident while fusing. Sometimes, the Skeleton Specie that you will generate from this accident is exceptionally weak or could be exceptionally strong. >

< You can now throw the materials inside the Skeleton Bowl to start the fusion! >

The first thing that Lux threw into the bowl was the Green Deimos-Ranked Beast Core, which belonged to an Alpha Green-Scaled Wyvern.

Lux wanted to create a flying Undead Mount for Revon, who was now the Commander of his Animated Undead Army, and whom he was planning to strengthen for his future battles.

Now that he was back in the Initiate Rank, his next breakthrough would allow him to become a Ranker. However, for that to happen, he would have to face a trial that would allow him to receive the blessing of the world.

Rankers were individuals who had distinguished themselves among mortals and had stepped onto the path of power that many coveted.

Although becoming a Ranker was difficult, it was not impossible. There are countless Rankers in the world of Solais and Elysium, and all of them had undertaken trials that were unique to them before they gained the strength they currently possessed.

As for Nero, Lux didn't know if the former had undergone a trial when he became a Ranker. Perhaps Abyssal Creatures didn't need to receive the blessings of the world when they reached a certain threshold.

From the start, those creatures neither belonged in Solais nor Elysium. According to the Elysium Compendium, these invaders came from the Abyss Realm, which was a separate dimension from the world that Lux was living in.

After tossing the green Beast Core in, Lux threw a Draconium Ore inside the bowl next, reaching the minimum requirement to create a Skeleton. However, he felt like what he put in might not be enough, so he added two more Draconium Ores just to be on the safe side.

-----

< Do you wish to start the fusion? >

< Yes / No >

-----

After Lux clicked yes, an eerie green light started to illuminate the center of the Skeleton Bowl.

Suddenly, red beams of light shot out from the center of the bowl, and its surface started to boil, creating big bubbles. The eerie green light disappeared and was replaced by a crimson color, making the Half-Elf frown.

< Warning! Fusion Accident has been detected! >

< Warning! Fusion Accident has been detected! >

< Warning! Fusion Accident has been detected! >

Suddenly, a blinding crimson light erupted from the Skeleton Bowl, forcing Lux to cover his eyes. It was simply too bright for his eyes.

Asmodeus on the other hand looked at the bowl with great anticipation. He didn't expect something like this to happen.

"Such an interesting development," Asmodeus muttered.

His gaze landed on the center of the bowl and found two ferocious crimson eyes staring back at him.

A powerful screech reverberated in the surroundings as the creature inside the bowl tried to force itself free from the confines of the Skeleton Bowl.

-----

< Warning! This Monster is too strong for your current Rank! >

– The monster will be forcefully sealed and will be made available after you become a C-Ranker!

– You may unseal the Monster by activating the Skeleton Generator Skill, and choosing the option, Unseal Monsters.

< Thank you for using Skeleton Generator, your one-stop generator for anything Skeleton Related! >



< Skill will now go into a week-long cooldown. >

< Skill Cooldown Timer: 167.59.58 >

-----

Lux blinked once, then twice, as he watched the Skeleton Bowl shrink in front of him until it disappeared completely.

When the bowl was no longer in sight, he glanced at Asmodeus, who was standing by his side, and asked him a question.

"What in the world happened?" Lux inquired.

The light was too intense earlier and didn't see anything, so he had no idea what happened.

"A very evil—no... not evil, but a very malicious monster was summoned," Asmodeus replied. "I'm afraid that if that Creature had been able to escape the containment mechanism of the Skeleton Bowl, it might have attempted to attack and kill you, Master."

"Really?" Lux knew that Asmodeus wouldn't lie to him, but he still had to ask for confirmation because he didn't think that something like this could happen when creating a Skeleton Monster.

Boomer and Ithaqua weren't aggressive monsters and simply stood obediently after they were summoned.

"I need to be a C-Ranker to Unseal that monster?" Lux shuddered after looking at the information on the Skeleton Generator Page inside of his Soul Book.

After clicking the Sealed Monster Page, he saw the creature that had tried to break free from his control earlier and eyed it critically.

It was frozen in a block of transparent ice, preventing it from escaping.

The sealed monster had four wings protruding from its back, and these wings wrapped around its body, preventing Lux from seeing what the creature looked like.

However, a glance was enough to tell Lux that his monster was around seven to ten meters tall, based on the size of its body in its curled-up state.

"Sorry, Revon," Lux said as he looked at his Animate Undead Commander. "Looks like you will have to wait for a week before I try to create a new subordinate for you."

The Fallen Wargod gave a faint smile before nodding his head.

"I'm not in a hurry, Master," Revon replied. "I don't mind waiting."

The Fallen Wargod's eyes glowed golden for a few seconds before returning to their silver color. For some reason, the Half-Elf could sense that Revon found the entire incident quite amusing despite not showing many facial expressions.

'He really looks like Silver Surfer,' Lux thought. 'The only difference is the blades floating behind his back like wings.'

Although the Half-Elf was a little bit shaken by what happened in his little experiment, he was still happy that Revon's revival was a complete success.

As for the Sealed Monster that almost attacked him, he would deal with it once he became a C-Ranker and was strong enough to face whatever kind of creature it was. When that time came, he'd definitely teach it a lesson for trying to defy him.

## **Chapter 522: He Might Even Arrange For You To Marry...**

After finishing the things he needed to do, Lux went to look for his father, Alexander, to talk about something important.

Just like he assumed, Alexander was inside his office, dealing with some documents that needed his immediate attention.

Standing beside him was Alicia, who was always ready to assist. Although the Half-Elf didn't know if the beautiful secretary was able to gain some breakthroughs in her relationship with his stepfather, Alicia had gained his, Vera's, and Iris' approval long ago.

Alexander gave Lux a brief glance before shifting his attention back to the documents he was reading.

"Do you need something?" Alexander asked as he continued to do his work.

"Yes," Lux replied. "If possible, I was hoping that Father will forbid Iris from joining the future expedition for the Gate of Famine."

"Okay," Alexander answered in a heartbeat, making Lux think that he had misheard him.

Alicia, who saw the Half-Elf's dumbfounded expression, suppressed a giggle before giving Lux a serious gaze.

"The last Gate that will unseal the Fifth and Final Gate of the Sacred Dungeon will undoubtedly be very difficult," Alicia stated. "Because of this, the Headmaster never had the intention to let Iris join, knowing how dangerous the expedition would be. Even if you didn't come here to make a request, Iris would still not be allowed to join the expedition to conquer the Gate of Famine."

Lux breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed that his father also knew how dangerous the last mission would be.

The silver-haired man, whom Lux believed to be a High-Ranking Noble from the Abyssal World, was making him feel restless. The Half-Elf didn't know if the Abyssal Noble would make an appearance again, so he deemed that the last gate should be off-limits to his fiancée, whom he didn't want to get hurt.

"The rulers of the Six Kingdoms talked to me yesterday, and all of them wished to start the next expedition as soon as possible," Alexander commented as he took another document from the pile beside him.

"I told them that you will take a break from going to the Sacred Dungeon for a month or two due to a mission that I have personally given you. It seems that all of them are getting itchy to clear the last dungeon with your help."

Lux snorted because he had already expected this outcome. After what happened in the Gate of Conquest, he was certain that all of the previous representatives had received a fair share of nagging from their superiors because they didn't follow their orders to stick with Lux until the end.

The Half-Elf couldn't blame them though. Having 2,000 Stats points deducted from their current stats was something that most people didn't want to receive as a penalty.

However, there was another problem that concerned him, and he needed his father's influence in order to prevent any problems from escalating.

"Father, about the Vahan Empire," Lux said with a solemn look on his face. "I have a feeling that they will try to get rid of me after the Sacred Dungeon has been cleared."

Alexander paused what he was doing to look at the Half-Elf, who was looking back at him with a steady gaze.

"Emperor Andreas has always been an ambitious person," Alexander replied. "The Xynnar War Pact, as well as the Six Kingdoms, have prepared themselves for a full-scale war many years ago, but for some reason, the Skystead Alliance hasn't made any moves. According to the spies we have planted in the Vahan Empire, Emperor Andreas seemed to be looking for something... but to this day, they still have no idea what it is."

"However, one thing is certain. They are using all of their resources to ensure that the Sacred Dungeon will be conquered. I have a feeling that when the seal of the Fifth Gate is opened, Rankers will be allowed to enter the Domain of the Fallen."

Lux's eyes widened in shock after hearing his stepfather's words. The Domain of the Fallen was a trove filled with treasures that they still hadn't had the chance to explore.

The reason for this was simple. The Monsters that guarded these treasures were all Deimos and Argonaut Ranked Monsters.

A Deimos-Ranked monster could only be defeated by a team of Rankers. Even Lux didn't dare to fight Deimos-Ranked Monsters with the forces he currently had.

This was why, when they entered the Domain of the Fallen, he had chosen the route that would allow them to steer clear of these powerful monsters, who would only treat them as bite-sized snacks.

If Rankers were allowed to enter the Domain of the Fallen, then the treasures, Monsters, and other resources inside it would definitely be taken by the different Factions, who would treat the Domain as their exclusive farming area.

"Two months," Alexander stated. "A week after your birthday, you will head inside the Domain of the Fallen to clear the Gate of Famine. I will not allow you to venture in until then. Do I make myself clear?"

Lux blinked once then twice after hearing his father's words. So many things were happening around him that he had already forgotten about his birthday.

"Judging by the look on your face, it looks like you forgot about it," Alicia commented from the side and gave the Half-Elf a teasing smile. "That won't do. Iris has been pestering me to prepare a birthday party for you, so you'd better not kick the bucket until after that, okay?"

"Of course," Lux replied. "I'm still young. How can I possibly kick the bucket? I have many things that I need to do. There is also the issue with my Guild..."

Alexander and Alicia looked at the Half-Elf who was currently the Guildmaster of the only Mythical Guild in the world.

To this day, they still had no idea how Lux did it, but since he was part of the family, they would protect his secret to the grave.

"There is also one thing I need to ask you," Alexander said with a frown. "Is there something wrong with Mother? It has been a long time since the incident back in the Vahan Empire. She should be better by now, no?"

This time, it was Lux's turn to sigh.

He had also been feeling anxious as of late because his grandma was still inside Blackfire and was wrapped inside a silver cocoon.

Lux would always check her condition, but for some reason, Vera seemed to be in a state of hibernation. In truth, the Half-Elf was worried that the backlash she received when she saved him in the Vahan Empire was more serious than he thought.

Because of this, he didn't dare to forcefully awaken his Grandma because she might receive another backlash, and this time, it might end her life for good.

"Grandma is still inside Blackfire," Lux replied. "As to when she will wake up. I don't really know."

Alexander lightly tapped his table with a finger as if deep in thought.

Alicia, who was also on good terms with Vera, already considered the old lady to be her mother-in-law. Because of this, she was also worried about her condition. But, seeing Lux's helpless expression, she knew that there was nothing any of them could do aside from wait for Vera to awaken on her own.

Alexander once again took a document from the side of his table and returned to do his duties as the Headmaster of the Academy.

"You can leave now, Lux," Alexander stated. "Also, since you will be going to the Rowan Tribe with Cai and Iris, make sure to prepare a gift for Cai's family members. Maximilian likes Rare Ores, so if you have some in your possess..."

Alexander wasn't able to finish his words because he sensed a subtle fluctuation of magical energy in front of him.

When he raised his head, he saw the Half-Elf holding two Draconium Ores in each hand, which made him narrow his eyes.

"How many do you have?" Alexander asked.

"A lot," Lux replied.

"I need a hundred."

"Okay."

Alicia's body subconsciously shuddered after the exchange between the two because she was quite familiar with the Rare Metal in Lux's hands.

Draconium Ores could easily fetch millions in Auction Houses--that was how rare it was. In fact, it was so rare that it would only appear in auction houses once every six to ten years.

Since Lux could easily give his Stepfather a hundred of them without batting an eye, it meant that he had more in his possession.

"Give Maximilian a dozen, and I'm sure he'll be over the moon for it," Alicia said with a sweet smile on her face. "Who knows? He might even arrange for you to marry..."

Alicia didn't finish what she was going to say and simply smirked at the Half-Elf, who suddenly felt goosebumps all over his body.

Lux didn't know what Alicia was thinking, but he had a feeling that it was certainly not good!

## **Chapter 523: I Am No Cannon Fodder**

A few days passed, and the time to leave Barbatos Academy to head to the Rowan Tribe had come.

In the distance, a giant flying Manta Ray, escorted by several smaller ones, steadily flew toward Barbatos Academy to pick up Cai, Lux, Iris, and Keane.

The one leading this escort mission was none other than Xander's father, Hector, who was a Ranker that belonged to the Rowan Tribe.

After everything that happened inside the Sacred Dungeon, they decided that it would be best to escort their High Priestess back to the Rowan Tribe, instead of letting her travel back without people protecting her.

The relationship of the Rowan Tribe with the Six Kingdoms was relatively smooth on the surface, but Cai's grandfather, Maximilian, didn't want to take any chances and sent Hector as insurance.

"It has been a while, Hector," Alexander said as soon as the Giant Manta Ray landed at the gates of the Academy. "From what I've heard, you've been quite busy as of late."

"Indeed," Hector replied with a smile. "But my workload is nothing compared to the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy. I'm sure that I'd probably quit after a week of being in your shoes."

A faint smile appeared on Alexander's face as he chatted with one of Maximilian's most trusted subordinates.

"Is there any news from the Six Kingdoms?" Alexander wondered.

Hector shook his head. "The only thing I'm sure of is that they are preparing to challenge the Gate of Famine. Of course, whether they can succeed or not is another matter."

"They are getting impatient."

"Well, I can't really blame them. Their representatives made a lot of bad decisions in the previous campaign."

Hector smirked before giving the Half-Elf a side-long glance.

Cai and Keane had already decided to stick with Lux through thick and thin, so he was sure that the two would not participate in the exploration of the Gate of Famine unless the Half-Elf was going too.

"Well then, I won't keep you here for long," Alexander stated as he handed a communication crystal to Hector. "Make sure to get in touch when they make any unforeseen moves."

Hector nodded and promised to keep Alexander updated if he discovered something amiss.

"Come sit here next to me, Iris," Cai said as she summoned a seating cushion for her best friend, who would be accompanying them back to her tribe.

"Okay," Iris replied and sat beside the Boar. "I hope that Grandpa Maximilian is doing well."

"Gramps is still hale and hearty," Cai commented. "He won't die even if he is killed."

Iris giggled because she found Cai's confidence in her grandpa quite amusing. However, she could understand what her best friend was talking about because she felt the same way toward her father, who was also a Saint.

Lux and Keane sat a few meters away from Cai and Iris, giving the two girls some space to chat with each other.

Joining them was none other than Xander, who had mostly recovered from the injuries he received from the Gate of Conquest.



"When are you planning to go back to the Domain of the Fallen?" Xander inquired as he sat beside Lux and Keane.

"A month or two from now," Lux replied. "Perhaps, I'll take it easy and stretch it into two months."

Xander nodded. "That might be for the best. Right now, you should strengthen yourself to the fullest. My father has also advised me to not participate in any expeditions for the time being."

Keane, who was listening to his two friends, calmly sipped some water from his jug before commenting.

"I feel sorry for Einar and Val," Keane commented. "Since they are the only ones left available that can enter the Domain of the Fallen, they will surely be pestered by the Six Kingdoms."

Lux and Xander exchanged a glance and gave each other knowing smiles. They were certain that Einar and Val would not be stupid enough to challenge the Fate of Famine on their own, especially after what they had experienced in the Gate of Conquest.

Hector glanced at the teenagers who were happily chatting with each other before signaling his mount to take flight.

"We'll take our leave, Alex," Hector said as he bid his farewell to the Saint, who was also their tribe's mightiest ally. "I'll keep an eye on your kids for you."

"Good." Alex nodded. "Lux is a troublemaker, so I apologize in advance if he causes trouble for your tribe during his stay."

Hector laughed after hearing Alex's words. If the Half-Elf really did cause trouble for their tribe, the one who would deal with the red-headed teenager was not him, but their Tribe Chief, Maximilian, himself.

"I will applaud him if he has the guts to do that," Hector commented after he finished his laughter. "Farewell, Alex."

"Farewell," Alexander replied. "See you at the conference."

Hector gave the Headmaster of the Academy a thumbs up before urging his Mount to return to their tribe.

The Giant Manta Ray then slowly rose to the air, and let out a soft hum before flying towards the West, where the Rowan Tribe was currently located.

Alexander and Alicia watched them go and only returned inside the academy when the Rowan Tribe's envoy was no longer in their sight.

-----

Wildgarde Stronghold...

"Are you sure about this, Nero?" Rainer asked his disciple with a solemn expression on his face.

"Yes, Master," Nero replied. "I will resign from my position as Guildmaster and leave the Wildgarde Stronghold."

"But why? Surely, you don't have to do this, right?"

"Master, I have already made my choice. Thank you for everything that you have done for me until now. If in the future, the Wildgarde Stronghold will face a danger that they can't handle on their own, I will be sure to lend a hand. Goodbye, Master."

Nero bowed his head respectfully towards Rainer before turning around to walk towards the portal that would send him to Elysium.

There was nothing waiting for him in Solais anymore, so the only place he could thrive was Elysium.

Also, he had received a letter from Aron, inviting him to the Vahan Empire.

Nero wasn't stupid, so he knew what the High Ranker was planning. There was only one reason why Emperor Andreas' right-hand man would extend an invitation to him, and the brown-haired teenager found this funny.

'You plan to use me as a tool to fight against Lux,' Nero mused as he stepped into the portal. 'Let's see who will be using who. I am no cannon fodder.'

The Prodigy of the Wildgarde Stronghold no longer had anything to lose.

He lost his home, his pride, and his Abyssal Power when the Half-Elf defeated him in their duel.

However, there was one thing that he didn't lose, and that was his resolve to stand at the peak and look down upon the world that had tried to take everything from him.

To his surprise, he felt as if a great burden had been lifted off his shoulders as soon as he appeared in Elysium.

Now that he had left all of his attachments behind, including his grudge against Lux, he felt as if the world had started to look a little more beautiful in his eyes.

## **Chapter 524: The Proper Way Of Sneaking Out**

Karshvar Draconis...

"And then, that Half-Elf decided to burn the garbage dump, allowing the smoke to be carried by the wind towards the City of Pygmalion. No one in their right mind would do that, but he did! If not for the fact that His Majesty came to interfere, that Half-Elf might have died by now."

"What an interesting person! I'd like to meet him one day."

"Princess, it will be best if you don't. Didn't His Majesty tell you that if someone looked at your face long enough, you would get pregnant? That is why you must always wear that veil whenever you leave the Inner Palace."

I couldn't help but sigh as I stood up from the spring where I took my bath every day.

Ever since I was born, there had been a few instances where I was able to leave the Inner Palace in secret, and each time I did, I would always bring my handmaidens, Ali and Ari, with me as my guides and protectors.

As soon as I left the spring, my handmaidens immediately dried my body using bath towels that were very smooth and comfortable to the touch.

Sometimes, I wondered if I would be able to tell them apart if not for the color of their eyes. Ali and Ari were twins. Both of them were quite pretty with long blonde hair, and the only difference between them was the colors of their eyes.

Ali's eyes were blue, while Ari's eyes were green. Both of them were two years older than me and had been with me since I turned ten years old.

Because of this, I grew very fond of them. The only thing I disliked about them was their overprotectiveness.

'Do they really think I am a gullible child?' I thought as I walked past them to check myself in the full-body mirror that had been gifted to me by my father on my fourteenth birthday.

'How can someone get pregnant just by being stared at by people? Perhaps they think that Mother didn't tell me that girls get pregnant when someone holds their hands. Silly Ali and Ari, they must think that I'm ignorant!'

The corner of my lips rose as I looked at my reflection in the mirror.

I gazed at my long purple hair that was as smooth as silk, and eyes that were more beautiful than rubies. Two small golden dragon horns could be seen on top of my head, which identified me as a proud member of the Golden Dragon Tribe.

My skin, which was as white as cream, was unblemished by anything. I didn't know if this was a good or bad thing, but Ali and Ari always said that they were envious of my skin's complexion.

Well, the two of them would praise me for everything, and always tell me how beautiful I was and whatsoever. There was even a time when I just yawned, and the two of them said that it was the cutest thing they saw in their life!

