

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

## **- Chapter 635: - 666**

### **Pride Of A Dragon Born |**

#### **Chapter 635: Pride Of A Dragon Born**

When I turned ten years old, I sincerely believed that I was blessed to be born as a Dragon Born.

We were a part of the proud members of the Dragon Race, for the blood of Dragons flowed in our veins. This made us stronger than the other races in the world, and it allowed us to grow at a very fast rate.

As I grew older, the pride I felt in my heart turned into arrogance. I always thought that the Low-Landers, or those who lived in the lands beneath our floating Kingdom, were just second-rate races.

They were those who weren't blessed to be born as Dragons or Dragon Borns, making them inferior to our race.

However, this belief changed the moment the Half-Elf, Lux Von Kaizer, arrived in Karshvar Draconis.

For better or worse, the Dragon King had chosen me to become his supervisor, watching his every move, and making sure that he didn't do anything stupid that would cause trouble for our Kingdom.

At first, I treated Lux like an animal. Something lower than a dog that only existed for my amusement. But, after the incident that happened in the Outer Reaches, I found out that the lowly dog that I thought was harmless, was actually a shameless bastard, hiding in sheep's clothing.

Then, one thing led to another and little by little, I noticed that he was growing at an alarming rate.

It came to the point that I wondered if he was consuming some kind of elixir that speeds up his growth, allowing him to surpass, even those of the Dragon Race.

I thought that maybe, if I knew his secret, I would be able to become a Ranker in no time at all, so I decided to accompany him on his journey.

However, he had a condition.

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"Cethus, you wanted to go with me, right?" Lux asked.

"Yes," I replied despite the weird feeling I felt back then due to how confident Lux sounded.

"Perfect! Since that is the case, how about you fight me? 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?"

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I accepted his condition thinking that I would easily win against him, and make him obedient to me.

However, I was wrong.

Very wrong.

I thought we were going to fight a one-on-one battle, but the bastard actually summoned his Undead Creatures and used some kind of taunting skill to force me to fight them in close combat.

On that day, I realized just who I was dealing with, and on that same day, I made a vow never to fight Lux in a one-on-one duel again.

Why?

Because the bastard doesn't fight one-on-one duels!

After my loss, I genuinely felt that if I let Lux leave Karshvar Draconis without me, I would lose the one and only clue I had for how to get strong in a short period of time.

Because of this, I did something that I never thought I would do in my life.

I begged him to take me.

It was the most humiliating, and shameful display I had ever made in my life, and I thought that if I could only endure the feelings of shame in my heart, I would be able to become stronger once I found out Lux's secret.

Perhaps it was out of pity, or perhaps he was thinking of something else, but he did take me with him.

Back then, I was confident that although I lost to Lux, I would be able to surpass him once I became a Ranker.

The battle in the Shaufell Plains was perhaps the first time that I thought I was going to die.

The Crimson Berserker Mantis was truly powerful, and there had been more than one occasion when I felt that I should flee and leave everyone behind.

For me, they were just a means to an end, and they were not worth risking my life to save.

Just as I was about to leave everyone behind, I saw a miracle happen.

Lux revived the Giant Termite, and it transformed into a powerful Demi-Creature that he named ALL-MITE.

Perhaps, in the eyes of the Ancient Dragons, as well as the Saints, the battle between a Deimos-Ranked Beast, and a Low-Ranker, was just a bunch of kids playing sword fighting.

However, for those of the same Rank, and below that Rank, it was a battle against Power Houses that decided our life and death.

ALL-MITE had won that day, and it made me rejoice internally that he appeared before I left the battlefield to save my life.

Because of this, I was able to continue my journey with Lux, and even managed to be rewarded with a Pseudo-Legendary Spear and a Skill Book that allowed me to learn the skill, Gravity Domain.

A skill that was tailored for me, which greatly increased my fighting prowess.

After saving the residents of the Town of Abingdon, we continued our journey to the Blackrock Clan, where the Transcendent Flames were located.

Little did we know that we had unknowingly arrived at a wrong time.

Thinking back, perhaps we didn't arrive at the wrong time.

We arrived at the perfect time to join the war, and it made me think that it was a good opportunity to steal the Transcendent Flames, while the main bulk of the Orc Army was dealing with the Humans from the Haca Dynasty.

Unfortunately, Flamma was there and heard my plan, which led to me fighting him in a duel

For the second time in my life, I lost again.

I tried to brush off the loss thinking that since Flamma was a Deimos-Ranked Alpha Monster, my loss was justified.