At first, I was flattered by their praises, but as time went on, I wondered if what they were telling me was the truth, or if it was just a way to get on my good side.

"... Have they grown a little bigger again?" I muttered as I lightly cupped my breasts which had entered a growth spurt a few months ago.

I turned seventeen a few months ago and ever since then, my body started to show signs of maturing, which made me a little bit happy.

Ali said that at the rate my body was maturing, I would reach C-Cup soon. I don't really understand what C-Cup meant, but I decided to just nod my head as if I understood what she was talking about.

'Mother's were bigger than mine,' I thought as I looked in the mirror. 'Maybe I should ask her more about the changes happening to my body at a later date.'

After admiring myself in the mirror for a few minutes, I allowed Ali and Ari to dress me up as usual. When they finished, I wore the veil covering my face and activated the magic that was imbued in it.

A moment later, a plain-looking girl was reflected on the mirror's surface. Now that my disguise was ready, it was time for me to sneak out of the Inner Palace to explore our Domain.

'This time, I'll go to the Outer Reaches,' I thought with a smile. 'Um, I should inform my mother that I am going to sneak out of the Inner Palace. She always told me that the proper way of sneaking out was to always inform her where I was going. This way, I would be able to leave the palace without being discovered.'

I made a gesture for my handmaidens to follow behind me as I paid a visit to my mother. She had been quite busy as of late, taking care of my little brother that had just been born.

Father, on the other hand, was always busy with the affairs of our Kingdom. But, that was fine. If they were always around, I would not be able to sneak outside without being discovered!

"Let's go, Ali, Ari," I said with excitement. "We're going to the Outer Reaches this time."

"Eh? You're really going there, Your Highness?" Ali frowned. "Half-Elves are known for eating young Dragons, you know? What will you do if he eats you?"

"That's right, Your Highness," Ari commented. "Please reconsider!"

I gazed at my two handmaidens who were looking back at me with pleading gazes. For a brief moment, I hesitated when I heard that Half-Elves eat young Dragons. However, I was not someone that just anyone could bully!

"If he dares to bite me, I will bite him back!" I said with confidence. "Besides, the only thing that has meat on my body is my chest. If he tries to bite them, I will definitely make him sorry. Now, enough chit-chat. Let's go see Mother and inform her that I am on my way to the Outer Reaches."

Ali and Ari exchanged a glance before nodding their heads at the same time.

"If that is your wish, Your Highness, then it shall be done."

"Good. Let's go to the Outer Reaches!"

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"Dear, Valerie has just left," a beautiful lady with long purple hair said to the round mirror in her hand. "She's headed to the Outer Reaches."

"Understood," the Dragon King replied. "I'll take care of it."

A minute later, hundreds of Rankers, accompanied by a handful of High-Rankers, departed from the capital city of Karhsvar Draconis.

Their mission was to ensure that the Dragon Princess, who had successfully "snuck out" of the Inner Palace, would not encounter any danger along the way.

This was already part of their regular routine—hiding their presence from the beautiful, yet gullible, princess who thought that informing her mother was the right thing to do whenever she planned to sneak out of the Inner Palace to play outside.

Valerie was the beloved daughter of their King. If someone was stupid enough to lay their hands on her, the Rankers, who were hiding their presence, would definitely make that person regret that they were even born into this world.

## Chapter 525: If You Refuse, He Will Castrate You

Rowan Tribe...

"I'm back, Gramps!" Cai shouted as soon as the Giant Manta Ray landed on an open field, which was surrounded by tents of all sizes.

The Rowan Tribe was a Nomadic Tribe, and they would move from place to place depending on the seasons, or if their Chief decided that it was time to go.

After hearing Cai's shout, her tribesmen gave her a warm welcome, which made the shameless boar very giddy.

"Iris, let's go to my room," Cai said. "I'll show you the treasures I collected in the Outer Reaches! Fei Fei helped me find them all."

"Da Wei!" Fei Fei smiled from the top of Cai's head, which made Iris giggle.

"Sounds good. Eiko, are you coming with me?" Iris asked as she patted the Baby Slime on her shoulder.

Eiko nodded because she also wanted to stay with Iris for the time being.

The Boar led Iris to the biggest tent, while Hector led Lux and Keane to one of the tents beside their Tribe Chief's Main Residence.

"Stay here for the time being," Hector said. "I will send someone to call for you once the preparation in the main residence is finished."

Lux and Keane nodded their heads and went inside the tent as instructed. The first person they saw when they entered the tent was a handsome young man, who was sharpening a short sword with a whetstone.

He had short green hair and eyes as blue as the sky. The Half-Elf gave Lux and Keane a brief nod of recognition before shifting his attention back to the short sword in his hands.

'Gerhart Cenele,' Lux thought. 'I forgot that he was staying here in the Rowan Tribe.'

They had seen this person in the tournament, and the latter had left a lasting impression on everyone who had witnessed his battle with the Sixth Elven Prince of the Elswyth Kingdom, Enlil Neifion.

Keane also knew of Gerhart because he had seen him when Cai brought him to the Rowan Tribe to stay for a time.

Although he didn't talk much with Gerhart, he was certain that the green-haired Half-Elf was someone that he could get along with just fine.

"Cai has returned?" Gerhart asked as he continued to sharpen his blade.

"Yes," Lux answered. "We just arrived a few minutes ago."

Gerhart then raised the short sword in his hand and gave it a critical gaze. Seeing that everything looked fine, he used a cloth to wipe its surface before sheathing it in its scabbard.

He then shifted his gaze to Lux and Keane, who were already sitting cross-legged in front of him.

"I've heard that you've gained some popularity as of late... My Daddy," Gerhart said in a teasing tone. "Xander often tells me the things that are happening in Solais and Elysium. More often than not, your name will pop up whenever we have a discussion. It seems that you've ruffled the feathers of both Solaians and Elysians alike."

The green-haired Half-Elf gazed at the red-headed teenager, who looked back at him with a troubled expression on his face.

"Just call me Lux, and I'll call you Gerhart," Lux replied. "As for gaining some popularity, this is something that is outside of my control. I'm just being carried away by the flow."

Gerhart chuckled. "Indeed. You are still too weak to fight the flow. Right now, you have no choice but to keep your head low, or else it will get hammered down by those who wish you ill."

There was a tinge of bitterness in Gerhart's words, and Lux had a feeling that the other party was talking from his own experience.

Just like him, Gerhart was a Half-Elf, but compared to the life Lux had lived, the outcast of the Elven Kingdom of Elswyth had suffered terribly at the hands of the Elves who looked down on Half-Elves and treated them like a stain to their noble lineage.

"I heard that you have founded a guild of your own," Gerhart said as if to change the topic of their discussion. "Also, for some reason, Cai decided to join it. Grandpa Maximilian was very furious when he heard that Cai left Xander's Guild without giving a proper reason."

"You'd better be careful when you meet him later. A few days ago, while we were having dinner, he mentioned in passing that he would make you take responsibility for what Cai did. He added that if you refuse, he will castrate you. Good luck, bro. Grandpa's fuse has been a bit short as of late."



Lux immediately felt constipated after hearing Gerhart's warning. After Cai had saved him, he was thinking of ways he could repay the Boar for what she did for him. In fact, he was prepared to give Cai the Legendary Artifact that Great General Sherlock had given him after he defeated Nero.

The Half-Elf knew that the shameless boar liked treasures. He was hoping that a Legendary Item was enough to repay the favor that Cai had done for him. If it still wasn't enough, he was willing to look for other treasures in order to compensate her.

This was what he had decided back in the Gate of Conquest. However, Gerhart's words made him feel like a Legendary Item would not be enough to satisfy Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian.

'Fortunately, I have some Draconium Ore with me,' Lux thought. 'Since Sir Maximilian is a Blacksmith and a Jewelsmith, I'm sure that he will be very happy to have some rare ore to play with.'

Gerhart didn't know what Lux was thinking, but after seeing how pale his face suddenly became, the green-haired Half-Elf felt as if he should stop teasing him for the time being.

"Tell me more about your Guild," Gerhart said. "What kind of Guild is it? Is it Bronze or Silver?"

"Neither," Lux replied.

Lux, who was still in a daze, casually answered Gerhart's inquiry. Fortunately, his subconscious mind kicked in at the last moment, and it helped him give a neutral answer.

However, his answer made Gerhart raise an eyebrow because if it wasn't Bronze or Silver, it could only mean one thing.

"You have a Gold-Ranked Guild?" Gerhart looked at Lux in disbelief. "No wonder Cai didn't want to leave. Xander's Guild is only of the Silver Rank. Still... You just founded a guild, and it's already Gold-Ranked? Just how did you do it?"

"Oh... I just got lucky." Lux chuckled nervously as he tried to downplay his casual answer.

Seeing that he had no intention of spilling the beans, Gerhart just nodded his head in understanding.

Everyone had their secrets, including him, so he didn't want to pry for answers. Lux was Cai's friend, and he didn't want to make things difficult for him.

It was at this moment when the flap of the tent opened, and Xander came in.

"The preparations are ready in the Tribe Chief's Tent," Xander announced. "I came to bring the three of you with me as per our Tribe Chieftain's orders. Are the three of you ready to go?"

Lux, Keane, and Gerhart exchanged glances at each other before nodding their heads.

The red-headed teenager had wanted to see Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian, because there were some questions that he needed to ask in regard to crafting Draconium Ore.

His master, Randolph, said that Draconium Ores wouldn't melt unless a special kind of fire was used.

Since Maximilian was a Saint, as well as a Blacksmith and a Jewelsmith, the Half-Elf was hoping that the Tribe Chieftain of the Rowan Tribe would be able to give him the answers that he was looking for.

## **Chapter 526: Should I Prepare A Grave That Is Six-Foot Deep For You?**

Rows upon rows of delicious food were laid on top of the table, which made Lux subconsciously gulp.

Cai's Grandpa had prepared a feast for them, and even Keane, who didn't usually show much reaction to food, had an eager look in his eyes.

"We are all gathered here today to celebrate Lux's, Cai's, Xander's, and Keane's amazing performance inside the Gate of Conquest," Maximilian said as he raised a wine goblet. "Cheers to the brave new heroes of the world!"

""""Cheers!""""

After everyone drank from their winecups, the feast was officially in full swing.

"Eat a lot, Fei Fei," Cai said as she filled up the baby Golden Slime's plate with pork chops.

"Un!" Fei Fei happily nodded her head as she started to chew on one of the pork chops that were piled up on her plate.

Iris, who was seated beside Cai, also started to hand-feed Eiko with grapes, which the baby slime liked very much.

Lux smiled as he looked at his beautiful fiancée, who acted very differently when surrounded by many people

When it was just the two of them, Iris would act in a very casual manner, unlike now. Her current state was in full "etiquette mode", which she had learned from an early age.

Even the way she fed grapes to Eiko looked so graceful and elegant that Lux was very tempted to tease her. However, he didn't do that.

Lux knew that Iris needed to maintain her image as the daughter of a Saint when she was with other people. Having known this, he wouldn't do anything to distract her and simply enjoyed the food that was in front of him.

He wasn't aware that Maximilian was paying close attention to him as he tried the many delicious dishes that were exclusive to the Rowan Tribe.

Two hours later, a very satisfied Lux patted his belly.

Although he had eaten many delicious foods at Barbatos Academy, all of them were too classy for his taste. The cooking of the Rowan Tribe had a more "homey" feel to it, which he enjoyed very much.

When all the dishes had been cleared up, and refreshments were served, the members of the Rowan Tribe left one by one as if this was a pre-arranged setup.

It didn't take long before the only people remaining inside the dining area were Lux, Iris, Cai, Keane, Gerhart, and Maximilian.

The Chief of the Rowan Tribe calmly sipped tea as he looked at the teenagers who would usher a new era to the world. After emptying his cup, he placed it on top of his table and shifted his gaze to the Boar, whose belly was bulging because she had eaten too much.

Maximilian heaved a helpless sigh before shifting his gaze toward the red-haired Half-Elf, who had a satisfied look on his face. Since everyone seemed to be in a relaxed state, Maximilian decided to break the ice in order to ask some questions.

"Everyone here is not a stranger and is already aware of Cai's true form," Maximilian said with a smile. "Before anything else, I would like to thank everyone for taking good care of her, as well as apologize for the hardships that all of you have suffered whenever she accompanies you for a time."

The Saint gave everyone a brief bow before getting into the crux of what he wanted to say.

"Lux, my granddaughter joined your Guild without stating a proper reason for her departure," Maximilian said. "Since I know that she will not return obediently, can you kick her out of your guild?"

Cai, who was feeling a little drowsy due to how full she was, immediately perked up after hearing her Grandpa's words.

"Grandpa, you can't!" Cai shouted as she walked towards her Grandpa and sat beside him. "I can't leave Lux's Guild right now. It is very important that I stay!"

"Silly girl, you're just making things difficult for everyone," Maximilian replied sternly. "Do you know how everyone in the tribe reacted when you quit Xander's Guild? They thought that someone in the guild offended you."

"Eh? Such a thing happened?" Cai asked back. "Gramps, I'll explain it to everyone later. But, I can't really leave Lux's guild right now. My future depends on it!"

Maximilian arched an eyebrow as he looked at his granddaughter before shifting his gaze to the Half-Elf, who was slowly, but surely, trying to stealthily sneak out of the Dining Area.

"Lux, where are you going?" Maximilian asked in a calm manner.

"A-Actually, I think that I ate too much, Sir Maximilian," Lux replied with a cramped smile on his face. "N-Nature is calling me."

"Well, since Nature is calling you... should I prepare a grave that is six feet deep for you?" Maximilian asked with an amused tone. "I'll be more than happy to send you back to Mother Nature's embrace."

Lux subconsciously shuddered because, although Maximilian's words were said in a calm manner, he felt as if he already had one foot in the grave.

"O-On second thought, I think I'm good," Lux stated as he returned to where he had been sitting a moment ago.

A faint smile appeared on Maximilian's face as he gazed at the Half-Elf, whose smile was twitching every now and then.

"Now, tell me, Lux," Maximilian commented. "What did you feed my granddaughter for her to be so adamant about staying in your guild? If you don't give me a proper explanation, I will be forced to take drastic measures."

Lux was unable to meet Maximilian's stare, so he looked at Cai, who was looking back at him with a hopeful gaze.

The Half-Elf sighed internally because he couldn't possibly kick Cai out of the guild, especially after what she had done for him.

Because of this, he decided to take a stand in order to repay the Boar who had sacrificed her life to save him.

Iris, who understood what Lux was going to do, lowered her head so that her beloved wouldn't be able to see the smirk on her face.

She had known Cai's Grandpa for a few years, and she understood that Maximilian had no bad intentions. The blue-haired beauty was sure that Maximilian was merely curious why his shameless Granddaughter was dead-set on staying in Lux's Guild when he could provide her with anything that she wanted.

Which only led to one answer.

Lux's Guild had something that couldn't be found in Xander's Silver-Ranked Guild.

Maximilian continued to stare at the red-headed teenager for a few minutes without saying a word. He had already assumed that Lux was hiding a secret that he couldn't reveal so easily.

However, for the sake of his granddaughter, he had to know, and this was one of the reasons he invited the Half-Elf to the Rowan Tribe.

A few minutes later, a sigh escaped Lux's lips as he summoned his Soul Book.

He then opened it and went to the page where his Guild Information could be found.

After giving it a long hard look, another sigh escaped his lips before making his Soul Book float towards Maximilian.

Soul Books were private things, and only people who were given permission by their owner could see what was written inside of them.

Maximilian grabbed Lux's Soul Book and held it firmly in his hands. He then read the information that was written in it, so he could better understand what was making Cai unwilling to leave.

Half a minute later, after he had finished reading Lux's Soul Book, the Saint's body stiffened.

He read it a second time to ensure that he didn't misread the words written on it. However, after double-checking, he confirmed that he hadn't made any mistakes.

"Unbelievable...", Maximilian muttered as he raised his head to look at the Half-Elf, who was looking back at him with a steady gaze.

It was at that moment when the Saint finally understood why Cai didn't want to leave Lux's Guild despite the fact that he could provide her with anything that she wanted.

"Lux, we need to talk tonight in private," Maximilian stated. "I have some important things to tell you, so I hope that you will free up your schedule this evening."

Lux nodded his head. "Of course, Your Excellency."

Before leaving Barbatos Academy, Alexander had talked to Lux in private about the possibility of sharing the secret of his Guild with Maximilian.

The Chief of the Rowan Tribe was Alexander's most steadfast ally, so he hoped that Lux would inform the former about the secret of his Guild so that the short-tempered Saint of the Rowan Tribe would become one of Lux's strongest supporters as well.

Maximilian smiled as he looked at the Half-Elf who became more pleasing in his eyes.

Since the red-headed teenager was the Guildmaster of the only Mythical Guild in the world, it was only right to make him a permanent ally of the Rowan Tribe.

'I guess I need to talk to Cai before I talk to Lux in private tonight,' Maximilian thought as he rubbed his chin. 'After all, her future happiness is currently at stake here.'

## **Chapter 527.1: What Do You Think Of My Granddaughter? [Part 1]**

"Grandpa, you called for me?" Cai asked as soon as she stepped foot into her Grandpa's workshop.

"Yes," Maximilian replied. "Sit down for a bit, Cai. There are a few things I'd like to ask you."

Cai obeyed and sat in front of her Grandpa.

Maximilian eyed his granddaughter who had taken her Human form.

Cai's long, light-brown hair was adorned by simple accessories, and even though she wasn't wearing any makeup, her beauty was enough to rival Iris', who was considered the most beautiful young lady in Barbatos Academy.

Her hazel eyes held a tinge of mischief in them, but this side of herself would only be shown to her family members.

In truth, Cai was a very shy person. Aside from her family, she would only show her true form during special occasions in the Rowan Tribe, especially when they needed to make an offering to the Gods.

As a High Priestess, this was her duty. If she wasn't around, then her little sister, who was younger than her by two years, would temporarily take her place and perform Cai's duties. This was the case whenever the shameless Boar was exploring the world.

Cai might be able to stay in her Boar Form for long periods of time, but she still needed to return to her Human form every now and then to allow her transformation ability to reset.

If she continuously kept her Boar form for an entire week, there was a chance that her transformation would be undone when she least expected it.

This was why whenever she was alone, or in a place that she deemed safe enough, she would return to her Human form in order to ensure that her transformation wouldn't be undone by accident.

The Saint of the Rowan Tribe stood up and pressed his finger over Cai's head to check her current condition. He didn't have a chance to do this earlier because they were busy preparing to receive their guests, and Cai was keeping Iris company.

A minute later, Maximilian pulled his finger back and sighed.

"The injuries you received this time are quite serious. It has also diminished a lot of your True Essence," Maximilian stated. "At most, you will need three months to fully recuperate. But during this time, you can only stay in your Boar Form for three days straight before reverting to your Human form."

Cai nodded. "I know, Grandpa. Don't worry. I promise that I will be careful."

Maximilian nodded because he knew that Cai wouldn't allow anyone to discover her true form by accident, aware that it would only endanger her.

Her transformation was a way to hide her Special Body Constitution from the world. Those who sought to gain power using any means necessary would jump at the opportunity to kidnap her from the Rowan Tribe and use her to achieve their goals.



This was something that Maximilian wouldn't allow to happen, so he gave Cai several Life Saving artifacts that would protect her in case her secret was exposed.

"Cai, what do you think of Lux?" Maximilian asked.

"Lux?" Cai pondered for a bit before giving her answer. "A dependable friend, and a trustworthy person."

"Oh? You think of him as a trustworthy person?"

"Grandpa, I may not be the best when it comes to judging a person's character, but I believe Iris would not choose to love someone if they are a malicious person."

Maximilian rubbed his chin before nodding his head.

"Then, let me ask you a hypothetical question," Maximilian said before returning to his seat. "Do you find Lux acceptable as a potential fiance candidate?"

Cai frowned after hearing her Grandpa's words.

"I think Lux is a good person," Cai answered after half a minute had passed. "But, I don't think that it will work out, Gramps."

"And why?" Maximilian asked with an amused expression on his face.

"...Lux has this mysterious destiny," Cai replied.

"As a High Priestess, I can somewhat see that he is walking on an unpaved path filled with thorns. Gramps, you already know that my Body Constitution is enough to bring calamity upon the Rowan Tribe. If Lux becomes my fiance, his already difficult path would just become more difficult. I don't want to burden people with my curse."

Maximilian shook his head before looking at his granddaughter with an affectionate gaze.