But, it still didn't sit well with me.

After tasting defeat against Lux, I vowed to never lose again.

However, that vow sounded like a joke after Flamme crushed any remaining pride that I had.

Fortunately, Lux also defeated Flamma, so I was spared from falling into depression.

For some reason, I found satisfaction in having the one that bullied me, get bullied back with the same tactic that was used against me.

My only regret was that I wasn't there when the Skeleton Gangbangers screwed Flamma ten times over.

Oh! How I wished I had seen that!

I would have definitely recorded it with a Recording Crystal, making it one of my prized possessions.

After Flamma was soundly defeated, Lux went to the front lines, alongside the Orc Army, leaving us behind.

I was gravely injured, and the others were tasked to look after me while I healed.

That was also when I started to pay close attention to the green-haired Half-Elf, Gerhart, whom Lux had recruited to his guild not long ago.

He gave off the presence of a lone wolf. Someone who didn't need anyone to look after him, and would simply lick his wounds if he ever received any injuries during his journey.

Since we were both of the same Rank, I definitely thought that if it was him that I was fighting against then I would win easily, or so I thought.

As I propped myself up from the ground, and wiped away the blood that flowed from my lips, I was starting to hate Half-Elves.

'Get a grip, Cethus. We can't always be on the losing end, right?,' I said internally as I stood up to face the green-haired Half-Elf whose presence descended on me like a mountain.

Although my instincts were screaming at me that I should concede and accept my defeat, my heart, and soul said otherwise.

"Hey, Gerhart, there's something I've wanted to tell you for a long time," I said with a smile.

"You talk too much," Gerhart replied. "But, I guess I'll hear you out before I smash your face with my fist."

I didn't know what came over me at that time, but I just laughed.

A laughter that came from the heart.

"That's right," I said as I raised my middle finger at the green-haired Half-Elf, which I had seen Lux do to the Vanguard Commander, Ronan, of the Haca Dynasty.

I didn't know what it meant, but for some reason, I felt that now was the time to use the gesture, as well as the words Eiko would often say whenever Lux wasn't paying attention to her.

"Come, F\*cker!" I declared as I, too, put my life on the line to fight for what little pride, and dignity still resided in my heart. "You're going down!"

## Chapter 636: Gerhart's Favored Enemy

Revenge.

That was my sole purpose in life.

Nothing would make me happier than to crush the heart of the Elf that fancied my mother, and left her to fend for herself in a Kingdom that looked down on the Human race.

I, who had been born from such a union, was scorned by the Elves for being a filthy half-blood, whom they looked upon as a stain in their noble bloodline.

This was why I didn't hesitate to use one of the prized treasures of the Elves, the Kinslayer, to kill the arrogant Prince of the Elven Race, Enlil Neifion, who bore the same name as the man that I wished to kill.

Unfortunately, the bastard chose to save his life and teleported away from the tournament before I could even give him the killing blow.

The Patriarch of the Rowan Tribe, Sir Maximilian, protected me from the demands of the Elves, who wished for me to be surrendered into their custody.

Since both sides refused to budge, I decided to compromise and surrendered the Kinslayer to them.

Although this wasn't what the Elves wanted, they were still satisfied that one of the treasures of their kingdom had been returned to them.

However, what they took was merely an ornamental sword, which had lost its true power.

A power that I took for myself, and kept it a secret from everyone, including the Saint that had taken me under his wing.

While I was recovering from the backlash of using Kinslayer in the Tournament, I secretly studied the Martial Technique called Demon Slayer Art.

It was a Martial Arts that was developed in order to slay the Demons that had once wreaked havoc in the land.

However, the price one had to pay for using such a formidable technique was just as formidable. If used for a long time, it would cause irreparable damage to the body, which could not be healed, even if they used the strongest elixirs in existence.

There were ten gates that needed to be opened in order to use this technique to the fullest. Each gate could be activated by releasing the trigger which was located at the tip of each finger.

One could even say that if someone lost a finger then it would be impossible to activate the full power of the Demon Slayer Art because they would not be able to open the Final Gate, which was called the Gate of Demons.

As of right now, I can only open three gates.

The First Gate allows me to raise all of my stats by 200%, tripling my power.

The Second Gate raises my stats to 300%.

Likewise, the Third Gate raises my stats to 400%

This was similar to activating a Berserk ability, but there was only one major difference.

This technique may have been called the Demon Slayer Arts, but this only came to be because this art was created to target Demons.

When one was mastering this skill, they would need to give an offering of the creature whom they wanted to become the object of their hatred.

And the race I hated the most were Elves.

I offered the blood of Elves, which made this technique very dangerous to the, aptly named, "Favored Enemy" that I had chosen.

Not only did this raise my stats and triple them, it also doubled my attack power when I was fighting against Elves.

If I was fighting against Enlil, the Elven Prince of the Elswyth Kingdom, a single punch from me was enough to smash his head like a watermelon.

Unfortunately, I was not fighting against Elves.

I was fighting against a Dragon Born, so the extra damage of this ability didn't activate. However, that was enough.

The current me was enough to overpower my foe, who had never in his life truly fought with his life on the line.

"Come, F\*cker! You're going down!"

I sneered in my heart after seeing Cethus try to embolden himself in order to fight me.

"Very well," I replied as I took a step forward, instantly making me reappear a meter away from the Dragon Born who still didn't know whom he was dealing with.

With one full-powered punch that contained my will to win, I smashed my fist against Cethus' shoulder.

This was the first time I was using this technique in combat, and I didn't want to accidentally kill the Dragon Born. Because of this, I was limited to attacking places that wouldn't instantly kill him.

Even if his arm was obliterated, it could still be regrown if a high-ranking Cleric used the spell, Greater Restoration, on it.

Just as I thought that the battle was over, I suddenly felt my entire body become heavy, slowing the speed of my punch by a second.

At that moment, my fist hit something hard, which made me wince in pain.

The blow had sent Cethus flying for dozens of meters before he crashed and skidded across the ground for hundreds of meters before coming to a complete stop.

Just as I thought that the battle was finally over, the Dragon Born slowly propped himself up from the ground, while coughing up blood.

I could tell from his pained expression, and the blood that was flowing from the corner of his lips, that my blow had dealt significant damage to him. Even so, I also saw the burning determination in the Dragon Born's eyes which made me click my tongue.



Not far from us, I could see Lux, wearing some kind of armor, and hovering in the sky with his arms crossed over his chest.

I was certain that he was paying close attention to the battle to ensure that Cethus and I wouldn't die from our exchange, which was something I appreciated.

Just as I was about to deal another painful blow to the Dragon Born, Cethus opened his lips to talk.

"Just what do you think you're doing?" Cethus asked. "Aiming for my shoulders so that you don't accidentally kill me? It seems that you really think that your puny punch could break past my Dragon Scales. It seems that you still don't understand your position, Half-Elf."

I wanted to laugh after hearing the Dragon Born's words. If I hadn't been holding back, my last punch would have definitely broken his ribs, and caused him serious internal injuries.

But, just as I was about to mock him, my body froze as the earth under my feet shattered.

"You finally noticed it?" Cethus laughed as he leaned on his black spear to support his body. "You should have knocked me out when you had the chance."

"Now you've done it," I replied as my expression became solemn. "Don't cry if I accidentally kill you, okay?"

High above my head, similar to a miniature black sun, a giant gravity ball that increased the gravity in its surroundings by five times, started to take effect on my body.

Although I didn't know how Cethus was able to create such a big gravity ball, while taking my one-sided beating, I realized one thing, and one thing only.

If I didn't end the duel in less than a minute, the one who would lose this battle would be me.

Fortunately, a minute was enough to wrap things up.

"Second Gate," I said as I bit the index finger of my right hand. "Unlock."

Playtime's over.

It was time for a take over.

## **Chapter 637: I Still Haven't Used My Full Power**

As soon as Gerhart unlocked his Second Gate, he vanished from where he stood and reappeared in front of Cethus.

The Dragon Born had anticipated the Half-Elf's move, but there was nothing he could do but grit his teeth and bear the consequences.

Cethus increased the gravity of his Domain to six times and coated himself with a Vector Shield to deflect Gerhart's blow.

When Gerhart's blow connected with Cethus' shield, blood sprayed in the air, and the ground beneath shattered.

Nevertheless, Cethus held firm, enduring the Half-Elf's attack, which was mitigated by half due to his shield.

Despite Gerhart's fist never reaching Cethus' Dragon Scales, the shockwave of his punch had dealt him internal injuries, causing him to cough up blood.

The Half-Elf stomped his right foot backward, as he unleashed another punch that sent blood spraying into the air once again.

With every strike that Gerhart delivered, the skin on his fists tore apart, revealing his bones beneath it.

Enduring the excruciating pain all over his hand, Gerhart unleashed blow after blow after blow.