"It is not a curse, Cai," Maximilian stated. "It simply means that the heavens have given you a heavy responsibility. Since you cannot carry its weight alone, you will need someone who will support you along the way. Besides..."

The corner of Maximilian's lips rose as he gave his granddaughter a mischievous smile.

"Lux has already seen you naked twice," Maximilian said. "Didn't you tell me in the past that the first person who saw you naked, aside from our family, would become your future husband?"

"Gramps, I was eleven back then," Cai replied blushing. "That is just the ramblings of a naive child. You shouldn't take it to heart."

Maximilian chuckled after seeing how defensive his granddaughter had become.

"So you don't really like Lux?"

"I like him as a friend. I can even think of him as a very close friend, but I have already decided that I will not marry in this lifetime. I don't want to give my husband unnecessary worries."

Maximilian knew that his granddaughter was serious when she said that she didn't plan to marry, but how could he possibly accept that decision? Cai was the treasure of their Family, and they wanted her to be happy.

For that to happen, he needed a man, a strong man that would be able to protect and support her, keeping her safe from those who coveted her body. Because of this, Maximilian decided to give Cai one last push.

"Do you like Iris?" Maximilian asked.

"Of course, I like her," Cai replied in a heartbeat. "If I was a man, I would definitely marry her."

"If you become Lux's fiancée, you will be able to stay with her forever," Maximilian said. "Also, you can help Lux..."

Cai's face blushed after she finished hearing her Grandpa's full explanation.

For a brief moment, she felt a strong temptation to agree to become Lux's fiancée. The more she thought about it, the more she was tempted by the idea of being with Iris. However, in the end, her wish to protect Lux from her curse made her return to reality, forcing her to set aside this happy illusion.

"Gramps, I can't." Cai sighed. "I want to, but I can't."

Seeing Cai's troubled face, Maximilian also sighed before nodding his head in understanding.

"Don't worry, I'm not going to force you to do anything," Maximilian stated. "Just think about it for now, okay? Also, if you see any potential fiancée candidate in the future, don't hesitate to tell me about it."

"Gramps... I don't plan on marrying."

"You're still young. Perhaps you will change your mind in a year or two. Don't worry. Whatever decision you make, the Rowan Tribe will always be behind your back."

Cai looked at her grandfather, who was also looking at her with a knowing smile. The two stared at each other for half a minute before chuckling at the same time.

"I'll go back to my room now," Cai said as she stood up. "Iris and I will sleep together tonight. Fei Fei and Eiko will be with us as well."

"Okay." Maximilian nodded. "Goodnight, Caitlin."

"Goodnight, Grandpa," Cai replied before giving her Grandpa a respectful bow.

A moment later, the beautiful young lady left the room, leaving Maximilian behind.

When he was sure that Cai was already a safe distance away, Maximilian waved his hand, and the ornate closet that was located at the corner of his room opened wide.

Inside it, Lux stood with his arms crossed over his chest, and a complicated expression could be seen on his face.

"Take a seat, Lux." Maximilian gestured with a smile. "I hope I didn't keep you waiting for too long."

Lux nodded and walked out of the closet to sit opposite the Saint of the Rowan Tribe.

Maximilian thought that it would be a good idea to hide Lux inside his closet while he talked to his granddaughter. He believed that this would allow the

Half-Elf to know what Cai honestly thought about him, without being influenced by other people.

"Now, tell me, Lux," Maximilian said as he gazed at the red-headed teenager in front of him. "What do you think of my Granddaughter?"

## **Chapter 528.2: What Do You Think Of My Granddaughter? [Part 2]**

"Now, tell me, Lux. What do you think of my Granddaughter?"

Maximilian's question made Lux frown. He didn't know why the Saint had prepared such an elaborate setup in order for him to hear Cai's thoughts about him.

Also, Cai had appeared in her Human form. Although she didn't go out of her way to make herself look beautiful, her beauty was something that Lux had known about long ago.

"Cai is one of my closest friends," Lux replied. This was what he truly felt about Cai, and he was very grateful to have her as a friend.

Maximilian nodded after hearing the Half-Elf's reply. He had already deemed Lux to be a worthy fiancée candidate for his granddaughter, not because he was Alexander's Stepson, or because he was the Guildmaster of the only Mythical Guild in the world.

The Saint of the Rowan Tribe had a very good impression of Lux because of his personality and strength. He had proven time and time again that he was capable of going above, and beyond everyone's expectations.

When he won the Lionheart Tournament, Maximilian thought of him as an interesting person. Also, since he knew that the Half-Elf had discovered Cai's true form, the Chief of the Rowan Tribe had paid close attention to any news about him.

When he managed to clear The Gate of Death inside the Sacred Dungeon and helped Cai bring back the White Lotus that allowed him to create the cure for the Purple Plague, he felt truly grateful in his heart.

The Purple Plague had affected his wife, Isabella, whom he had frozen in a block of ice in order to prevent the plague from spreading inside her body.

Currently, she was not in a stable condition, but he still kept her away from everyone in order to confirm that there were no side-effects of the medicine he made.

Only when its potency was confirmed would he distribute the antidote to the Six Kingdoms, allowing them to cure those that had been affected by the plague that ravaged the borders of their Kingdom.

"Lux, not only have you seen Cai's naked body twice, but she also saved your life," Maximilian stated. "Do you not plan to take responsibility for this?"

The Half-Elf had already expected that Maximilian would ask this question to him, so he had prepared an answer beforehand.

"I owe Cai my life. Because of her, I was able to clear the Gate of Conquest," Lux replied. "If there comes a time when her life is in danger, I will not hesitate to go to her aid, and help her to the best of my abilities. This help also extends to the Rowan Tribe. If Sir Maximilian finds something very difficult for him to handle, and needs my assistance, you can call for me for help."

Maximilian chuckled after hearing Lux's answer. This was a very safe answer, and it would not break his ties with the Rowan Tribe in the future.

However, there was one thing he found pretty amusing and that was the part where his Tribe would need his assistance, when he, a Saint, was already there to safeguard his tribe's interest.

"Tell me, my boy, is there something that a Saint like me cannot handle?" Maximilian asked in a teasing tone. "Do you really think that I will need help from someone who still isn't a Ranker?"

Maximilian wasn't scared of anyone, and there were only a handful of individuals that could contend with his strength. For him, anything could be solved by using his fists. Because of this, the Rowan Tribe was able to move anywhere unhindered.

He was expecting Lux to answer his question with a No, but to his surprise, the Half-Elf gave him the answer which made the smile on his face disappear.

"Even a Saint cannot solve everything with his strength alone," Lux replied. "Your Excellency, you are undoubtedly very strong. One of the few that can make the Six Kingdoms tread carefully when it comes to dealing with you and your tribe.

"However, I have seen something in Elysium that not even a Saint, like you, will be able to handle on your own. If there comes a time when the Cai, and the Rowan Tribe face such a threat, no matter how insignificant my Rank and strength is, I will not back down and offer my help."

Lux then pressed his closed fist over his chest as he looked at the Saint of the Rowan Tribe, whom the rulers of the Six Kingdoms feared very much.

"This is the promise I make to you," Lux declared. "This is how I will take responsibility for what Cai did for me."

"Hoh... your eyes are telling me that you're not lying," Maximilian said after giving Lux a critical gaze. "Have you met a Supreme in Elysium?"

If there was someone who could make Saints feel fearful, it was none other than Supremes.

There was a saying that Saints could silence empires with a wave of their hand, and a Supreme could silence entire continents with a word.

Lux shook his head. Although the Creature of Ruin was very strong, it was not a Supreme.

At least, the one he saw wasn't. He didn't know if it could reach the Supreme Rank once all of its heads were awake.

The Half-Elf shuddered at the thought of such a Beast being controlled by an organization that didn't bat an eye in exterminating an entire Barony, just because of a woman's hatred.

If the creature of Ruin were to appear before the Rowan Tribe, he was certain that even if Maximilian fought to the death, the demise of their entire Tribe would have already been set in stone.

"I saw a Peak-Calamity Monster," Lux replied. "A creature so strong that a dozen Saints can only hope to seal it in place."

Maximilian arched an eyebrow as he listened to Lux's words. Although he found the Half-Elf's story unbelievable, he was inclined to believe it because he could tell that Lux was telling him the truth.

"Very well." Maximilian smirked. "Although I hope that such a day doesn't come, no one can tell what tomorrow will bring. Remember your promise boy, and remember it well. I will hold onto your words for now."

"Thank you, Your Excellency," Lux felt relief inside his heart because he could tell that he had managed to convince Maximilian to no longer force the issue of him taking responsibility for Cai.

However, before the Half-Elf could even thank his lucky stars, Maximilian threw him a curve ball, which almost made him choke on his saliva.

"So, on a scale of 1 to 10, with ten being the highest, how would you rate my granddaughter's naked body?" Maximilian said with a devilish smile on his face. "I'm sure you had a nice long look back then. Come on, don't be shy, and speak your mind."

Maximilian had subtly used an Intimidation Ability on the Half-Elf so he would tell him the truth.

This ability also made Lux remember when he saw Cai's naked body back in Barbatos Academy, where he was able to see everything clearly.

"9 out of 10," Lux replied before he could even stop himself from replying. "The same as Iris."

"One mark off, eh?" Maximilian laughed after seeing the Half-Elf expression immediately become pale after answering his question. "She has the same rating as your fiance though? I guess she's your type as well."

The Saint laughed again as Lux's face became beet red after being teased by him.

For Maximilian, Lux was the ideal candidate for his granddaughter, but since the two of them just thought of each other as friends, he decided to wait for now.

'Starting as friends is also good,' Maximilian thought. 'It is better than falling in love instantly, and falling out of love the next day.'

He experienced something similar when he was young, so he understood that true love wasn't something that could be rushed.

The Saint just hoped that if Cai would choose someone to help share the burden she was carrying, it would be none other than the Half-Elf, whose face was currently beet red, due to the small prank that he had pulled on him.

He would rather have someone who truly cared for her granddaughter, than a womanizer whose only goal was to get under a lady's skirt.

Cai was his beloved granddaughter, and anyone who dared to treat her as a tool in order to gain unimaginable power, would be crushed under his merciless hooves.

## **Chapter 529.1: The Second Priestess Of The Rowan Tribe [Part 1]**

On the next day, Lux was woken up by a loud squeal from a pig that sounded like it was about to be slaughtered.

Originally, he planned to ignore it, but for some reason, the squeal sounded very familiar to him.

"It's not possible, right?" Lux muttered as he got up from bed and did a bit of stretching. However, the squeal only became louder as the minutes passed by, making him frown.

Out of curiosity, Lux got out of his tent and went to where the squealing was coming from.

It was then he saw an unexpected scene that made him wonder if he was still dreaming.

Cai, the shameless boar, was tied up and hung upside down over an open fire. Standing in front of the bonfire was a young lady, with hair that only extended down to her shoulders.

Just like Cai's human form, the young lady had sun-kissed skin and was quite a beauty as well. Lux believed that given two to three more years, the young



lady would blossom into a charming lady that would make the heads of any man turn to look at her.

Currently, this young lady, who seemed to be at least two years younger than Cai, had her arms crossed over her chest, as she looked at the squealing pig with a determined look on her face.

"Xander, add more Rosewood to the fire," the young lady ordered.

"P-Priestess, I think you should calm down a bit and talk with Cai in a calm and civilized manner," Xander replied anxiously.

"Are you going to do it, or should I also have you tied up, so you can be roasted alongside her?" The young lady asked with a glare.

"How many should I add?" Xander's attitude had a complete reversal after receiving the young lady's glare, which made his heart tremble.

The young lady sneered after seeing Xander's change of heart. "A dozen will do. Make sure to pick the ones that burn well!"

Cai, who was still tied up on a stick, squealed louder as she hurled insults at Xander who betrayed her.

"Xander, you traitor!" Cai roared. "I hope you grow bald in a year! I will pray and ask the Gods to make you impotent!"

Xander, who had just been cursed by Cai, looked at the young lady with a smile.

"Priestess, a dozen won't do," Xander stated. "How about we make it two dozen?"

"Good!" the young lady replied. "I want to see her burn!"

The Half-Elf watched as Xander threw several logs of wood on the fire, making it larger. Lux couldn't believe that Cai's retainer, who would give his life to protect her, didn't dare to provoke the young lady, whose hands were now resting on her hips.

'Just what the hell is going on?' Lux thought as he scanned the surroundings.

The members of the Tribe were looking at the spectacle sneakily through the partitions of their tents. Those who were outside were pretending that they weren't seeing anything as they went about their business.

It was at that moment when Lux spotted a middle-aged man peeking through the tent of the main residence. Recognizing the other party, the Half-Elf looked at him in a dumbfounded manner.

As if sensing Lux's gaze, Maximilian hurriedly let go of the tent flap as if nothing was happening.

'Even Sir Maximilian didn't want to offend this young lady?' Lux thought. 'Just who is this girl?'

Keane, who stood not far away, looked at the young lady as if she was an angel. He had never seen anyone bully Cai so much that it made him wonder if he was still dreaming.

Just like Lux, he hurried over after hearing Cai's squealing. But, after seeing this scene and the reaction of the Rowan Tribe, he also assumed that the young lady, who was wearing a priestess robe, wasn't someone simple.

Cai, whose entire body was now being licked by the orange flames, squealed louder and started to cry crocodile tears.

"Don't do this to me, Rose!" Cai pleaded. "How can you do this to your big sister? Where did my cute little sister go?!"

"Shut up!" Rose replied. "While you were out playing, I was the one doing all of your responsibilities. You even missed our yearly migration ceremony. Grandpa has spoiled you so much. It's time for you to know your place!"

Without another word, Rose took out a whip and was about to whip the tied-up boar, when a hand caught her wrist, preventing her from swinging her whip.

"I think that's enough. Don't you think so?" Lux asked.

Rose, whose wrist had been held by the Half-Elf, turned her head to look at Lux and glared in his direction.

"You must be that Half-Elf that my sister and Hector talk about," Rose commented as she looked at Lux from head to foot. "This is a family affair. I would appreciate it if you didn't intervene."

"I can't do that," Lux replied firmly. "Cai saved my life, so I can't watch her suffer."

Cai, who heard Lux's words, looked at the Half-Elf with a grateful expression.

"That's right, My Daddy!" Cai shouted. "You tell her who's boss!"

While Lux was confronting Rose, a Golden Baby Slime snuck out of the tent and hurried to where her Master was.

Cai was tied up by metallic chains, preventing her from breaking free. Seeing that her Master was bound tightly, Fei Fei fearlessly jumped up toward Cai, despite the flames that were licking Boar's entire body.

Just as Fei Fefi was about to bite through the chains that bound her Master, a whip coiled around her body and pulled her away.

"It seems that my sister had found a very loyal pet," Rose said as she held Fei Fei with her left hand, preventing the Baby Slime from breaking free. "Still, such loyalty is rare and must be rewarded."

Rose then kissed Fei Fei's forehead, making the golden slime stop struggling. A moment later, Fei Fei yawned and drowsily closed her eyes to sleep.

"Rose! You monster!" Cai, who saw what Rose did to Fei Fei, started to struggle more than ever. "How dare you do that to Fei Fei?!"

"Shut up," Rose replied before shifting her attention to Lux. "Can you let go of my hand now? I am doing a cleansing ceremony here and you are getting in the way. Grandpa, take this guy away, or else I won't cook you dinner later!"

Maximilian then exited the tent and looked at his granddaughter with fawning eyes.

"Don't worry, I'll explain everything to him," Maximilian stated as he grabbed hold of Lux. "Come, Lux. Let's have a bit of a chat. Keane, do you want to join us?"

"No," Keane replied. "I'll stay here, Sir Maximilian."

"Okay, just don't get in the way of the ceremony. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Sir."

Maximilian then gave the swordsman a brief nod before dragging Lux to the Main Tent, which belonged to their family.

Keane continued to stare at Rose, who was now chanting something as she whipped Cai every now and then, making the Boar wail pitifully.

As someone that had been bullied by Cai almost every day, seeing someone bully her back made the skinny swordsman feel as if he was looking at an angel who had come to bring salvation to the world.

Amidst Cai's continuous, pitiful squealing, Keane suddenly achieved enlightenment.

For a brief moment in time, it seemed that the peace that he had been looking for ever since he left the mountains, was finally within his reach.

## **Chapter 530.2: The Second Priestess Of The Rowan Tribe [Part 2]**

"Cai has been neglecting her duties as of late, and the one performing her work is none other than Roseline," Maximilian said as he served Lux a cup of tea.

"She's Cai's sister and is two years younger than her. As you can see, Rose has a very strong and straightforward personality, but she is a very kind and loving girl. She's not always in the tribe because she usually stays on our ancestral grounds, along with her parents. Their duty is to watch over the members of our tribe that had been infected by the purple plague and prevent their condition from worsening.

"Rose is our Tribe's Second Priestess and, just like Cai, she has very strong spiritual powers. You must have been surprised to see that no villager tried to help Cai despite the fact that everyone here treasures and loves her, right?"

Lux nodded because he thought that anyone who tried to hurt Cai would receive the collective beating of the members of the Rowan Tribe. However,

none of them stepped up to help her, which made him wonder earlier if he was still dreaming or not.

"The Priestesses of the Rowan Tribe are our Spiritual Leaders," Maximilian stated. "Their status in the tribe is nearly equal to mine. Also, Rose setting Cai straight is a natural occurrence, so everyone is already used to seeing this scene."

Maximilian chuckled because it had been a while since he had seen his granddaughter, who liked to bully others, getting bullied back by her own little sister.

"Just like Rose said earlier, what she was doing was a ceremony," Maximilian resumed his talk after having a good laugh. "It is a cleansing ceremony that will allow Cai to heal physically and spiritually. Since I have finished making the medicine for the Purple Plague, and Cai has returned to the tribe, I've decided to call Rose back for the time being.

"That way, she can take the medicine to our Ancestral Grounds, as well as perform the cleansing ceremony on Cai. This ritual will also heal the hidden injuries that Cai received during your expedition in the Gate of Conquest. You're planning to take a break from going to the Sacred Dungeon for a month or two, right?"

"Yes," Lux replied.

"Good. Cai will stay here in the Rowan Tribe for a month to help with her recovery. If she tries to sneak away and go to you, make sure to send her back here. I hope that you take this request of mine seriously."

"Yes, Sir. I will do as you ask."

Maximilian smiled and patted Lux's shoulder. "Good. Now, there is one more favor that I need to ask of you. You're already acquainted with Gerhart, right?"

"I'm not too familiar with him, but we talked a bit yesterday," Lux replied.

"You see, he is still unsure of what to do with his life." Maximilian sighed as he poured himself some tea. "His grudge against the Elswyth Royal Family still burns in his heart, and I'm afraid that if he doesn't do anything that will take his mind off things, he might do something reckless in the future. So, if possible, I want you to take him under your wing."

Lux's expression became serious after understanding what the Saint of the Rowan Tribe was trying to tell him.

"You want him to join my Guild?" Lux inquired.

Maximilian nodded. "He is a good lad, and I don't want to ruin his future by letting him sink further into depression each passing day. Gerhart needs something to do. It can be anything. Since you won't be bringing Cai with you for the time being, you can take him instead."

Lux scratched his head for a while before agreeing to Maximilian's request.

He was currently in need of trustworthy Guild Members, and since the Saint of the Rowan Tribe recommended Gerhart, he was willing to give his fellow Half-Elf a chance to think of things aside from revenge.

Cai's squealing had completely died down in the background, and Maximilian thought that now was the right time to go out.

When the two of them exited the tent, they saw Cai sleeping on the ground. Her dark-brown fur looked so glossy. It was as if she had just soaked in the hot springs. Lux couldn't find any injuries on her body, and from the way the shameless boar was snoring peacefully, it seemed that she wasn't in any pain at all.

Maximilian unceremoniously picked Cai up and brought her inside the tent.

Roseline, on the other hand, carried the sleeping Fei Fei and entered the tent behind her Grandfather.

Xander, who had aided Rose in burning Cai earlier, invited the Half-Elf, Keane, and Gerhart, who had also arrived at the scene earlier to have breakfast in their tent.

Lux and the others accepted the offer because they felt that Maximilian, Cai, and Rose needed some family time together.

To their surprise, Iris exited the Main Tent with Eiko on top of her head and walked towards Lux with a smile.

"Can I also join you guys for breakfast?" Iris asked with a smile.