With each strike, he felt as if the weight of a mountain was pressing down on his body due to Cethus' Gravity Domain, crushing his body under it.

Even so, Gerhart persevered, unleashing blows that would have been powerful enough to annihilate any Elf who was of the Initiate Rank and below.

The spectators watching this scene from the side couldn't help but frown as they watched the suicidal barrage that the Half-Elf was dishing out without any regard for his body.

This continued for a full minute, and from time to time, Lux would consider whether he should end the match or not. He could feel that Gerhart and Cethus were both staking everything on the line, so he wanted to respect their feelings.

Finally, the blows stopped coming as Gerhart stood panting for breath with his arms covered with blood.

"It will be best if you give up now," Cethus said. "I still haven't used my full power."

"You don't look convincing when your face is swollen, with blood dripping from your ears, nose, and lips," Gerhart countered. "Your legs are also shaking very badly. If not for the spear you are holding on to right now, you would have collapsed long ago."

"Nonsense." Cethus coughed up blood as he leaned heavily on his spear. "I just stand here... and let you punch me because... a single punch from me can kill you."

Truth be told, Cethus could no longer hear what Gerhart was saying. The Dragon Born's ears had long ruptured, and his right eye was swollen shut and bleeding a bit, making him unable to see on that side.

If not for the fact that his left eye was still functioning properly, allowing him to read Gerhart's lips, he wouldn't have any idea what the green-haired Half-Elf was talking about.

His legs were ready to give way at any second, but he still held on and focused all of his strength to increase the gravity that was crushing his opponent's body, making Gerhart unable to do anything.

"One last blow," Gerhart stated as he raised his bloody right hand, whose fingers had all been broken. "I'll end this with one last blow. If you survive this, you win."

"Bring it on!" Cethus said before gritting his teeth. "I can still take one last punch. After that, I will win!"

The gravity was now 8 times stronger, which made walking literally impossible. Fortunately, Gerhart was close enough to Cethus to make his blow reach the Dragon Born's body.

There were no longer any tornados circling around Gerhart's fists, nor was there any shield protecting the Dragon Born's body.

Both of them were both spent, and this last blow would decide everything.

Gathering all the strength he could muster, while fighting the gravity that was about to snap all the bones in his body, Gerhart roared as he unleashed one last blow.

However, as the Half-Elf was about to punch Cethus' chest, his legs gave way, changing the trajectory of his punch.

Time seemed to move in slow motion as Cethus' bloodshot eyes watched the Half-Elf's fist flying toward the lower half of his body.

"Noooooooooooo!" Cethus screamed internally in slow motion as Gerhart's attack inched its way toward his family jewels.

A pin-drop silence spread in the surroundings, only to be broken by the sound of a cracked nut that reached everyone's ears.

Due to how intense the battle was, Alexa had subconsciously squeezed the nuts in her hands tightly, cracking their shells completely.

However, no one paid attention to what Garret's eldest daughter did because the outcome of the match had already been decided.

"Both of you did well," an old lady said, grabbing Gerhart's wrist and preventing him from breaking her grandson's balls to a pulp.

Cethus' legs had finally reached their limit, making the Dragon Born kneel on the ground while clinging to his staff, preventing himself from completely falling.

The Gravity Domain had been dispersed, which eased the burden that Gerhart was feeling, allowing him to breathe normally again.

"G-Grandma?" Cethus said through blood-soaked lips. "What are you doing here?"

"I was just passing by and accidentally saw this battle," Cethus' Grandma, Faustina, replied with a smile. "You've grown a lot, Cethus. I'm very proud of you."

"...I'm glad." Cethus' eyes slowly closed as he finally fell to the ground unconscious.

"This is not a draw," Gerhart said in an exhausted tone. "I should have won if you didn't stop us."

Faustina nodded her head in acknowledgment of Gerhart's words. If she hadn't stepped in, the one who would have won the match would have been the green-haired Half-Elf. However, Cethus was her family, and she couldn't just stand by and watch her grandson suffer.

"Yes, it's your win," Faustina replied. "However, since I interfered, I'll give you an Argonaut-Ranked Beast Core as compensation. Fine by you?"

"Okay," Gerhart coughed a mouthful of blood after the effects of his empowered state ended.

A second later, he, too, lost consciousness and Faustina gently laid him on the ground before taking out several High-Quality Potions from her storage ring.

Without even batting an eye, she poured half of their contents on the two unconscious fighters' bodies before letting them both drink half of it.

Lux landed a few meters away from the High-Ranker before checking Gerhart's and Cethus' conditions.