"Sure," Xander replied as he led the way toward his tent.

The blue-haired beauty linked her hands with her fiancé and walked side by side with him.

Eiko, who was on top of Iris' head, happily jumped to her Papa's head and giggled. Clearly, the Baby Slime had a good sleep and was in a playful mood.

"I thought you would be there to save Cai earlier, but you weren't around when your best friend was being burned alive," Lux teased his beautiful fiancé, who seemed to have just finished bathing.

"Rose came to find me earlier and asked me to not interfere while she conducts a cleansing ceremony for her sister," Iris replied.

"You two know each other?"

"Un. We met a couple of times in the past. She also visited Barbatos Academy a few times before my birthday."

The Half-Elf smiled because it seemed that Cai's sister, Roseline, had a good head on her shoulders. Knowing that Iris was here, she decided to talk to her first and ask her to not interfere as she dealt with her sister.

Perhaps, the young lady knew that only Iris would dare to get in her way if she performed the ceremony without informing her.

The only person she didn't expect to appear was Lux, whom she had seen for the first time in her life.

Iris slowed down her pace in order to let Xander, Keane, and Gerhart walk ahead of them a little more before whispering in Lux's ears.

"Tell me what happened last night after breakfast, okay? Cai didn't tell me anything last night, but she seemed a little dazed when she returned to our room to sleep."

Suddenly, Lux remembered what Maximilian told Cai last night, and couldn't help but smile.

"It seems that Cai really likes you," Lux whispered back to Iris. "If she was a guy, she would definitely ask for your hand in marriage."

Iris giggled as she lightly squeezed Lux's hand. "Well, if Cai were really a guy, I just might have accepted his offer for marriage."

"... You're trying to make me jealous, right?"

"Yes. Did it work?"

A devilish smile appeared on Lux's face as he lightly squeezed Iris' hand and leaned a little closer to his fiancée.

"It did," Lux whispered. "I'll punish you tonight for it."

Iris blushed after hearing Lux's threat, which she would happily welcome anytime.

However, they were currently away from Barbatos Academy, and she was afraid that she wouldn't be able to keep her voice down when her beloved punished her young and delicate body with his sensual touch.

"Don't worry. I'll be sure to cover both of your lips so that no one but me will hear your voice," Lux said softly.

Unknown to the two love birds, Xander and Gerhart heard their talk, making them want to tell Lux and Iris to go get a room.

However, they kept it in and pretended that they didn't hear anything. They even increased their pace to get away from the two lovers behind their backs, who were taking their sweet time talking about the things that they were going to do to each other inside Iris' room.

Only Keane, who was still thinking about Cai's little sister, Rose, was unaware that the Half-Elf and the blue-haired beauty were planning to do something tonight, which would make Cai unable to go to join Iris in her room.

## **Chapter 531: Plans To Make Heaven's Gate Stronger Than Ever**

Lux held Iris in his arms and enjoyed the warmth of the blue-haired beauty's body.

Since Cai was still sleeping like a pig after the ceremony ended, the Half-Elf took advantage of her absence and monopolized his fiancée.



Both of them agreed that making love inside the Tribe Chieftain's tent was a bad move, so they simply settled on sleeping together.

The good thing about this setup was that Eiko was feeling clingy as well, so she slept between Lux and Iris, enjoying the warmth of her parents.

The Baby Slime and the young lady had fallen asleep quickly because they were tired from playing the entire day.

Iris and Eiko had also chatted with Rose for a few hours, and the two young ladies enjoyed their exchange of news and rumors that were currently going around the Six Kingdoms.

'Girls can really talk a lot the moment they get to know each other,' Lux thought as he looked at his sleeping fiancée.

In Lux's eyes, the two were like gossiping Aunties who exchanged juicy tidbits about the members of the young generation who were making their names known in both Solais and Elysium.

Of course, most of Roseline's questions were about Lux, who had become a celebrity among the high-ranking officials of the Six Kingdoms, Xynnar War Pact, as well as Skystead Alliance.

To his surprise, Iris told him that Roseline also asked a few things about Keane, which made the corner of Lux's lips raise up a little bit.

Earlier, he could tell that the young lady had made an impact on the skinny swordsman, especially with how she dealt with the chatterbox Cai, who gave Keane no peace of mind.

'It's still too early to tell,' Lux mused as a faint smile appeared on his face. 'If this was a novel, the readers would definitely tell the Author that they couldn't do their bro, Keane, dirty.'

Well, as long as Keane was happy, Lux was fine with anything. So, for the time being, he set this matter aside and started pondering about what he would do for the next two months.

Originally, he planned to return to Karshvar Draconis in order to handle a few matters regarding his Guild. Then after that, he would return to the Kingdom of

Gweliven to look for Colette and the others and apologize for not telling them everything.

He also needed to invite his Dwarf Secretary, Emma, whom he had freed from Twilight Rain's Lycan Mutation Project, to join his Guild.

She was able to fully transform into a Lycan now, which greatly boosts her speed, strength, and fighting prowess.

'I think Emma was also in the Initiate Rank,' Lux thought. 'I wonder how strong she has become now.'

Lux had ordered Emma to remain with Colette and the others to tell them about his fake death a few days after it happened.

Also, he wanted her to better understand how a Guild was managed, so when she became his Guild Member, she could teach him some of the things that he was not aware of when it came to managing a Guild.

'I just hope Colette won't smack me with her mace when she sees me.' Lux sighed in his heart.

The little Dwarves were the first friends he made in Elysium, and they held a special place in his heart. In a Kingdom where he was considered an outsider because of his race, Lux thrived because of the friends he met along the way.

'It's a shame that I can't use my original face when I meet them,' Lux thought. 'But, it won't be long before Scarlet becomes a Ranker. When that happens, I will no longer need to worry about hiding.'

Lux was quite happy to see that Scarlet was nearing the threshold of a Ranker. However, she would still need to pass the World's Trial in order to get its blessings.

Each Ranker would face a different trial, and some of them even said that the moment they decided to take the test to become a Ranker, they were sent to a place that was far from their homeland.

Lux's Grandma, Vera, had told him that her Ranker Test sent her to an island filled with Beastkins. Her trial was to help them overcome a calamity, but as to what that calamity was, Vera didn't explain it in full.

She just said that she suffered hardships before becoming a Ranker and, to this day, she still hadn't forgotten the lessons she learned from that trial.

Lux summoned his Soul Book and glanced at his status page to see how many more stat points he needed in order to become a Ranker.

'6,360...' Lux's eyes landed on the number of combined stats he currently had. 'I will need a total of 10,000 combined stats to become an E-Ranker.'

The Half-Elf then activated his Elysium Compendium and looked for information about the hierarchy of Rankings among Mortals.

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Supreme - 1,000,000,000

Saint - 200,000,000

SSS Ranker - 50,000,000 - Pseudo Saint

SS-Ranker - 10,000,000 - High Ranker

S-Ranker - 3,000,000 - High Ranker

A-Ranker - 600,000 - High Ranker

B-Ranker - 300,000

C-Ranker - 100,000

D-Ranker - 30,000

E-Ranker - 10,000

Initiate - 5,000

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Grade A Apostles - 800

Grade B Apostles - 600

Grade C Apostles - 400

'... Saints are amazing,' Lux thought as he looked at the combined total stats of Powerhouses like his Stepfather, Alexander, as well as Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian. 'I wonder—will I be able to step into that rank as well?'

Just looking at the combined stat points needed to become a Saint was enough to deter anyone from thinking about it.

Even Lux, who was confident that he would soon become a Ranker, felt as if the hurdle of stepping into the Saint Rank was too hard to achieve.

He didn't even bother looking at the Supreme Rank, who were beings that were like the Demigods of the World. He hadn't met one yet, but he had already met two Saints, which made them more real compared to the Mythical Supremes, who could make entire continents cower with a wave of their hand.

'One step at a time, Lux,' Lux said in his heart. 'You don't need to hurry. You will get there as long as you don't lose your way.'

After being a powerless Half-Elf for nearly sixteen years of his life, Lux was able to grow exponentially after meeting Eriol.

In fact, he had already managed to catch up to and even surpass some of the prodigies, like the Four Kings of the Six Kingdoms, whom he had defeated in the Lionheart Tournament in the past.

Even though he couldn't gain any experience points from killing monsters, consuming Beast Cores directly allowed him to grow by leaps and bounds.

His only concern was his Job Profession which was a Necromancer.

A Necromancer wasn't someone who relied on his strength alone, but relied on the power of his Undead Army. Compared to the other professions who only focused on their strength, Lux needed to split his resources in order to strengthen his Stats, his Body Constitution, and his Summons.

With that said, he burned through resources really fast. Fortunately, the rewards he got from the previous quests boosted his Necromancy Skills without needing to use Beast Cores to upgrade each one of them separately.

However, he knew well that he couldn't always be lucky with the rewards.

'I should bring my Guild to explore a Dungeon for the time being,' Lux thought. 'The Sacred Dungeon is too dangerous for now. I'll just go ask around to see if there are any B-Ranked, or A-Ranked Dungeons that I can explore to farm Beast Cores. Even if I can't become a Ranker in two months, I should at least upgrade my Body Constitution.'

Whenever Lux upgraded his Body Constitution, not only did he get an overall increase in strength, but his Necromancer Abilities grew as well.

'Looks like I need to drag Sid along with me for the time being,' Lux smiled. 'Just like Scarlet, he is also at the cusp of becoming a Ranker. I wonder, who will become a Ranker first?'

Scarlet was being supported by the resources from Twilight Rain, while Sid accompanied the Draconic Kobold, Cadmus, to the Savage Lands.

The Dhampir always put his life on the line in order to gain the Beast Cores that would allow him to grow faster, not only for Lux but for the sake of his little sisters who were now living in Leaf Village.

As someone who lived as an Assassin, Sid knew the importance of strength. Only by becoming strong would he be able to protect the people important to him and prevent anyone from harming them.

'I'll drop by Leaf Village after I finish my tasks in Karshvar Draconis,' Lux thought. 'I will bring Master Randolph and Grandma Annie with me in the Dungeon too. I want both of them to raise their Ranks in order to prolong their lifespan.'

Randolph and Annie were already old, and Lux was worried for them. Although Dwarves lived longer than Humans, they could only live up to five hundred years at most.

Lux believed that if his Master and the kind Grandma of Leaf Village were to become Rankers, they would definitely make a major improvement on the overall growth of his Guild.

Randolph was a Blacksmith, and Grandma Annie was an Alchemist. If the two of them were able to create High-Grade Equipment, Potions, and Pills, it would certainly give a boost to the performance of his Guild Members.

'I wonder... if all the Elders of Leaf Village become Rankers, will it still be considered a Beginner's Village?' Lux couldn't help but chuckle when he imagined this scene in his head.

Due to the many things that were on his mind, the Half-Elf was only able to settle into sleep a few hours before dawn. However, he now had a general plan in his head for how he would use the two months allotted to him, and make himself, and his Guild, stronger than ever before.

## Chapter 532: A Phoenix Among Phoenixes!

"Come visit me from time to time, Iris," Cai said as she bid goodbye to her best friend, who was about to return to Barbatos Academy.

"I will," Iris replied as she hugged Cai.

After giving her best friend a hug, the blue-haired beauty also hugged Roseline, who was standing next to Cai. "Take care as well, Rose. I'll see you when I have the opportunity."

"I will look forward to it." Rose hugged Iris back. "Don't worry. I will watch over my sister and make sure that she doesn't do anything stupid for the next two months."

Cai, who heard her sister's words, immediately cowered because she could tell that Rose was serious about keeping a close watch on her. Because of this, she threw her plans of sneaking away to the winds and decided to behave for the time being.

Not far from them, Lux was bidding his goodbye to Keane, who decided to stay in the Rowan Tribe for the time being.

Truth be told, the Half-Elf thought that the skinny swordsman would accompany him back to Karshvar Draconis, but Keane said that he needed to meditate and regain his peace after what happened in the Gate of Conquest.

"I am growing too fast," Keane stated. "I need to consolidate my strength first, or else, the power I gained will be put to waste. I don't want to be like those Rankers who have high stats, but don't have the ability to put their strength to good use."

Lux nodded his head in understanding because he could understand what his friend was talking about. This was the exact reason why Wildgarde Stronghold forbade parents from giving their children Beast Cores in order to boost their stats.

Sometimes, having high stats would make people too confident in their abilities. Only when they were facing a monster or someone with a rank higher than theirs would they understand that battle experience and refining your skills were just as important as having a high rank.

"I'll see you in two months," Lux said as he fist-bumped Keane. "Make sure that you're prepared to conquer the Gate of Famine by then."

Keane nodded. "I will. Don't worry. You also do your best to consolidate your strength. Although you managed to survive several fights against stronger opponents, you mustn't let your victories go into your head."

"The Six Kingdoms, Xynnar War Pact, and Skystead Alliance are gearing up for the Gate of Famine. I don't know if they plan to pull any weird tricks this time around, but it is better to be prepared for such an outcome."

Lux gave a grateful smile at the skinny swordsman before glancing at Rose, who was still having a last-minute chat with Iris.

"Thanks for the reminder. Also, good luck to you too," Lux said in a teasing tone. "I'll come here to pick you up in two months. Make sure you have made some progress by then."

Keane was unfazed by Lux's ambiguous words and brought up a topic about their Guild in order to change the topic. Naturally, the Half-Elf played along so that Keane wouldn't get too embarrassed about his subtle hints.

A few minutes later, Maximilian emerged from his tent with Gerhart in tow.

"Lux, make sure to look after Gerhart for me," Maximilian said as he patted Gerhart's shoulder. "Gerhart, make sure to not cause trouble for Lux. Also, everything you see, hear, and experience, when you are with him must be kept a secret. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Grandpa," Gerhart replied.

Although Gerhart didn't understand why the Saint of the Rowan Tribe strictly asked him to keep things confidential, he decided to listen to his requests because Maximilian had taken good care of him throughout his stay in the Rowan Tribe.

Maximilian didn't tell Gerhart that he was about to be recruited in the one and only Mythical Guild in the world.

He wanted the green-haired Half-Elf, whom he had helped for the past few years, to take his mind off revenge, and the best solution he had found was to let Gerhart accompany Lux on his escapades to who knows where.

Truth be told, Maximilian wanted to know where Lux was planning to go.

Currently, the Six Kingdoms, the Xynnar War Pact, and the Skystead Alliance were looking for Lux because they wanted to challenge the Gate of Famine as soon as possible.

However, the Half-Elf had other plans and didn't want to return to the Domain of the Fallen for at least two months.

Since his movements were being closely watched by the different factions, Maximilian wondered where Lux was going in order to make his preparations for the next two months.

"Gerhart, just so you know, following me is a very dangerous thing," Lux replied. "I know you are strong, but the places we are going to go to are very dangerous. I would appreciate it if you take responsibility for your own safety."

Gerhart nodded. "Don't worry. I don't plan on dying anytime soon. I still have scores to settle with the Elswyth Royal Family."

Maximilian sighed internally after hearing Gerhart's reply, but there was nothing he could do about it.

At that moment, a Giant Manta Ray landed in the Plaza of the Rowan Tribe.

"We can go anytime kids," Hector announced with his arms crossed over his chest. "I'll accompany all of you back to Barbatos Academy."

Lux and Iris exchanged a glance with each other before nodding their heads.



The time to return to Barbatos Academy had come, and with it, the start of a new adventure awaited.

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Outer Reaches in Karshvar Draconis...

A plain-looking girl, accompanied by two beautiful maids, looked at the three floating islands in the distance.

"Finally, we have arrived at the Outer Reaches!" Valerie said with a smile. "We managed to successfully sneak out of the Inner Palace!"

"Good job, Your Highness," Ali replied as she clapped her hands. "You're amazing."

"As expected of Her Highness," Ari commented. "As long as you put your mind to it, nothing is impossible!"

Valerie's smile widened after hearing the compliments of her two handmaidens.

They made several stops along the way and ate many of the delicacies that belonged to the various cities and towns within her father's Kingdom.

There were several occasions where a few rowdy thugs tried to flirt with Ali and Ari, but the two maidens instantly dispatched these annoying creatures with their punches and kicks.

Of course, there were instances that they encountered stronger individuals, with some of them being Initiates and Rankers. However, for some reason, these hooligans suddenly pissed themselves, and ran away screaming after Valerie glared at them.

Whenever these things happened, Ali and Ari would praise her, saying that her glare was so powerful that even Rankers had no choice but to flee.

Naturally, it wasn't Valerie's glare that scared these Rankers silly.

It was due to the collective killing intent of hundreds of Rankers and High-Rankers, who were secretly protecting their Princess on her sight-seeing expedition.

Of course, the Gullible and Extremely Beautiful Princess wasn't aware of this. She just thought that those who had tried to stop her were just ordinary thugs that one would find anywhere in the streets.

"I'm a bit hungry. Why don't we go to the City of Pygmalion first?" Valerie proposed. "We can also ask about that mysterious Half-Elf while having lunch."

"As expected of Her Highness, you are wise beyond words," Ali said with a smile.

"Eating while gathering information? Truly a brilliant idea," Ari commented. "Her Highness truly is a Phoenix among Phoenixes!"

"But, Ari... I'm a dragon?" Valerie blinked as she looked at her handmaiden who was fanning her to keep herself cool.

"It's just a metaphor, Your Highness," Ari replied. "I'm just saying that among Dragons, only you are able to hit two Phoenixes with one Dragon Breath."

Valerie nodded her head because she found this answer quite logical.

"Let's go," Valerie ordered as she pointed her finger at the city in the distance. "Let's start our expedition of the Outer Reaches!"

## **Chapter 533: Father, Do You Plan To Become A King?**

Iris shuddered as her hands were wrapped around Lux's head.

Her ragged breaths permeated the room as she accepted her fiance's hot and passionate love deep inside her.

"You are rougher than usual," Iris said as she looked down at the Half-Elf, whose hands were resting on her waist, holding her in place. "Is it because we didn't have the chance to do it back in the Rowan Tribe, or because you are leaving tomorrow?"

"Both," Lux replied before planting a kiss on Iris' neck, nibbling it to leave his mark.

Iris didn't resist and allowed her beloved to mark her inside and out. Lux would leave once again to go back to Elysium and handle the issues with his Guild, and they wouldn't be able to see each other for a month or two.

Perhaps, knowing that this was the last time that he would be able to make love with Iris for a while, the Half-Elf and the blue-haired beauty indulged each other's love for each other by becoming one.

"You're still hard...", Iris whimpered as Lux lightly bit her nipple, sending shivers down her spine. "Just how pent-up are you?"

"This is your punishment for teasing me back in the Rowan Tribe," Lux replied before sucking the pink tip in his mouth, making Iris gasp.

A minute later, the room was filled with Iris' seductive moans as Lux made love to her for the third time.

Eiko was currently playing with Iris' Guardian Beasts, allowing her parents to spend some quality time with each other.

The two only stopped when Iris' Red Phoenix, Zoe, informed Iris that Eiko was now on her way back to their bedroom, forcing Lux and her to cancel their 5th round of lovemaking.

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Fifteen minutes later...

"Pa! Ma!"

Eiko happily entered the room and jumped on Iris' lap, who was busy drying her hair with a bath towel.

"Welcome back, Eiko," Iris said as she patted the Baby Slime's head. "Did you have fun with the others?"

"Un!" Eiko nodded her head. "Fun!"

"That's good."

"Yes!"

The blue-haired beauty and the Baby Slime continued to chat with each other for a few minutes before Lux placed a set of clothes beside his fiance.

He was now fully dressed and had a very satisfied smile on his face, which made Iris blush.

The blue-haired beauty had several kiss marks on her body. Fortunately, only the one on her neck could be seen by people, while the rest were hidden under her clothes.

"Are you hungry, Eiko?" Iris asked the Baby Slime who was looking at the kiss mark on Iris' neck.

"Ma!" Eiko replied before using the skill Cure on Iris' neck, erasing the mark that was left by her Papa.

Lux scratched his head when he saw what the Baby Slime did, but he didn't say a word and only smiled.

He understood that Eiko didn't want to see her Mama hurt, so she used her Cure ability in order to heal the small mark on Iris' neck.

"Good girl!" Iris said as she patted Eiko's head, making the Baby Slime giggle. She then gave Lux a teasing smile, which made the latter shake his head helplessly.

Ten minutes later, Lux, Iris, and Eiko went to the Dining Area to have dinner with Alexander and Gerhart.