Since Cethus had called the old Dragon Born his Grandma, the red-headed teenager didn't get in her way as she administered treatment to the two unconscious fighters.

"Are you going to let my Grandson join your guild as well?" Faustina asked without even glancing in Lux's direction. "It seems that my Grandson is very interested in following you around."

"Yes," Lux replied. "I will let him join my Guild."

"Good. I like sensible people."

"Hahaha."

Lux couldn't help but laugh because Faustina reminded him of his own Grandma, Vera. He could see the love in the old lady's eyes toward her grandson and understood that she wouldn't allow Cethus to be bullied under her watch.

"Well then, I have done my part," Faustina said after making sure that Gerhart and Cethus were no longer in any danger.

She then stood up and gave the Half-Elf a teasing smile, making the latter shudder subconsciously.

"Since you've been good to my grandson, I'll give you some friendly advice," Faustina stated as she walked towards Lux and whispered something in his ears. "If the Dragon King invites you to go fishing with him, don't go no matter what. Make up any kind of excuse that you can think of, and no matter what happens, you must reject his offer at all cost. Do you understand?"

Although he was feeling doubtful, Lux nodded his head in understanding.

Faustina smiled before lightly patting the Half-Elf's shoulder.

"Take care of my Grandson for me," Faustina gave the unconscious Cethus a side-long glance before walking away. "I'll look forward to the next time I see him."

After saying those words, Faustina disappeared, leaving the Outer Reaches behind.

Now that she was sure that her grandson was in good hands, she could focus on her other duties with a peace of mind.

'It seems that I need to make sure that the Half-Elf doesn't get on the King's bad side,' Faustina thought as she flew in the direction of the Capital City of Karshvar Draconis. 'My grandson's future depends on it.'

She had cast a special kind of barrier around her and the Half-Elf, preventing the Dragon King from eavesdropping in on their conversation.

Just like Cethus, she treated Valerie like a granddaughter.

Because of this, she didn't want the beautiful yet extremely gullible young lady to feel guilty if something happened to the Half-Elf, who had already visited the Dragon Princess in her dreams, teaching her of many things that made her young, and innocent heart... skip a beat.

## Chapter 638: Big Brother, Do You Have A Lover?

"Man... that battle was awesome," Flamma said as he drank the fruit juice that was made by Marie, the Head Maid of the Ousborne Family. "How about the two of us have a rematch? This time, you're not allowed to summon anything. Also, Eiko is not allowed to help you. What do you think?"

"I think you didn't suffer enough beating last time," Lux replied as he fed Eiko a sandwich. "But, you don't have to worry. I'm sure you will have your turn when we go to the Domain of the Fallen."

"I'm actually looking forward to this Sacred Dungeon Adventure. When are we going?"

"In a few weeks. I need to return to my hometown first. There are a few things that I need to handle by myself."

Lux didn't tell the Half-Orc that he was very eager to return to see his Fiance, as well as celebrate his birthday with her.

He was about to turn seventeen, and it made him reminisce about the times when he trained to prepare for the trial that would give him the chance to go to Elysium.

All of those depressing days were now behind him, and although many things were happening all around him, he couldn't help but feel blessed to be where he was now.

"Sir Lux, what is your hometown like?" Alexa asked. "If I remember correctly, the world you belong to is called Solais, right?"

Emily, who was also eating some sandwiches glanced in the direction of the Half-Elf. Clearly, she was very eager to hear about the world of the Foreigners who regularly visited Elysium.

"Our world is similar to Elysium," Lux replied. "However, it has undergone a Hundred-Year War, which made several locations barren and uninhabitable. There are also areas that are restricted because the lands beyond them reek of diseases, plagues, and Monsters that are said to have been corrupted by the land itself."

Emily, who had just finished her sandwich, asked Lux another question, which almost all Elysians wanted to ask.

"Can we go to your world?" Emily asked. "Foreigners can visit our world, but can we do the same and visit your world?"

Lux didn't answer right away as he pondered this question. As far as history went, Elysians couldn't go to Solais.

Many Solaians, who had found their significant other in Elysium, had tried to bring their lover to their own world.

Unfortunately, none of those attempts succeed. Currently, there was no way for Elysians to go to Solais. Only Solaians were able to travel freely between the two worlds, and it had been that way since the first time they were able to go to Elysium.

"Perhaps there is a way," Lux replied after careful consideration. "However, we haven't discovered how you guys can come to our world. Maybe in the future, you guys can also travel freely between worlds. But, I'll tell you this, Elysium is much better than the current Solais."