This was the last night he would spend with his fiance and stepfather before he returned to Elysium with the green-haired Half-Elf, who had been entrusted to him by Maximilian.

When they arrived at the dining room table, the Headmaster of the Barbatos Academy and the green-haired Half-Elf were having a serious discussion about the current state of affairs within the Six Kingdoms.

"The Barbarian King plans to expand his territory once the medicine for the Purple Plague starts mass production," Gerhart stated. "The other Kingdoms are planning to do the same. I don't know if getting the cure for the Plague was a good or bad thing, but the status quo of the Six Kingdoms will certainly break once they start their expansions."

Alexander nodded. "Of course getting the medicine for the Purple Plague is a good thing. At one point in time, the Six Kingdoms were forced to exterminate entire cities, towns, and villages, to prevent the plague from spreading.

"Now, only those who venture too far from the borders have the possibility of getting infected by the disease. Land reclamation is a tedious thing, and it will allow the Six Kingdoms to focus on something else, rather than always scheming behind each other's back."

The Headmaster of Barbatos Academy smirked because he also planned to send his elite subordinates to carve out a piece of territory for their Academy after their Alchemists had finished producing enough pills to prevent those he sent from being infected by the Purple Plague.

"Father, are you planning to join the Six Kingdoms in expanding the Academy's influence?" Iris asked as she sat beside her father.

"Yes," Alexander replied. "If we move too slowly, it will be too late for us to get anything. Besides, I want to be the first one to reach Arcadia."

Lux frowned after hearing what his Stepfather was planning to do.

Arcadia was the former capital of a once prosperous Kingdom that had fallen after the Hundred Year War that razed the world.

Barbatos Academy was an Academy where anyone from the Six Kingdoms could come if they wanted to make their mark in Elysium.

Since most Guilds in the Six Kingdoms had their own factions, they only handpicked the best, leaving the others behind. Those who were not chosen would go to Barbatos Academy to try their luck.

These students were trained in various courses like Martial Arts, Sorcery, Craftsmanship, and other courses that would allow them to learn skills that they couldn't learn from their respective Kingdoms.

Truth be told, the majority of the students in Barbatos Academy were commoners.

Similar to Nero, there were gems among them, and these teenage boys and girls were then recruited into the Serenity Guild, which had become one of the most influential Guilds in Solais and Elysium.

Because of the danger of the Purple Plague, the Six Kingdoms and other factions stayed put.

Alexander also didn't bother looking for a piece of land to extend their influence to because of the danger the plague brought.

But this would change now that Maximilian developed the cure for the Purple Plague. With the capital of a once thriving Kingdom for the taking, the Saint of Barbatos Academy wouldn't sit by and watch others take Arcadia for themselves!

"Father, do you plan to become a King?" Lux asked as he sat beside Iris.

Alexander shook his head. "I plan to claim Arcadia so that there will be a place for our family to call our home. Also, this is for the sake of the future generations."

The Headmaster of Barbatos Academy gave Lux a meaningful gaze, which made the latter nod his head in understanding.

Although Alexander skirted around the subject, the Half-Elf understood that his stepfather was preparing to build a kingdom for his and Iris' future children.

Lux knew that he had no intention of becoming a King, so ruling Arcadia didn't interest him. Besides, Alexander was more fit to become a monarch since he specialized in commanding an entire organization like the Barbatos Academy.

"When you leave for Elysium, make sure to be as lowkey as possible, so the Six Kingdoms, the Xynnar War Pact, and the Skystead Alliance will not be able to sniff you out. They are currently trying to find excuses in order to force you to return to the Sacred Dungeon right away and help them conquer the last remaining gate."

Lux nodded. "Don't worry, Father. I am very good at being lowkey. No matter what the Six Kingdoms, Xynnar War Pact, and the Skystead Alliance do, they will not be able to find me."

Lux gave Alexander a meaningful smile. He wasn't too worried about his actions in Elysium being discovered by others.

He was certain that no matter how influential these factions were, they had no way to travel to the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven, much less the floating island of Karshvar Draconis.

Seeing how confident Lux was, Alexander felt more assured that the Half-Elf would not be bothered by the three factions, who had been trying to contact him non-stop for the past few days.

"By the way, did you give the Ore to Maximilian?" Alexander asked before making a gesture for the maids to serve the food on their table.

Lux nodded. "I left it with Keane and asked him to only give it to Sir Maximilian two days after we left the Rowan Tribe. I'm afraid that Cai's Grandpa would pester me for more if I personally gave it to him, so I decided to use a middleman to prevent future troubles from arising."

The corner of Alexander's lips slightly rose because he approved of Lux's decision.

If Maximilian knew that Lux had more Draconium Ore in his possession, the Saint of the Rowan Tribe might have prevented the Half-Elf from leaving, until he had emptied Lux's pockets of the precious Ore that was enough to make Blacksmiths and Jewel Smiths go crazy due to how rare it was.

## **Chapter 534.1: An Ugly Duckling [Part 1]**

"Y-You gotta be kidding me," Gerhart gave Lux a dumbfounded look before shifting his attention back to the row of words that had appeared in front of him.

< You are invited to join the guild Heaven's Gate >

< Do you accept? >

< Yes / No >

Gerhart had been staying in the Rowan Tribe ever since he had sustained serious injuries in the Lionheart Tournament when he faced Enil.

However, that didn't mean that he was unaware of what was happening around him. He could still clearly recall the day when a worldwide announcement was made, stating that a Mythical Guild had been founded.

Back then, he thought that a Saint, or some kind of Powerhouse, had discovered the secret for how to create a Guild that surpassed the highest tier guild, Adamantite.

The words that had appeared in front of him were proof that all of his assumptions were wrong, shocking him to his very core.

"Now I understand why Cai doesn't want to leave your guild," Gerhart said as he accepted the invitation to join Lux's guild.

Before he could even say anything else, several more rows of text appeared in front of him, which made him question his sanity.

< You have successfully joined Heaven's Gate >

< You gained +1000 Free Stat Points. Please distribute them according to your preferences. >

< Active Guild Buffs >

300% Health Regeneration

300% Mana Regeneration

300% Stamina Regeneration

100% Chance to learn skills from Beast Cores

100% Immunity to Charm Skill

100% Increase in Experience Points when killing Monsters

25% Chance of getting better Monster Drops

25% Chance of resisting Status Ailments

20% Increase in Physical and Magical Attacks

20% Increase in Physical and Magical Defense



## 20% Bonus Success Rate in Crafting items

Gerhart rubbed his eye before shifting his gaze back to the rows of text in front of him. No matter how many times he rubbed his eye, the information didn't change, which made him look at Lux in disbelief.

"Is this a prank?" Gerhart asked because he was starting to doubt whether what he was seeing was real or not.

Lux smiled upon seeing his fellow Half-Elf's priceless reaction.

"Does it feel like a prank?" Lux asked back. "Why don't you open your Soul Book and see if those buffs are active or not?"

Gerhart did as he was told and summoned his Soul Book. Half a minute later, his body stiffened because the buffs he had read earlier were currently present on the Status Page of his Soul Book.

When he regained his composure, he looked at Lux with a solemn expression on his face.

"Are you really the Guildmaster of Heavens' Gate?"

"Yes."

Gerhard quieted down after hearing Lux's answer as if he was digesting everything that he had witnessed during this short period of time.

The green-haired Half-Elf was still reeling from the shock of actually meeting the Guildmaster of the one and only Mythical Guild in the world. This was something that he didn't expect to happen after the Saint of the Rowan Tribe, Maximilian, had asked him to accompany Lux in his travels.

Before they left the Rowan Tribe, Lux had told him that following him was a very dangerous thing. At first, he thought that the red-headed teenager was just joking. However, after seeing one of the secrets that Lux was hiding, Gerhart finally understood that every word that Lux had said was true.

If someone powerful were to discover that the Half-Elf in front of him was the Guildmaster of the Mythical Guild, Heaven's Gate, who knows what kind of diabolical plans they would make in order to force Lux to submit to their will?

"Thank you, and I promise that I will keep this secret safe," Gerhart vowed.

"That is all I ask," Lux replied. "Now, are you ready to go?"

Lux and Eiko had already bid their goodbyes to Iris, Alexander, and Alicia, and had left Barbatos Academy an hour ago.

Currently, he and Gerhart were in a secluded clearing in the forest near the academy. Lux didn't want to enter Elysium inside Barbatos Academy because many people had seen him come in.

If they didn't see him come out, he was worried that unnecessary rumors and problems might arise in the future.

Because of this, he decided to openly leave the Academy.

Even if there were spies that belonged to the Six Kingdoms that were paying close attention to his whereabouts, they would know that he was no longer inside the Academy and think that he might be on his way back to Wildgarde Stronghold.

"Before we go to our Guild Headquarters, make sure to keep the location of our base a secret," Lux stated. "As you may already know, we can't openly declare our organization to the world, or else we might find ourselves in a lot of trouble. The name of the Guild we currently use is Ars Goetia. If anyone asks you in the future, this is the answer that you will give them, okay?"

Gerhart nodded. "Understood. I will tell them that I am a member of the Guild Ars Goetia."

Lux gave Gerhart a brief nod before telling him the password that would allow him to teleport to their Guild Headquarters.

In order to make things simple, as well as make an excuse for his ability to travel anywhere, Lux used the same words that Eriol told him whenever he activated the Ring of Arondight, which sent him to the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven.

"Open! Heaven's Gate!" Lux declared.

Gerhart said the same, and a moment later, both of them turned into particles of light as they began their journey and teleported to their Guild Headquarters that was currently stationed in the Outer Reaches of Karshvar Draconis.

Outer Reaches, Karshvar Draconis...

"Who are you girls, and what are you doing here?" Cethus asked the three ladies who had suddenly appeared in front of the white, marble palace that served as Lux's headquarters.

"Our mistress here came to meet the owner of this place," Ali said as she fearlessly looked at the Dragon Born, who stood at the entrance of Lux's Guild Headquarters, preventing the three ladies from barging inside without permission.

"Meet the owner of this place?" Cethus snorted. "Lux is currently not here, so all of you can scram."

"What do you mean he's not here?" Ari inquired. "Our mistress has traveled a long way just to meet him. It would be best if you get in touch with him as soon as you can before our Mistress gets angry."

The corner of the Dragon Born's lips twitched when he heard Ari's words. He didn't know whether he was talking to country bumpkins because they seemed to not recognize the uniform that he was wearing.

As one of the Royal Guards that served directly under the Dragon King, his position was enough to command a degree of awe and respect from the residents of Karshvar Draconis.

However, the three ladies who were standing in front of him didn't seem to know his position and Rank.

"Listen, Country Bumpkins," Cethus said in a firm and resolute tone.

"This is not a place for sightseeing. Go back to where you have come from and leave this place at once. Otherwise, I will arrest you for obstructing my duty. Can't you see my uniform? I am one of the Royal Guards of his Majesty. If you three know what's good for you, you better behave yourselves and leave while I'm still being nice."

Ali and Ari looked at Cethus with contempt.

So what if you are a Royal Guard? Do you know who we are?

Do you know who my mistress is?

Even the Dragon King doesn't dare to offend our young lady, and you dare call us Country Bumpkins?

Ali and Ari were very tempted to say these words to Cethus, but they held their tongues. They understood that their Princess was supposed to be traveling in secret.

Taking this into consideration, they couldn't possibly expose her identity, especially in front of one of the Royal Guards that served the Dragon King.

While the two maids were contemplating on what to do, Valerie, who was disguised as a plain-looking young lady, took a step forward and placed her two hands on her waist.

"Listen here, Mr. Royal Guard," Valerie said. "I am the second princess of Karshvar Draconis, Princess Valerie. I command you to step aside so that we can explore this marble castle."

Cethus looked down at the plain-looking girl for a few seconds before roaring in laughter.

"Girl, that was a good one!" Cethus laughed. "Just who do you think I am? I am Cethus, one of the most trusted subordinates of the Dragon King. Do you really think I don't know what Princess Valerie looks like? Do you think that our beautiful princess looks like an ugly duckling like you?"

Ali and Ari gasped after hearing Cethus teasing words. Both of the maids looked at the Dragon Born as if they were looking at a pig about to be slaughtered.

Hiding above the clouds of the Outer Reaches, an old lady sighed after hearing Cethus' words.

"Isn't that your grandson?" one of the High-Rankers standing beside the old lady asked in a teasing tone. "It seems that he had become bolder after becoming one of the Royal Guards."

The old lady sighed for the second time before summoning a walking stick in her hand.

Just as she was planning to descend from her hiding place to whack her stupid grandson, two beams of light landed in front of the entrance of the white marble castle.

When the light receded, Lux, Eiko, and Gerhart materialized in front of Cethus and the three ladies, which caught them completely by surprise.

"Long time no see, Cethus," Lux said with a smile. "Did anything happen to my guild while I was away?"

The plain-looking girl, who was standing behind the two beautiful maids, looked at the red-headed teenager who had appeared out of nowhere.

As if sensing her gaze, the Half-Elf turned to look in her direction and gave Valerie a casual smile before shifting his gaze back to the Dragon Born, who seemed to be in conflict with the three ladies, who were currently standing at the entrance of his Guild Headquarters.

This was how Valerie met Lux and also the beginning of the Half-Elf's hardships in the floating Kingdom of Karshvar Draconis.

## **Chapter 535.2: An Ugly Duckling [Part 2]**

"About time you return," Cethus scoffed after hearing Lux's inquiry. "Aside from your Kobold friends mining underground, nothing else has happened while you are gone. Only today have we gotten some pesky country bumpkins who do not know their place."

Cethus gave Valerie, as well as her two handmaidens, a sidelong glance before turning his attention back to the Half-Elf, who had just returned from who knows where.

"You really should fix that high and mighty attitude of yours, Cethus." Lux sighed. "One day, you will get into trouble for looking down on everyone."

"That day will not come." Cethus scoffed. "I am a member of the Royal Guard. Who dares to challenge the authority of the Dragon King?"

Lux shook his head helplessly before looking at the three guests that he had not met before now.

"I apologize if Cethus has been rude to the three of you," Lux said with a smile. "His mother accidentally dropped him when he was still an egg, so he's a little whacked in the head."

To his surprise, the plain-looking girl giggled after hearing his words. She then looked at Cethus with a pitying look as if she finally understood why the Dragon Born didn't look so smart.

"Well, I'm sure his mother didn't mean to drop him when he was still an egg, so I'll be the bigger person and forgive him for his trespass against me," Valerie said with her arms crossed over his chest.

Ali and Ari, who were beside her, immediately praised her for being an understanding and magnanimous person.

Cethus, who was listening to the side, snapped and grabbed the Half-Elf's shoulder, gripping it tightly.

"Oi! Just who was dropped when he was an egg?" Cethus asked with a glare as he increased the power of his grip.

He knew that Lux was just an Apostle, so he was planning to teach the Half-Elf a lesson that he shouldn't mess with a Dragon Born like him.

However, to his surprise, Lux just arched an eyebrow as his shoulder was grabbed by Cethus, who had the intention of breaking his arm.

Although it couldn't be seen on the surface, red dragon scales covered part of Lux's arm, preventing the Dragon Born from using his strength to break it.

"Are you done?" Lux asked after a minute had passed. He then unceremoniously pried the Dragon Born's hand from his arm, making Cethus look at him in disbelief.

"You're now an Initiate?" Cethus looked at the Half-Elf with a dumbfounded look on his face.

"Yes," Lux replied.

Cethus couldn't believe that the red-headed teenager who was weaker than him had suddenly risen to his Rank in a short period of time.

The Dragon Born was only in the middle of the Initiate Rank, but his position as a Royal Guard allowed him to move unhindered anywhere in Karshvar Draconis. Even Rankers didn't dare to challenge his authority because of who he represented.

However, Lux was different. He was someone that the Crystal Dragon, Keoza, had recognized, allowing him to have full control of the Island granted to him by the Dragon King.

Cethus might be able to bully him when he was still weaker than him, but now, things would change.

Lux was no longer an Apostle, but an Initiate who was on his way to becoming a Ranker!

After getting his fill from looking at Cethus' shocked expression, the Half-Elf glanced at his three guests and made a gesture for them to enter his castle.

"Since the three of you are our first guests in my Guild Headquarters, allow me to offer you some refreshments," Lux said with a friendly smile.

"Can we also tour the castle?" Valerie asked.

"Sure," Lux replied, "but there is nothing much to see right now. The castle has just been built and it doesn't have any decorations inside. The most we have are a few tables, chairs, and beds for the Kobolds that are currently staying inside our headquarters."

Valerie was slightly disappointed because she thought that the interior of the marble castle was just as majestic as its exterior. Even so, she was still thankful that Lux agreed to her request to tour the interior of the castle.

"It is I who have come here without any announcement, so I will just enjoy the experience," Valerie commented. "By the way, my name is Vale... Valencia. These two ladies here are my handmaidens, Ali and Ari."

Valerie didn't want others to know her real name, so she decided to use an alias. Her reason for visiting the Outer Reaches was to meet the Half-Elf, whose notoriety had traveled all the way to the capital of Karhsvar Draconis, making her very curious about him.

"Ali thanks you for accepting our Mistress' requests," Ali said as she gave Lux a brief bow.

"On behalf of my Mistress, Ari thanks you for your hospitality," Ari stated as she also gave Lux a brief bow.

Lux bowed back and introduced himself to his three guests, who had come all the way to tour his guild headquarters.

"My name is Lux Von Kaizer, and I am the Guildmaster of Ars Goetia," Lux announced. "This cute Slime on top of my head is my daughter, Eiko, and the Half-Elf beside me is Gerhart. As for Cethus... well, you already know him, so let's skip his introduction."

Cethus, who was treated as an extra, glared at the Half-Elf, but he no longer made any moves to apprehend him.

Earlier, he had used almost his full strength to break Lux's arm, but the Half-Elf didn't even budge, making him feel that the Half-Elf's strength might have even surpassed his.

Lux then took a step forward and placed both of his hands over the main entrance of his castle and pushed it open.

The giant doors made of marble made rumbling sounds, but they parted, welcoming their Master as he returned to manage his Guild.

Half an hour later...

"Uh... this tea tastes bland," Valerie complained after sipping the tea that Lux had made for her. "You're not good at preparing tea, aren't you?"

"No," Lux admitted. "But, I am confident about the taste of these cookies."

Lux offered the cookies that were made by Rose from the Rowan Tribe.

Valerie picked one and took a bite. A second later, a very satisfied expression appeared on her face as she continued to eat the cookie that was offered to her.

"This is indeed good," Valerie said. "Can I have another?"

"Of course."



"Thank you."

After offering the plain-looking lady another cookie, the Half-Elf took one and offered it to Eiko, who had crawled down onto his shoulder.

Eiko happily munched the cookie, making Valerie look at the baby slime with great interest. Even Ali and Ari found this interaction between Lux and Eiko very endearing to their eyes.

"Um, I'd like to confirm something. You said Eiko a Slime?" Valerie inquired as she continued to look at the Baby Slime, who was about to eat another cookie.

"She is a Slime," Lux answered. "Is this your first time seeing one?"

"Yes." Valerie nodded. "There are no Slimes in Karshvar Draconis. C-Can I touch her?"

Lux glanced at Eiko, and the latter nodded her head. Since the Baby Slime didn't mind getting touched by Valerie, the Half-Elf decided to grant the plain-looking girl's wish.

"Don't squish her, okay?" Lux warned as she presented Eiko to Valerie. "She might attack if you squish her too much."

"Okay," Valerie replied as she used her finger to lightly poke Eiko's cheeks, making the baby slime giggle. "She's so soft... and jiggly."

A few minutes later, Eiko sat on Valerie's lap, while the young lady patted her head to her heart's content.

She had never seen a Slime before, but she had heard many things about them. According to the book she read, they were one of the weakest creatures in existence and were most often killed by the young land dwellers as part of their training.

Because of this, she didn't think much about them.

However, after Valerie saw how well-behaved Eiko was and how the baby slime giggled every time she lightly squeezed her cheeks, she wondered if she could also get a Baby Slime as a pet that was just as cute as Eiko.

Cethus, who had also entered the castle alongside Lux, observed the Half-Elf from a distance away.

He was dying to ask Lux how he had gotten stronger in a short period of time, but his pride wouldn't allow it.

'I'll pay closer attention to you now that you're here,' Cethus thought. 'If you really have a secret for how to become stronger in a short period of time, I must find a way to learn it as well.'

Cethus was the weakest member of the Royal Guards.

Truth be told, all the members of the Royal Guards were A-Rankers and above.

The only reason why he became a Royal Guard was due to his grandma's outstanding merit and loyalty to the Dragon King. If it weren't for that, Cethus wouldn't have received an exception to enter the ranks of the King's personal guards.

Although many of the members of the Royal Guard weren't too thrilled with their King's decision, they still reluctantly accepted it because the Dragon Born's grandmother was truly an outstanding individual.

She was one of the SSS-Rankers of Karshvar Draconis and had stayed with the Dragon King even before he was crowned the King of all Dragonkind.

Cethus was painfully aware that his position and influence were all because of his Grandma's efforts, so he didn't want to disappoint her.

However, even after becoming a member of the Royal Guard, Cethus' Rank stagnated.

No matter how much he trained, he was unable to accomplish the missions that members of the Royal Guard should be able to do.

Just like all organizations, the Royal Guards had a merit system in which they could use points to exchange resources from the Royal Treasury.

Because of how tough the missions were, Cethus was unable to gain any points. He was too proud to beg his grandma for resources and didn't dare to ask for pity from the Dragon King.

This was why, when he was assigned to become Lux's observer, the Dragon Born decided that he would do his best to accomplish his task.

After all, he thought that observing the Half-Elf and his Guild was a very easy thing to do, allowing him to finally gain the merit points he would need to increase his rank.

But now, Cethus had completely forgotten the merit point system as he eyed the Half-Elf who was talking to the plain-looking girl that he had called an Ugly Duckling a while ago.

'Whatever secret you are hiding, I will be sure to discover it,' Cethus thought. 'That way, I can show those who look down upon me that even I can become strong if I put my mind to it!'

A faint smile appeared on the Dragon Born's lips, as he imagined a bright future waiting for him.

He wasn't aware that high above the skies of the Outer Reaches, the Old Lady who had summoned a walking stick earlier was looking down at him with a calm expression on her face.

She had already put her walking stick away, but her hands weren't empty.

The Old Lady, who earned the nickname the Bloody Berserker during her younger years, was lightly tapping the palm of her hand with the sandal she was holding.

Everyone in the army was quite familiar with this sandal because aside from the walking stick that she used, this was the tool that made many Dragons and Dragon Borns weep bitter tears.

There was even a rumor going around in the army that when the Dragon King was still young, the old lady had used the sandal to give him a good beating, making the latter fearful of her.

Naturally, these were just rumors and the Dragon King neither denied nor admitted that such a thing had happened in the past.

The High-Rankers, who were standing by her side, felt pity for the Dragon Born, who still didn't know the hardship that awaited him. They were sure that

when Cethus discovered whom he just called an Ugly Duckling, he would definitely drop to his knees and beg for forgiveness.

After all, Princess Valerie was the spoiled daughter of the Dragon King.

If the Golden Dragon, who sat upon the Draconian Throne, knew of what the Dragon Born had said to his daughter, Cethus would definitely wish that he could turn back time, so he could be a little nicer to the plain-looking lady, who had the power to make the Dragon Born kiss his bright future goodbye.

## **Chapter 536: The Brighter The Light, The Deeper The Shadow**

Vahan Empire...

"Welcome, Nero," Aron said as he greeted the teenage boy, who had traveled all the way from the territory of the Xynnar War Pact to the capital city of the Vahan Empire.

"Your Excellency," Nero bowed respectfully to Emperor Andreas' right-hand man, who had invited him to become a member of their faction.

Aron rested his hands on Nero's shoulders as he looked at the tool he would use to increase the chances of their success in clearing the Gate of Famine.

"I'm sure you are tired from your journey," Aron said before making a gesture for Nero to follow him. "We have prepared the best accommodations for you. Don't worry. Leaving the Wildgarde Stronghold was the best decision you had made. Staying there would have only hindered your growth."

Nero didn't reply and simply followed behind the High-Ranker, who thought that he had acquired a convenient tool that he could boss around.

The Wildgarde Stronghold had been kind to him, and if he was left with no other choice, he wouldn't have gone here. But since he was already in the Vahan Empire, he would just use whatever means necessary to achieve his own goal during his stay.

Aron was confident that he already had Nero in the palm of his hand.

Since the brown-haired teenager had nowhere else to go and had even given up his position as the Guildmaster of the Storm Dragon's Guild, there was no one else in the world that he could lean on aside from the Vahan Empire, who also led the Skystead Alliance.

"Today, you should just rest," Aron said as he stopped in front of Nero's Quarters, which was located inside the Royal Palace. "Tomorrow, you will meet Malcolm and the others. All of you will train together in preparation for the conquest of the Gate of Famine. I expect great things from you Nero. Don't let me down."

Nero bowed respectfully before giving his reply. "I will do my best, Your Excellency."

"Good." Aron nodded in satisfaction. "I'll have someone to fetch you tomorrow. Once again, welcome to the Vahan Empire!"

The High Ranker patted Nero's back before walking away to meet with Emperor Andreas.

Nero watched Aron go with a calm expression. However, his real emotions could be seen in the depths of his eyes, and none of them had the word "submission" written on them.

'Lux, it seems that the world is about to become your enemy,' Nero mused before turning to open the door of his room. 'I wonder how you will be able to get out of this trap that the Skystead Alliance and the Xynnar War Pact are planning behind your back.'

Nero had already let go of his grudge against the Half-Elf, but that didn't mean that he thought kindly of his rival.

This time around, Nero only planned to become a spectator in order to watch how Lux would prevail against the combined efforts of the factions who were making their moves in the shadows.

Nero opened the window of his room, and looked at the city in the distance. Now that he was in a new place, he would have to learn the unwritten rules of the Vahan Empire, which would allow him to achieve his own goals.

'Perhaps, nothing will happen when we enter the Gate of Famine,' Nero thought as he admired the scenery in front of him. 'But the fifth and final gate will surely be different.'

Nero could still remember the words of the silver-haired man when he helped him overcome the Abyssal Corruption that was tearing his body and soul apart.

"I am sealed in the Gate of the Apocalypse," the silver-haired man once said to Nero. "Free me, and I will grant you one wish."

During that time, Nero's only goal was to defeat Lux using the powers that had been bestowed upon him by the silver-haired man.

Now that the Seed of the Abyss was no longer in his heart, he was now able to think properly and understand what kind of creature the silver-haired man was.

"A High-Ranking Noble from the Abyss," Nero muttered. "I'd better think of a good excuse that would let me avoid entering the Gate of the Apocalypse. I have a feeling that meeting that silver-haired man again will not be a good thing."

The devil-like man that Nero met in the Gate of Conquest was just an avatar. Judging by the strength he possessed during that time, the brown-haired teenager was certain that the High-Ranking Abyssal Noble's true body was a High-Ranker.

If that was the case, there was no way that mere Initiates would be able to deal with him once the Gate of the Apocalypse opened.

'Even if I become a Ranker, there is still no chance of winning against that person.' Nero's gaze hardened as the thought of meeting the silver-haired man again surfaced inside his head.

Truth be told, Nero was thankful that the Seed of the Abyss was taken away from him.

When the silver-haired man helped him stabilize his condition, the High-Ranking Abyssal Noble also left a spell inside his body, allowing him to control Nero remotely.

As a proud person, Nero didn't want others to treat him as cannon fodder, controlling his fate. Now that he was free from the hold of the devil, he didn't want to be controlled a second time.

Unlike Nero, the other factions thought that the appearance of the silver-haired man was just a one-time thing.

The only thing that was on their minds was finding ways to effectively gather the resources inside the Domain of the Fallen and use those resources to strengthen their own Kingdoms.

Watching the entire world off Elysium from the Heavens, the God of Games sighed.

"The brighter the light, the deeper the shadow," Eriol said softly.

"It is not the Beasts that prowl the lands of Elysium or the Abyssal Creatures that came from the void that has pushed the world to the brink of ruin. It is the insatiable greed in each person's heart that strips this world of its future. Max... I hope you wake up soon. Your chosen candidate is treading in dangerous waters."

The God of Games could only observe the world from the Heavens and keep his intervention to the bare minimum. Right now, their chosen candidate, Lux, was still not strong enough to face the true Powerhouses of the world.

And yet, just like a moth to a flame, the Half-Elf was flying dangerously near the center of an inferno.

An Inferno that would annihilate everything it touched.

## **Chapter 537: Don't Worry, That's Just Fake News**

"This is the Smithy."

"This is the Alchemy Shop."

"This is the Bestiary."

"This is..."

Lux took Valerie and her two maids around to explore the entirety of his Guild Headquarters. Originally, he thought that his first three guests wouldn't enjoy his guided tour. But, to his surprise, Valerie seemed to be genuinely satisfied with everything she saw.

'The Game-Shin Impact Merchant Guild's meticulous designs paid off,' Lux thought with a smile. He was truly lucky he hired them to build his Guild Headquarters.

Although his castle didn't have many furnishings, the walls were filled with carved out designs, making it an artistic marvel.

Several beasts like Gryphons, Dragons, Hippogriffs, Wyverns, and other creatures both known and unknown to the Half-Elf were etched along the walls.

The Main Guild Hall, which also served as the throne room, was located in the center of the castle. Inside it, a life-like Crystal Dragon painting with its wings spread wide could be seen behind the marble throne, overlooking anyone who faced the throne.

Lux had requested Bentley to add this touch to the throne room as a tribute to Keoza. If it weren't for the Dragon Token given to him by the Crystal Dragon, the Half-Elf wouldn't have been able to found a Mythical Guild, much less step foot in the Legendary Kingdom of Karshvar Draconis.

Valerie liked the design very much. Even Ali and Ari sang praises of it because of how magnificent it was.

"My father told me that long ago, there was a Crystal Dragon who was supposed to be the next King of all Dragonkind," Valerie said in a respectful tone. "I can't remember his full name, but I know his shortened name, and it was Keoza.

"Long ago, the nations of the world were embroiled in a war. However, these wars came to an abrupt end when the creatures from the Void attacked. Only the Dragon King, who was the strongest creature in the world could stop their advance, but when the world needed him the most, he vanished.



"A hundred years of fighting ensued, and during that time, the Dragons decided that it was time to elect a new Dragon King to help turn the tide of battle for the Elysians. But, just like the first Dragon King, Keoza vanished when the world needed him the most.

"My father, who was next in line for succession, performed the Dragon King's Ceremony and gained the power of Supreme. He then helped the other races push the creatures of the Void back to where they came from, and thus, an uneasy peace befell the nations of the world."

Valerie then looked in Lux's direction with a faint smile.

"Tell me, is the Crystal Dragon painted on that wall the same Dragon that I spoke of?" Valerie asked. "Or is it just a whim on your part?"

When Lux was about to give her an answer, a firm, and authoritative voice echoed inside his head.

'Don't tell her.'

Three words. It was just three words, but the weight it carried influenced Lux into changing the answer he was originally about to say.

"After I became an Apostle, I came across a very dangerous Dungeon," Lux said as he looked at the giant painting of the Crystal Dragon behind his throne. "The name of that Dungeon was the Grotto of the Forbidden Guardian. It was a very dangerous Dungeon, and inside it, I met a Crystal Dragon. That same dragon is the one you see here today."

Valerie nodded her head in understanding as she gazed at the Crystal Dragon with a smile.

"What kind of Dragon was it? Is it male or female?"

"Male."

"What was he like?"

Valerie was genuinely curious about what kind of Crystal Dragon Lux had met when he was still an Apostle.

"Well, for starters, he was a very sociable Dragon," Lux replied after organizing his thoughts. "It seemed he had been alone for such a very long

time, because when he appeared in front of us, the first thing he did was initiate a conversation instead of attacking us."

Lux then narrated the tale on how he fought against the Draconian Kobold, Cadmus along with the monster's brethren when he was inside that Dungeon. He added that as a reward, the Crystal Dragon gave him the Dragon Token, which allowed him to appear in Karshvar Draconis to build his Guild Headquarters.

"Amazing!" Valerie looked at Lux with sparkling eyes. "You met a Fairy God Dragon!"

"A Fairy what?" Lux blinked in confusion.

"A Fairy God Dragon!" Valerie repeated. "You know, the Dragon that turns a pumpkin into a carriage and mice into horses. Although I haven't seen any horses in my life, some Dragons said that they taste good! I want to eat one someday!"

Lux chuckled after hearing Valerie's reply. He didn't know if a Fairy God Dragon really existed, but one thing was for sure—Keoza wasn't the one that Valerie was referring to.

'I'd better not add any horses to my Bestiary,' Lux thought. 'If the Dragons see them, they might think that I'm raising them to become their snack.'

A while later, Valerie looked at the Half-Elf with a serious expression on her face once more.

"Some say that Half-Elves eat dragons," Valerie stated. "Is this true?"

"No," Lux answered in a heartbeat. "If there is a Half-Elf that can eat a Dragon, they must have balls of steel."

Valerie sighed after hearing Lux's reply.

"Good!" Valerie said. "You know, I was really worried when I came here. I thought that when you saw me, you were going to take a bite of my chest or something."

Lux's gaze subconsciously landed on Valerie's chest, which was bigger than Iris' and Cai's. Although he wasn't thinking of doing such a thing, now that the

plain-looking girl mentioned it, he couldn't help but look at her "bountiful chest" that any man would love to take a bite of, even if they weren't Half-Elves.

"Don't worry, that's just fake news," Lux replied as he forcefully tore his gaze away from Valerie's assets and looked at her plain-looking face. "I don't randomly bite the chest of strangers."

Valerie's eyes widened in shock after hearing Lux's reply.

"D-Does that mean that you bite the chest of people that you know?!" Valerie immediately took four steps back to distance herself away from the handsome Half-Elf, whose gaze had lingered on her chest for a brief moment. "You plan to bite my chest too now that we are acquainted?!"

Ali and Ari immediately stood in front of Valerie with their arms crossed over their chests.

"I will not allow you to bite our mistress' chest," Ali declared. "You will have to bite ours first!"

"I know that this is just a misunderstanding, but since it sounds fun, I'll play along!" Ari stated, making Lux almost choke on his saliva.

Gerhart, who had been following Lux since they arrived in the Outer Reaches, decided to walk away.

Now that Lux had finished guiding him around, he decided to check the entirety of the floating island, leaving the Half-Elf to deal with his guests, whom he felt planned to stay in their Guild Headquarters for a day or two.

## **Chapter 538: The Whereabouts Of A Transcendent Flame**

Just past midnight in the Outer Reaches...

Lux went to talk to the Kobolds, who were currently digging a series of underground networks just below his Guild Headquarters.

When the Half-Elf got over a thousand Draconium Ores from the mountain range that belonged to him, he knew instantly that he would find other resources within his territory.

Since the Kobolds were part of his guild and they were the perfect race for the job, they had permission to do what they've always wanted while collecting treasures at the same time.

"Guildmaster, you were right," Cadmus' second in command, Walter, said with a smile. "We discovered a few things that will definitely make you happy."

Seeing how happy the Kobold was, Lux's interest was piqued. He then followed Walter to the Central Cavern that they had designated as the treasury, where they would place the things they had found underground.

As soon as Lux entered the cavern, he saw countless Draconium Ores gathered together which made him gulp subconsciously. However, aside from the precious metal, the Kobolds also found other rare metals, which they had placed to the side of the small hill of Draconium Ore.

"What metal is this?" Lux asked as he picked up the pitch-black metal that was similar to an obsidian gemstone.

"Actually, we were also surprised to see this metal here in the mountains," Walter replied with a complicated look on his face.

"The name of this metal is Aenarium. It is a mutated form of Tungsten. Although Tungsten is a very strong metal, no sane blacksmith will use it to create weapons and armors because it is also very brittle. It shatters upon impact, so it is not advisable to use it as it is."

Lux tilted his head in confusion. "Wait. You just said that Tungsten is a strong metal, but it shatters upon impact? How can a metal be strong and be brittle at the same time?"

Walter looked at Lux as if he was looking at an idiot. For Kobolds, it was perfectly normal for them to understand what metal was strong and what was not.

But after realizing that their Guildmaster really didn't know anything about metals, the Kobold decided to give the Half-Elf a crash course on how Tungsten was strong and brittle at the same time.

After the Kobold's explanation, the Half-Elf still didn't understand about half what the Kobold was saying, but it was enough to tell him that Tungsten wouldn't be of much use to their guild for the time being.

"Guildmaster, I think you have a big misunderstanding here," Walter commented when he saw the disappointed look on the Half-Elf's face. "I said that Tungsten alone is not a strong metal, but that metal has mutated into Aenarium. This metal can only be formed when Tungsten is exposed to Dragon's Blood for a very long period of time—I am talking about decades long

"Simply put, all of the Tungsten's weaknesses are erased the moment it becomes Aenarium. Although this metal is not as strong as Adamantite, it is strong enough to be forged into armor for our Guild Members. But there is one problem."

Lux crossed his arms over his chest as he waited for Walter to finish his words. He was very curious about what the problem was, and if it could be fixed, then they would definitely be able to create a strong set of armor for his current Guild Members.

"Aenarium has a similarity with Draconium Ores," Walter stated. "They cannot be forged under regular flames. Only Transcendent Flames can mold them."

Lux sighed after Walter finished his explanation.

Transcendent Flames were the flames that Blacksmiths and Jewelsmiths sought after because it was one of the requirements that allowed them to forge Legendary Equipment and above.

The reason why his Master, Randolph, could only create Mythical Ranked Equipment, was not only due to his lack of skill, but also because he didn't possess a Transcendent Flame.

Blacksmiths and Jewelsmiths gained a lot of experience through forging things using rare metals that couldn't be molded using ordinary flames. They needed something stronger that would allow them to combine the strongest and rarest of metals.

Even Adamantite Equipment could only be forged by possessors of Transcendent Flames.

While a Blacksmith without a Transcendent Flame could reach the Grandmaster Rank, they would not become Transcendent Blacksmiths without the flame that everyone in their profession wanted so badly.

"Do you know where I can find a Transcendent Flame?" Lux inquired. He hoped that the Kobold would be able to tell him what he could go in order to get these flames that his Master needed.

Walter shook his head. "I'm sorry, but I do not know where these flames are located. All I know is that these flames typically materialize in places that are dense in magical or spiritual energy. According to the books I read in the past, there is a Transcendent Miasma Flame that was born when an entire Kingdom was covered in Miasma.

"As to whether this information is based on actual facts or merely hearsay, I cannot say for certain. You can even think of finding one as a fortuitous encounter, which is a miracle in itself."

Lux scratched his head as he looked at the pile of Draconium Ore, as well as Aenarium in front of him. Without a Transcendent Flame, they were just precious metals that they could sell for a high price, but couldn't be used for their own purposes.

Just as the Half-Elf was feeling down due to his inability to use the resources in front of him, a familiar voice spoke inside his mind.

'If it is a Transcendent Flame, I might be able to know where to find one.'

The Dragon Token, which was glowing faintly, floated beside the Half-Elf as Keoza's voice spoke inside his head.

'Hundreds of years ago, when I was still roaming the World, I happened to come across a small Transcendent Spark,' Keoza stated. "These small sparks are the makings of a Transcendent Flame that is about to be born. Back then, I knew that it would take at least a decade more before the flame came into being.

"It has been nearly a hundred years since then. I don't know if the spark has grown or disappeared completely as time has gone on. It is also highly possible that someone has found it and used its powers for themselves."

The Half-Elf felt hopeful because this was the only lead he currently had. As long as he was able to secure the Transcendent Flame for Randolph, he would definitely make a breakthrough in his profession, which would allow him to reach greater heights.

"Where can I find the spark that you speak of?" Lux asked as he held the Dragon Token firmly in his hands.

"It is in a place called Dinas Affaraon," Keoza replied. "It is a sacred place to the Druids of Affaraon and is often called the City of Higher Powers. If my memory serves me right... it is in the Northern Regions of the Wanid Kingdom, which is jointly ruled by the Mountain Folk and the Forest Keepers.

"This Kingdom is located on the Western Borders of the Kingdom of Gweliven. If you're lucky, that spark has already turned into a Transcendent Flame and is still out there somewhere. If you're unlucky... well, at least you tried."

The Dragon Token then lost its radiance and returned to its dormant state. Keoza had already done what he could, and the rest was up to Lux to figure out.

'I guess that settles it,' Lux thought. 'Within two months, I need to find the Transcendent Flames before I return to the Domain of the Fallen.'

Lux wanted to make full preparations before facing the Gate of Famine. He didn't know what kind of dangers he would face inside it, so he wanted to equip his subordinates to the teeth, and allow them to perform better the next time he entered the Sacred Dungeon.

He could only summon Keoza one last time and, if possible, he didn't want to use his ultimate Trump Card. This was why getting the Transcendent Flame was a must if Lux wanted to make his Undead Army a true force to be reckoned with.

Just like Nero, the Half-Elf had a feeling that he hadn't seen the last of the silver-haired man that had corrupted the brown-haired teenager and used him as a pawn to tilt the war to favor the Ammarian Kingdom.

With such an unknown variable, which may or may not appear at any given time during the Dungeon Exploration, Lux knew that he needed all the help he could get in order to come out victorious.

## Chapter 539: All Of You Are Delusional Creatures

"Delicious!" Lux said as he ate the food that Ali and Ari prepared. "You two are amazing."

"I know, right?!" Valerie puffed her chest up as if she was the one who prepared the soup that they were currently eating for breakfast.

For her, Ali's and Ari's achievements were also her achievements since the two of them were her handmaidens.

"This soup is really good!" one of the Kobolds exclaimed as he happily drank the bowl of soup. "And the bread--it's so soft! I've never eaten bread this soft before!"

"Indeed! This is the best breakfast I've eaten in my life!"

"I wish someone in the Kobold's Nest would specialize in cooking. Eating grilled food everyday is getting boring."

The Kobolds praised Ali and Ari, which made the two handmaidens smile from ear to ear. They had prepared a large pot of soup for everyone, so there was more than enough to go around.

Even Gerhart, who had eaten many delicious things in the Rowan Tribe, agreed that the soup was indeed quite delicious. Perhaps the two handmaidens had used high-quality ingredients in order to bring out such a rich and yummy flavor that suited his taste perfectly.

After the sumptuous breakfast ended, all the Kobolds returned underground to resume working on their duties. Since Lux was planning to look for a Transcendent Flame, they decided to keep looking for rare ores and metals underground in order to prepare for the future.

"Cethus, I'll be leaving the Outer Reaches again," Lux stated. "Keep watch on my Guild Headquarters for me."

The Dragon Born, who had just finished his meal, narrowed his eyes at the Half-Elf who was planning to leave again after staying for only a day.



"I'm not here to watch your Guild Headquarters all day," Cethus replied. "The Dragon King has ordered me to watch over you--not your Guild."

"Even if you say that, you can't come with me," Lux shook his head. "The place I am going to go to is very far from Karshvar Draconis. If you wander off on your own, the possibility of you not being able to return here is very high."

"Nonsense! Do you think I am a child that will easily get lost? I'm going with you and that's final!"

"..."

The Half-Elf looked at the determined Dragon Born with a frown. It was not like he couldn't bring Cethus with him to the Kingdom of Gweliven. As long as the Dragon Born was in his party, he could take him to the Dwarven Kingdom without any problems.

That was how he brought Cai and Keane to Leaf Village, but taking Cethus wasn't the problem.

The true problem was that he didn't have any obligation or reason to bring the Dragon Born with him in the first place.

"If you don't bring me with you, I will vandalize your Guild Headquarters!" Cethus stated.

"... Are you a kid?" Lux sighed. "If you really vandalize this place, I will complain to the Dragon King and have you replaced."

Cethus was about to say more, but after hearing Lux's words, the retort he was about to say became stuck in his throat. Even so, he wanted to go with Lux because he had a feeling that when the Half-Elf returned to the Outer Reaches, he would become stronger than he was now.

The Dragon Born wanted to know how the Half-Elf increased his rank so fast, and for this reason, he wanted to accompany him to raise his rank as well.

"Don't even try to sneak away without me." Cethus glared. "I will make you regret it!"

The Half-Elf crossed his arms over his chest as he looked at the Dragon Born from head to toe.

Cethus was an Intermediate Ranked Initiate, so his fighting ability was decent.

Lux was only at the Initial Stages of the Initiate Rank. If he was compared to Cethus on Rank alone, the Dragon Born was stronger than him. At least, that was true when it came to their combined stats.

However, if the two were to fight, the Half-Elf could wipe the floor with the Dragon Born's face due to how disgusting he was in one-on-one battles.

The reason? Necromancers don't do one-on-one battles!

"Bring him along," Gerhart, who was listening to the conversation at the side commented. "I'm also curious to know how strong a Dragon Born is."

The green-haired Half-Elf never thought that Lux would be bringing him to the Floating Kingdom of the Dragon Race. A day ago, he was shocked at this discovery, but now, he had come to terms with it.

Lux had warned him to not offend the citizens of Karshvar Draconis because it might cause complications later on. Gerhart knew that he still didn't know the rules of the Dragon Race, so he decided to obey Lux's orders.

But, he was also very curious. He wanted to know how strong Dragon Borns were. He had heard about the Dragons, but the Dragon Borns was a new knowledge to him.

Because of this, he wanted to gauge the difference in strength between him and Cethus.

Cethus snorted and gave the green-haired Half-Elf a side-long glance.

"You might be an Initiate like me, but the difference between a filthy mongrel and a Dragon Born is like Heaven and Earth." Cethus sneered. "This is why I dislike those that come from the Lower Realm. All of you are delusional creatures."

Gerhart shrugged because he didn't take Cethus' words to heart. He didn't believe that the Dragon Born would walk away unscathed if the two of them fought a life and death battle.

It was at that moment when an idea popped up inside the Half-Elf's head, which made him laugh internally.

For him, this was a good opportunity to bring Cethus' arrogance down a peg, and it would also allow him to see what the Dragon Born was capable of.

Since Cethus wanted to go with him so badly, then he would give a condition. And if the Dragon Born couldn't meet the condition, then he won't let Cethus go with him.

"Cethus, you want to go with me, right?" Lux flashed the Dragon Born a devilish smile, which made the latter feel that something wasn't right.

"Yes," Cethus replied despite the weird feeling he was getting from the Half-Elf.

"Perfect! Since that is the case, how about you fight me?" Lux answered. "I am a Necromancer, and you are a Dragon Born. I only take strong individuals with me on my journey. If you can beat me then I will allow you to accompany me, deal?"

The Dragon Born narrowed his eyes after hearing Lux's proposal. Truth be told, he also wanted to fight the Half-Elf to teach him a lesson.

'This is a good opportunity to make Lux more obedient to me.' Cethus chuckled internally.

'This is a good opportunity to make Cethus obedient to me,' Lux laughed in his heart.

The Half-Elf and the Dragon Born chuckled as they looked at each other, which made Valerie stare at the two of them as if they had a few screws loose in their heads.

Gerhart, who heard Lux's proposal, found this a very good opportunity to gauge Lux's strength as well.

He had suffered grievous injuries during the Lionheart Tournament and had to escape to the Rowan Tribe to recuperate.

The green-haired Half-Elf heard a few weeks later that a fellow Half-Elf had won the tournament, which made him very interested in Lux.

Now that an opportunity had presented itself to the green-haired Half-Elf, he wouldn't let it go. It wasn't easy for him to personally witness his Guild

Leader's strength, so he would definitely watch Lux's and Cethus' battle without fail.

## **Chapter 540.1: A Very Disgusting Necromancer [Part 1]**

"Let's fight at the base of the mountain," Lux said.

"Sure," Cethus replied. "Don't regret challenging me after I beat you up, okay?"

"Hahaha. I hope you bought life insurance," Lux stated. "I might accidentally kill you."

"Kukuku, You're funny Half-Elf."

"I'd like to see if you will be able to laugh after our battle, Cethus."

The two sneered at each other because both of them were confident in their own strength. Clearly, neither of them believed that their opponent had a chance of winning against them.

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Ten minutes later...

Lux and Cethus stared at each other as they prepared for their duel.

They were a hundred meters away from each other, and Gerhart, whom they decided to be the judge of their battle, was at a safe distance.

Eiko was currently sitting on Valerie's lap. The plain-looking lady and her two handmaidens had also decided to watch the battle.

Truth be told, they didn't believe that Lux could win against Cethus.

Why? The reason was simple.

It was because Cethus was a Dragon Born.

Those who lived in the Floating Kingdom of Karshvar Draconis had an unwavering belief that they were a blessed race.

They believed that the Gods had blessed them with the power to ensure the safety of the world, which allowed them to build a Floating Kingdom that looked down upon the Lower Realm from the sky.

This was the mentality of the Dragons and Dragon Borns, who had never stepped foot outside Karshvar Draconis.

Only the Dragons who liked to roam the world understood that the world was a big place, and there were many powerful individuals that could threaten their existence.

"Don't worry, Lux," Cethus said. "I'll take it easy on you."

"Thank you?" Lux chuckled as he made a come-and-get-me gesture to the Dragon Born who was looking down on him.

Not far away, Valerie lightly patted Eiko's head as she asked the Baby Slime a question.

"Eiko, who do you think will win?" Valerie asked.

"Pa!" Eiko answered in a heartbeat.

"Are you sure about that?"

"Un!"

Valerie smiled faintly because she could understand why Eiko would naturally be on her Papa's side. She was just worried that the Baby Slime would be devastated once she saw her Papa get beaten up by Cethus.

"Ali, Ari, make sure to stop the match if Cethus goes too far," Valerie ordered. "Dragon Borns shouldn't bully those from the Lower Realm."

"Yes, Mistress," Ali replied.

"If the Dragon Born goes too far, I will definitely stop him, Mistress," Ari stated.

The three ladies were not aware that high above the clouds, hundreds of Rankers were also making bets on who would win the duel between Lux and Cethus.

"Who do you think will win?" one of the High-Rankers asked the Old Lady, who was looking down on the two combatants, in a volume that only the old lady could hear.

"The Half-Elf," the Old Lady replied.

"Right," the High-Ranker replied. "Aren't you worried for your grandson?"

"No, actually. This is a good thing." The Old Lady smiled. "Cethus hasn't gone to the Lower Realms, and his biased opinion about Dragon Borns needs to be corrected. Who knows? This lesson might save his life in the future. Also, this is a good opportunity for the new recruits to realize that even if we live above the Lower Realm, that doesn't mean that we are superior to them."

The High Ranker nodded. "Indeed. It will also be a good wake-up call for our own troops."

The High-Ranker glanced at the Dragon Borns who had accompanied them to keep watch over their Princess' escapades. Just like Cethus, they also had a biased opinion of their race, which made them look down on those who lived on the lands below their kingdom.

'I wonder how they will react once they see the outcome of this battle,' the High Ranker thought.

As someone who had fought many life and death battles, he could tell at a glance if someone was proficient in fighting.

People who just trained and sparred with others wouldn't understand the battle experience that could be gained when fighting with your life on the line. This was what separated beginners from veterans, and the Half-Elf that was about to fight Cethus had seen his share of fights that surpassed his current level of strength.

"Ready!" Gerhart shouted as he raised his hand to signal the start of the battle. "Fight!"

As soon as Gerhart gave the signal to fight, Cethus immediately flapped his wings and flew up in the air.

Dragon Borns were proficient in both close combat and ranged battles. However, since they could fly, the majority of them focused on using long-range attacks to decimate their opponents by using their air superiority.

Those who specialized in close combat would find themselves at a great disadvantage against flying creatures because they were simply out of their strike range.

However, Lux was different.

He wasn't just a close combat fighter, he was also a Necromancer.

A very disgusting Necromancer.

Lux raised his right hand as he stared at the Dragon Born in the sky with a sneer.

"Arise!" Lux ordered.

A moment later, his named Creatures, the members of his Covenants, as well as the hundreds of Undead under his command materialized around him.

Cethus was unperturbed as he opened his mouth to use his Dragon's Breath.

'So what if you have many Undead under your command?' Cethus thought as the blazing flames gathered in front of his lips. 'All I need to do is blast them all to ashes!'

However, just as the Dragon Born was about to unleash the signature move of Dragons and Dragon Borns alike, a booming and powerful voice reached his ears.

"Duel [EX]!" Orion roared as he pointed his finger at Cethus, locking him in place.

The Dragon Born immediately felt that something was wrong as the power he was gathering disappeared without a trace.

A second later, he found his body being pulled down from the sky, which made him panic.

Pazuzu took a step forward and raised his spiked mace with a sneer on his face.

The Skeleton Gang Bangers gathered beside him as they eyed the Dragon Born, who was desperately trying to resist the powerful taunt ability that would give Cethus nightmares.

Asmodeus and Lazarus chuckled because they already knew what was coming next.

"It's Gang Bang Time!" Pazuzu shouted, and all the Skeleton Gang Bangers raised their swords and cheered.

""HA-OOH!""

""HA-OOH!""

""HA-OOH!""

Nothing could have prepared Valerie, Gerhart, Ali, Ari, the Rankers, the High-Rankers, as well as Cethus' Grandmother for the scene that they would witness that day.

It was the day they came to understand that the Half-Elf, who had built his Guild Headquarters in the Outer Reaches, was someone that they shouldn't provoke lightly.

## **Chapter 541.2: A Very Disgusting Necromancer [Part 2]**

The proud Dragon Born was pulled down from the sky when Orion activated his Taunt Skill.

When Cethus came within the strike range of the Lazarus, Zagan, Asmodeus, and the Skeleton Mages, he found himself being bombarded by spells and other magical attacks that made him curse internally.

As an Initiate, and a member of the Royal Guard, it was only natural for him to have some abilities that would counter such devastating attacks.



Before the spells could even land on Cethus' body, a golden barrier appeared in front of him, blocking the sudden bombardment that came in his direction. However, a few seconds later, several cracks appeared in the barrier, making the Dragon Born's face turn pale from fright.

Suddenly, Cethus heard a humming sound. His enhanced senses allowed him to discover where the sound was coming from, and this discovery made him clench his teeth as he prepared to withstand four rotating silver blades that were flying in his direction.

"Impaler's Wrath!" Revon shouted as he commanded four of the eight blades that hovered behind him to shatter the barrier that was protecting the Dragon Born from their one-sided barrage.

The moment the four blades hit the barrier, the sound of crystal glasses breaking reverberated in the surroundings.

A second later, several magical attacks, and spells, collided with Cethus' body making him shout in pain.

"Damn you!" Cethus roared. He then flew towards the Jade Golem with all of his might with the intention of shattering it to pieces.

The only thing he could do right now was endure Lux's attacks, because there was nothing he could do about it. However, when he saw the Half-Elf open his mouth, the Dragon Born knew that he was about to get f\*cked.

"Dragon's Breath!"

Lux unleashed the signature move of the Dragons and the Dragon Borns, making everyone that was watching the battle gasp in shock.

"I-Impossible!" Valerie gasped in shock. "J-Just how?!"

She wasn't the only one who reacted this way. Ali, Ari, the Rankers, the High-Rankers, and even Cethus' grandmother were all shocked by the Half-Elf's powerful attack.

The blazing flames engulfed Cethus, and pushed him away from Orion, whose right hand was now glowing golden.

After being pushed nearly two hundred meters away from the Jade Golem, an explosion happened, which sent the Dragon Born crashing towards the ground.

Everything happened so fast that Cethus couldn't understand what had happened to him just now.

Unfortunately for him, Lux had no intention of giving him a breather. Before he could even land on the ground, Ishtar materialized mid-air and gave the Dragon Born a powerful kick, sending him flying in Lux's direction.

"My turn!" Lazarus blinked in front of Cethus and activated his magic attack at point-blank-range.

"Cone of Cold!"

The Great Flame Skull sprayed a cone of ice and snow at the pitiful Dragon Born, making the latter's blood turn cold.

The attack had made Cethus' entire body rigid, as he received Lazarus' passive ability, Cold Flames. Any attack that the Great Flame Skull made was imbued by this power, which was similar to Diablo's Ethereal ability.

Lazarus didn't linger long and blinked away because he had already done his part. There were still others who wanted to have their turn, and they were eagerly waiting to have a piece of the arrogant Dragon Born, who looked down on those that belonged to the so-called "Lower Realm".

Before Cethus could even break free from the cold spell that nearly paralyzed him, the Jade Golem appeared in front of him with its arm pulled back and ready to smack him to oblivion.

"Gaia Smash!" Orion shouted as he smashed his fist into Cethus' chest, sending the Dragon Born spiraling to the ground.

A loud booming sound was heard as the Cethus' body collided with the ground, creating a crater that was dozens of meters wide.

"Gwark!" Cethus grunted as blood spilled from the corner of his lips.

If earlier he was just nearly paralyzed, now, he was completely paralyzed.

The Dragon Born couldn't utter a single word, as his teeth started to chatter due to the cold flames that lingered on his body and the injuries he received from the attacks of Lux's subordinates.

Although Cethus couldn't move, he could still use his other senses, mainly his sense of sight and hearing.

Because of this, he heard the sound of rattling bones that were closing in on him, and for some reason, his sixth sense started to scream at him. Cethus knew that something very very veeeeeeeeeeeery dangerous was approaching him, but there was nothing he could do about it because he was paralyzed.

Half a minute later, the Dragon Born saw several Skeleton Gangbangers look down at him with keen interest.

"S-St-Stoâ€p," Cethus barely managed to stutter, as he pushed himself to try and voice out his thoughts out loud.

Naturally, the Skeleton Gang Bangers ignored him and proceeded to Gang Bang him!

"Mistress, cover your eyes!" Ali shouted as she hurriedly covered Valerie's eyes with both of her hands.

"You too, Eiko, cover your eyes!" Ari said as she covered the baby slime's eyes, making the latter tilt her head in confusion.

After making sure that Valerie's and Eiko's eyes were covered properly, Ali and Ari shifted their gaze to the Dragon Born, who was being stabbed repeatedly in his backside.

"Oh my, so Big!" Ali commented.

"Wow! Look at them go!" Ari stated.

The two handmaidens continued to mutter and gasp as they watched Cethus, whom they didn't like, get stabbed repeatedly without mercy.

If not for the fact that the Dragon Born had called Valerie an ugly duckling, they might have pitied him, and even asked Lux to stop his minions from torturing the poor soul.

However, since Cethus had committed a capital sin by mocking the Princess of Karshvar Draconis, they deemed that what was happening to the Dragon Born was an appropriate punishment for looking down on their mistress.

High above the skies, the Rankers subconsciously put their hands on their backside, as if they were worried that they would suffer the same fate as Cethus.

One of the High-Rankers lightly coughed as he glanced at the Old Lady, who was looking down on her grandson with a complicated look on her face.

"We will not report Cethus' earlier disrespect to Her Royal Highness," she said. "I think this is enough punishment. Don't you think so, everyone?"

"Agreed," one of the High-Rankers replied.

"My lips are sealed," another High-Ranker commented. "You boys, make sure that whatever you see in Brokeback Mountain, stays in Brokeback Mountain, okay?"

""Yes, Sir!""

Truth be told, the Rankers were very tempted to tell their Dragon King of what Cethus had said to their Princess. However, after seeing the horrifying scene on the ground, they thought that the Dragon Born had received the punishment he deserved, so they no longer wanted to find trouble for him.

They only looked at him with pity because they knew that the Dragon Born would never be the same after this duel.

Ten agonizing minutes later...

"Everyone, stop," Lux ordered, and the Skeleton Gang Bangers immediately stopped what they were doing.

The battle-hardened Undeads moved to the side as their Master walked past them.

"Well then, Cethus, do you surrender, or do you want this to continue?" Lux asked. "I'm sure that my Skeletons Gang Bangers will be more than happy to begin Round 2."

"I ... Con... cede," Cethus said through gritted teeth.

Lux nodded to acknowledge the Dragon Born's surrender.

"Now, since you lost, you will stay here in the Guild Headquarters, okay?"

"No... take me with you. Please, take... me with you!"

Cethus tried to prop himself up from the ground, not caring about the injuries he received from Lux's minions.

Since Lux had no intention of killing him, the Skeleton Gang Bangers had held back, and only screwed the Dragon Born a little.

Compared to what they did to Jasper, the Prodigy from the Xynnar War Pact, the Dragon Born got off easy.

"You... want to go with me?" Lux arched an eyebrow as he looked at the Dragon Born who was struggling to stand up, but was unable to do so.

"Yes!" Cethus replied as he clenched his fists. He was now on all fours, facing Lux, and the arrogance he had in the past could no longer be seen in his face.

"Please, take... me... with you!" Cetus pleaded as he raised his head to look straight into Lux's eyes. "I want... to be... strong too."

Lux originally wanted to say no, but after seeing Cethus' determined gaze, it reminded him of the time when he was still weak and powerless.

The time when he could only watch in envy as the young boys and girls of Wildgarde Stronghold went to Elysium in order to explore that mysterious and amazing world, leaving him behind.

## **Chapter 542: Make A Wish**

"Fine," Lux stated. "We will leave tomorrow. For now, recover as much as you can."

The Half-Elf then glanced in the direction of his Baby Slime and telepathically ordered Eiko to summon Whitey (Angel Slime), and Mara (Water Slime), to help heal Cethus' injuries.

Unknown to them, the Old Lady, who had seen her grandson's pitiful state, looked at the Half-Elf with a grateful expression. Although she was a little angry about how the Half-Elf had tormented the grandson she had looked after since he was a child, she understood that Cethus needed a setback in order to realign him to the right path.

"Arrogance without strength is not arrogance, but stupidity," the Old Lady muttered. "All of you remember this. Before you act high and mighty, make sure that you have the strength to back it up, or else you will just look like a fool. Do I make myself clear?"

""Yes Commander!""

The Old Lady briefly nodded to acknowledge her subordinates' reply. She had cast a wide-area stealth, and sound-proofing spell, which prevented anyone from detecting their presence.

Because of this, she wasn't worried that they would be seen or heard by anyone on the island.

Only those that had become High-Rankers would be able to see past the illusion that she created.

'Lux Von Kaizer,' the Old Lady mused. 'Why did Keoza bestow his token upon you? Is it because you are a Necromancer? No. I believe there is a deeper meaning in this. That child would not randomly choose a Half-Elf on a whim.'

The Old Lady pondered, but she couldn't come up with a good answer to explain the Crystal Dragon's decision to allow Lux to come to Karhsvar Draconis, and build his Guild Headquarters in the Dragon Kingdom.

'Well, whatever reason that is, I will set it aside for now,' the Old Lady thought. 'I just hope that my stupid grandson will be able to learn something by accompanying you to whatever place you want to go.'

For her, letting Cethus leave Karshvar Draconis to explore the world was a good thing. She believed that it would allow her Grandson to see many places, meet many people, and experience many different things, which would ultimately allow him to grow, not only in strength, but in character as well.

For now, she prayed that Cethus losing to Lux would become a turning point, and allow the Dragon Born to realize that there would always be someone stronger than him in the world.

That night, Lux sat on the roof of his castle, looking at the starry sky above his head. His original plan was to leave during the day. But, since Cethus had managed to convince him to bring him along, he decided to let the Dragon Born recuperate for a night before they went to the Kingdom of Gweliven.

"Pa!" Eiko said when she saw a shooting star trail across the horizon.

"Make a wish, Eiko." Lux lightly patted the Baby Slime's head. "Whenever you see a shooting star, you should make a wish. Who knows? The God of Games might just hear you and grant it."

"Okay!" Eiko replied before closing her eyes to make a wish.

Lux didn't know what the Baby Slime wished for, and simply waited for her to finish.

It was at this moment when he heard a familiar voice behind him.

"I wish that I can sneak away next time as well! I also wish to have an obedient and cute Baby Slime, just like Eiko!"

Valerie said her wishes with her hands clasped together in prayer.

Lux couldn't help but smile after seeing the plain-looking girl pray enthusiastically with her eyes closed.

'I guess I'll pick a couple of eggs from the nursery in the Leaf Village and bring them here,' Lux thought.

Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew past them.

With a cry of shock, Valerie lost her balance and slid down the roof due to how strong the wind was.

Just as she was about to fall over to the edge, a hand reached out to grab her hand and pulled her back to safety.

When Valerie came to her senses, she found herself being held by the red-headed teenager who had prevented her fall.

"It's fine, you're safe now," Lux said as he tried to reassure the plain-looking girl that had almost fallen off from the highest point of his Guild Headquarters.

"T-Thank you," Valerie said. "You saved me."

"You're welcome," Lux replied.

Suddenly Valerie's body stiffened when she finally regained her composure.

"H-hand!" Valerie nearly shouted when she saw that her hand was still locked in Lux's own hand.

"Oh, did I grab you too tightly?" Lux asked as he slowly let go of Valerie's hand.

As soon as her hand was free, Valerie felt relief, as well as a small amount of loss that she couldn't understand. However, she hastily put these thoughts aside as she hurriedly left the scene to return to the guest room.

Lux didn't understand why Valerie ran away, but he thought that it was just due to the fright she received from almost falling down from such a height.

Of course, Valerie's body wasn't as fragile as it looked. Even if she fell from such a height, the most she would get is a light injury, which would easily be healed by a spell or two.

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Inside the Guestroom of Lux's Guild Headquarters...

"Ali, Ari, we have to leave now!" Valerie shouted as soon as she pushed the door open. "Hurry, we need to leave before it's too late!"

Ali and Ari, who were busy preparing a bath for their mistress, looked at her with dumbfounded expressions on their faces.

"Leave?" Ali asked back. "I thought you said that we will leave tomorrow when Lux and the others also left this place?"

"No! We need to leave now!" Valerie stated firmly. "If you don't want to go, I'll leave by myself!"



As if to prove that she was serious, the plain-looking girl turned around to run away, leaving Ali and Ari looking at each other in confusion.

"Let's go," Ali said as she stopped what she was doing. "We can't let the princess leave by herself. I'll follow her first, and you go to find Lux and tell him of our departure. Although it was short, he was a good host, so we can't just leave without saying our goodbyes."

Ari nodded her head in understanding and went to find the Half-Elf, who was still on the roof of the castle and watching the stars in the sky with Eiko.

The two handmaidens didn't know what happened for their Mistress to be this adamant about leaving the Outer Reaches during the night.

They would only find out what truly happened a day later, when the extremely beautiful, and extremely gullible, Princess of Karshvar Draconis, returned to the Capital City of the Dragon Race.

## **Chapter 543: Everyone Needs A Baby Slime In Their Lives**

"Although our stay has been very short, our Mistress wanted to tell you that she enjoyed every minute of it," Ari said with a smile. "Thank you for your hospitality and generosity."

"The pleasure is mine," Lux replied. "Tell Valencia that she is welcome to visit the Guild Headquarters anytime. Unfortunately, I am not always around, but I'll leave a message to the Kobolds and let them know to treat you as our VIP guests whenever you visit."

After doing a bit more small talk, Ari finally left to catch up with Ali and her Mistress, Valerie, who was determined to return to the capital city as soon as possible.

A few hours later, Lux went to his room to rest because when morning came, he would take Gerhart and Cethus to the Kingdom of Gweliven to meet his future Guild Secretary, Emma, as well as Collete and the others, whom he hadn't seen for quite some time.

He had delayed making contact with them for as long as he could, but since he was about to go visit another kingdom, he thought that now was the best time to see them again.

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Morning the next day...

"Are the two of you ready to go?" Lux asked his two companions, who seemed very eager to embark on a journey alongside him.

"Although I don't know where we are going, I have a feeling that we'll find plenty of excitement along the way," Gerhart commented.

Cethus only nodded his head and didn't say anything.

After being beaten one-sidedly by Lux, the arrogant Dragon Born had no choice but to admit that the Half-Elf was stronger than him. Because of this, he decided to no longer act high and mighty in front of Lux, and simply nodded his head to affirm his intention of coming with him.

"Accept my invitation," Lux ordered as he looked at Cethus, whom he planned to add to his party.

Several rows of text appeared in front of Cethus, asking him if he wanted to join the "Ars Goetia Party", which he accepted without a second thought.

After confirming that the Dragon Born was a member of his party, Lux pressed his closed fist over his chest and shouted.

"Open! Heaven's Gate!"

A second later, Lux, Gerhart, and Cethus were bathed in white light before disappearing from the lands of Karhsvar Draconis.

High above the sky, a lone High Ranker hovered with her hands behind her back.

This was none other than Cethus' Grandmother, Faustina, who had stayed behind to see her grandson go with the Half-Elf whom she recognized as one of the elite members of the young generation.

Faustina smiled as she muttered a few words to bless her grandson, who had decided to leave their homeland to find his true self.

"May the friendships you make,

Be those which endure,

And all of your gray clouds

Be small ones for sure.

And trusting in Him

To Whom we all pray,

May a song fill your heart,

Every step of the way."

Faustina smiled before disappearing from the skies of the Outer Reaches. She hoped that the next time she saw her grandson, he would no longer be the arrogant Dragon Born, who knew nothing about the world he called the "Lower Realm".

When Lux, Gerhart, and Cethus opened their eyes, they found themselves in the plaza of Leaf Village.

"Dwarves?" Cethus frowned. "And... so many of them?"

Gerhart, who heard Cethus' words, looked at the "little people" with great interest.

"This is the first time I've seen Dwarves," Gerhart commented. "They're shorter than I thought."

Lux could only chuckle after hearing Gerhart's comments. However, he didn't forget to remind the green-haired Half-Elf to not call the Dwarves short to their faces.

"They're so weak," Cethus stated. "What kind of place is this? The strongest I can see in this town are Grade-A Apostles. The majority of people living here aren't even Apostles. Are you sure you didn't come to the wrong place?"

Cethus originally thought that Lux was going to go to a very dangerous place in order to become stronger. However, after seeing that the inhabitants of the town were people that could drop dead if he punched them, the Dragon Born felt cheated.

"This is called a Beginner's Village," Lux replied. "It is the place where those who are aspiring to become Apostles gather."

The Half-Elf then pointed to a group of Dwarves who were chatting happily as they walked. From what he could hear, they were talking about going to the Aspiration Plains to hunt some Horned Rabbits.

"As you can see, those are just Dwarf children," Lux explained. "Once they become Apostles, they will leave this place to move on to the next town."

Cethus, who listened to Lux's explanation from start to end, snorted.

"How primitive," Cethus replied. "But, then again, I wasn't expecting much from Low Landers anyway."

Just as the Half-Elf was about to retort to Cethus' overbearing remark, two little Dwarf girls called out to Lux and Eiko in the distance, which made the Half-Elf stop whatever he was planning to say.

"Laura, Livia," Lux said as soon as he saw Sid's two little sisters, who were learning the art of Alchemy under Grandma Annie.

"Big Brother Lux, have you been well since we last saw each other?" Laura asked as she approached the Half-Elf with a smile.

"Eiko! It has been a while," Livia greeted the Baby Slime who happily jumped into her hands. "How are you?"

"I'm fine!" Eiko replied with a smile.

Laura's and Livia's two Baby Slimes, Cora and Nora, waved at their Fairy Princess and greeted her excitedly.

"Eyah!"

"Eyah!"

Eiko giggled as she greeted them back as well.

"Eyah!"

While the three Slimes were having a nice chat with each other, Lux crouched down to look at the two girls at eye level.

"I've been too busy as of late and only found a bit of time to visit here before I leave again," Lux replied to Laura's question. "Tell me, has anything interesting happened in Leaf Village while I was away?"

Laura and Livia exchanged a glance before nodding their heads.

"The Village Chief has been constantly telling Grandma Annie that it was time to expand and build more houses," Laura answered. "He said that it is time to make Leaf Village a town, and he is asking everyone to help build more houses to accommodate more people."

"A town?" Lux rubbed his chin. "I guess Sir Cedwyn is really determined to make Leaf Village an important hub for the future. The Old Dwarf had already told Lux about his plan, and the Half-Elf didn't find anything wrong with it."

The only thing that Lux had forbidden was the mention of his Guild's true name publicly because it might cause unwarranted attention, which was very dangerous for them at this point in time.

"What did Grandma Annie say about expanding Leaf Village and making it a town?" Lux inquired.

"Grandma Annie said that it's fine as long as Uncle Cedwyn can handle managing a town," Livia replied. "The other Elders of Leaf Village also like the idea, so they are planning to start building new houses at the end of this month."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. As long as the Village Head, as well as the Elders, all agreed to the expansion, it would mean that Leaf Village would turn into Leaf Town within a few months.

"How is Slime Paradise?" Lux asked again. "Are the Slimes doing well?"

"They are doing extremely well," Laura answered. "There are many new eggs as of late. They are all waiting for their future Masters to hatch them."

Lux smiled after hearing Laura's answer. One of the reasons why he had come to Leaf Village was to get a few eggs that he could bring to his Guild Headquarters in Karshvar Draconis.

Valencia had mentioned in passing that she wanted to have a Baby Slime like Eiko, so Lux decided to bring a few eggs and have her hatch one of them.

Although they hadn't been around each other for very long, Lux felt that Valencia was a good person. Eiko also got along with the plain-looking lady, which meant that she had gotten the Baby Slime's approval.

By now, Gerhart and Cethus had noticed that almost all of the Dwarfs around them were carrying Baby Slimes on their heads or shoulders.

Originally, they thought that Lux was weird for letting Eiko stay on top of his head. However, after seeing the Dwarves around them, they found that it might actually be a very normal thing in the Village they were currently in.

"Let's go to Slime Paradise," Lux stated. "I need to get a few eggs for my friends."

"Sounds like a good idea!" Laura clapped.

"Indeed!" Livia nodded. "Everyone needs a Baby Slime in their lives."

The two little Dwarves then grabbed one of Lux's hands and pulled him in the direction of the Nursery for the Slimes.

Naturally, the Half-Elf didn't resist and allowed the two little girls to pull him along.

Gerhart and Cethus followed behind the Half-Elf while shaking their heads. Clearly, they weren't too impressed with the Baby Slimes, which were very weak beasts in their eyes. For them, Slimes were just pets, who couldn't do anything without their owners.

Well, this kind of mentality toward one of the weakest Monsters in existence was a very normal thing. In fact, the Solaian Dwarves, who had appeared in Leaf Village, had been just like Gerhart and Cethus in the past.

However, after seeing that these Slimes were very different from the ones they knew, they decided to raise one of their own and always took them on their adventures.

If Gerhart and Cethus had seen Eiko in action, the two of them would certainly change their minds about Slimes. Unfortunately for them, the Baby Slime on Lux's head didn't participate in the Half-Elf's duel with the Dragon Born, preventing them from understanding how strong Eiko really was.

If only they knew, perhaps they would have taken this matter seriously and would also have started raising a Slime of their own, which had now become a tradition in Leaf Village.

## Chapter 544: I Want One Too!

A few minutes later, the group arrived at Slime Paradise.

The two little Dwarfs dragged Lux to the nursery where the eggs were located. Along the way, they saw several Dwarfs holding Baby Slimes that just hatched from the eggs with great care and happiness, making Eiko smile brightly.

"I can't believe this, they are just Slimes... why the happy faces?" Cethus muttered. "It's not like they hatched a Phoenix or something."

Gerhart didn't share the same thoughts as Cethus, but he was also wondering what was so good about Slimes.

Cai also had a Baby Golden Slime with her, and from what the green-haired Half-Elf could see, the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe genuinely loved Fei Fei. Naturally, Fei Fei loved her as well, which made Gerhart wonder if there was more to the Slimes than what someone could see on the surface.

"Eiko, can you pick a dozen eggs for me?" Lux asked. "We will bring them back to the Guild Headquarters."

"Pa!" Eiko nodded.

She then jumped off her Papa's head and crawled toward the eggs in front of her. To Gerhart's and Cethus' surprise, the eggs came in different colors, like

that of a rainbow. However, the most common color was blue, similar to Eiko's color.

There were eggs that had more than one color, and some even had four colors on them, which made Lux wonder if the coloring of the shells had a deeper meaning.

But since he wasn't a Slime expert, he just left the task to the expert, which was none other than Eiko.

After pressing her forehead against the third egg, the Baby Slime nodded her head in satisfaction and swallowed it whole. She then proceeded to check the other eggs one by one, until she had stored a dozen eggs inside of her body.

"Pa!"

"All done? Good job, Eiko."

"Un!"

After getting a dozen eggs, they left Slime Paradise and visited Lux's Master, Randolph.

Just as the Half-Elf expected, the old Dwarf clung to him like a leech after being informed that he was going on a journey to get him a Transcendent Flame.

"I knew that my eyes didn't deceive me when I chose you as my Disciple," Randolph said as he wiped his snot and tears on Lux's clothes. "Don't worry. As long as I get the Transcendent Flames, I'll start crafting weapons and armor for our entire Guild. I'm sure that my old pals will die of jealousy once they learn that I acquired a Transcendent Flame before them!"

"Master, I am just going to look," Lux replied helplessly. "There's no guarantee that the Transcendent Flame is still there."

Randolph understood what his Disciple was saying.

However, deep inside, he hoped that the Transcendent Flame still hadn't found a Master and had remained undiscovered since Keoza saw it.

"Are you going there now?" Randolph asked. "Let me just close my shop. I will start packing as well."



"Eh? You're coming with me, Master?"

"Of course! A Transcendent Flame will only recognize one Master. I must be there to tame it if I want to make it mine."

Lux tilted his head to the side when he heard the word tame.

"Is the Transcendent Flame a monster?" Lux inquired.

"Silly boy, of course not," Randolph replied. "It's more of a spirit. A Transcendent Spirit! It will only acknowledge one Master throughout its lifetime. Once its partner dies, it will disappear and be reborn again a hundred years later."

"I see." Lux nodded. "Very well, Master. Make the necessary preparations. I will just talk to Grandma Annie and the Village Chief to discuss a few things with them. When we're done, we'll leave right away."

Randolph nodded. "Don't worry. I won't take long. Go and visit the others first."

The old Dwarf hurriedly started packing his tools for the upcoming journey. For Blacksmiths like him, acquiring a Transcendent Flame was a dream come true.

He would gladly drop anything he was doing in order to accompany Lux to find the elusive symbol of the Transcendent Blacksmiths who were able to forge Legendary Equipment.

For him, this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. The whereabouts of the Transcendent Flames were just as elusive as a needle in a haystack. As long as there was a chance of finding one, all the craftsmen in the world, including Alchemists, would fight to get a Transcendent Flame.

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Grandma Annie's Candy Shop...

"What?!" Grandma Annie gasped in shock after hearing Lux's story about the Transcendent Flame. "You're going to look for a Transcendent Flame in the Wanid Kingdom?!"

The Alchemist of Leaf Village looked at the Half-Elf with bloodshot eyes.

"Do you know the location of another Transcendent Flame?" Grandma Annie asked. "I want one too!"

"Um..." Lux didn't know how to answer Grandma Annie's question because the one that had seen the Transcendent Flame was Keoza and not him.

As the Half-Elf was thinking of a proper answer for the kind Grandma who had looked after him while he was in Leaf Village, Keoza spoke directly inside his head.

'Bring her along,' Keoza stated. 'I forgot to tell you that I didn't see just one spark in the Wanid Kingdom—I saw two.'

'Eh? I thought Transcendent Flames were rare?' Lux replied. 'How come two of them were born in the same Kingdom?'

Keoza chuckled because the Half-Elf didn't know the requirements for the birth of a Transcendent Flame.

The Wanid Kingdom was a Kingdom loved by Spirits. Giving birth to one, two, or three Transcendent Flames was highly possible for a Kingdom that had preserved its relationships with the Spirits and had lived as one with nature.

It was the Kingdom of Druids and Shamans, who used the power of Nature and the elements to protect their Kingdom against invaders.

"A-Actually Grandma Annie, I also know the whereabouts of a second Transcendent Flame," Lux stuttered. "Do you want to come with us?"

"I'm going!" Grandma Annie almost kissed the Half-Elf on the lips after telling her that he might know the location of another Transcendent Flame.

Just like Blacksmiths, Alchemists also relied on the power of flames in order to craft pills, potions, and other consumables that helped those who took them in more ways than one.

"Laura, Livia, both of you start packing as well," Grandma Annie said to the two little Dwarves who were feeding candies to their Baby Slimes. "You're coming with me."

""Yay!"" The two little girls clapped happily because they initially thought that Grandma Annie would leave them behind.

Laura and Livia headed to their rooms with excited expressions on their faces. This was the first time that they would go on an adventure outside the territory of Leaf Village.

They were Grandma Annie's disciples and were also learning the arts of Alchemy. The kind old lady wanted the two of them to gain experience in the real world and not stay cooped up in Leaf Village.

Grandma Annie didn't want to raise Laura and Livia to be like greenhouse flowers that didn't know the danger around them.

She believed that as long as the two little girls were able to overcome the hardships they would encounter as they grew older, the two of them would be able to surpass her as the new generation of Alchemists in Leaf Village.