Solais was a dying world, and according to Eriol, it didn't have much time left. This was why the God of Gamblers and the God of Games collaborated in order to create the Heaven's Gate Project.

They had tasked Lux to find a way to save the dying world from destruction and give it a chance at rebirth.

Leah, who had been feeding her baby slime, Holly, a sandwich, looked at the Half-Elf and asked him a question.

"Big Brother, do you have a lover?" Leah asked in an innocent tone.

Flamma, Alexa, Emily, and Marie perked up their ears as they waited for Lux's answer, like old aunties looking for a fresh bit of juicy gossip.



"I have a Fiance," Lux replied. "Her name is Iris. She is also Eiko's Mama."

"Ma!" Eiko nodded her head.

Leah looked at the Half-Elf with an innocent smile as she asked another question.

"What is she like?" Leah inquired.

"She's sweet, kind, loyal, and loves me very much," Lux answered.

"Is she more beautiful than my Big Sister, Alexa?"

"Both of them are beautiful. No one is better than the other."

Emily giggled after hearing Lux's reply. Clearly, the Half-Elf used a "safe" answer in order to not offend her little sister, Leah, who was asking Lux unreasonable questions.

"Is she strong?" Flamma asked. "My mother is strong. That's why she's the Orc Chieftain. She always punches and kicks my father, and he doesn't have the strength to hit her back."

"Well, she is strong in her own way," Lux replied with a mischievous smile. "She puts up a good fight."

Whenever the Half-Elf made love with his fiance, he noticed that Iris' stamina was slowly matching his own. Because of this, they were able to do it many times, while hiding under the blanket to prevent Eiko from seeing the two of them do it like bunnies.

"Brother, bring her next time, okay?" Leah asked. "I want to meet her as well."

"I'll see what I can do," Lux replied as he patted Leah's head. "I'm sure the two of you will get along really well."

When their lunch ended, Lux went to find the Kobolds who were mining underground to check on the things that they had collected while he was away.

He had asked Garret to accompany him because the Great General would be in charge of their Guild Headquarters whenever Lux was dealing with things outside of the Outer Reaches.

Simply put, Garret was now his steward, and he believed that, with the latter at the helm, his dream of converting the floating island into a thriving city would become a reality.

"Amazing," Garret said as he looked at the piled-up ores, as well as raw gems, in the Kobold's make-shift treasury under the ground. "With this, we will be able to arm our soldiers to the teeth. There are also enough gems to trade for gold, food, and other materials that we will need to build the village at the base of the mountain.

"If the King of my Kingdom was able to see this much Draconium Ore and Aenarium, he would definitely welcome me back with open arms," Garret stated. "Are you sure you trust me enough to share this secret with me?"

"Of course," Lux replied. "Do you know the Dragon King? We are best buds. He can easily destroy a Kingdom just by lifting a finger."

Garret rubbed his chin as he eyed the red-headed teenager who was inspecting the number of resources they currently had.

"What is his Rank?" Garret inquired.

"Supreme," Lux replied in a heartbeat. "What do you think? Do you still feel like betraying me?"

The Half-Elf gave the Great General a devilish smile, which made the latter chuckle. Now that Garret was part of his Covenant, his loyalty was ensured.

No member of the Necromancer's Covenant could betray their Lord. Doing so would be a folly because their souls would be under his mercy.

With that said, Garret had no intention of betraying Lux's trust. Now that he was a member of Heaven's Gate, he would use all of his expertise to make sure that it would become the strongest Guild in existence.

'Too bad, we don't have a Saint in the Guild,' Garret thought. 'If we did, we would no longer have to keep a low profile.'

The Great General understood that they currently didn't have the strength to protect their Guild's secret.

Two days later, when Gerhart had recovered enough to travel, he and Lux returned to Solais, leaving Elysium for the time being.

Now that the issue with the Transcendent Flames had been dealt with, Randolph, Grandma Annie, Laura, and Livia, had begun practicing their crafting abilities in order to create better weapons, armor, potions, pills, and other consumables that would help the Guild Members increase their ranks.

Even though Lux could summon the Orcs and the Dryads to help him anytime, he still wanted to have his own fighting force and not rely on them too much.

Right now, Heaven's Gate had a Human army that numbered 500 strong. Originally, Lux thought that all of them were Initiates, but he was wrong.

Out of the 500 Soldiers, only 100 were Initiates, with some at the peak of the Apostle Rank.

Only after joining Lux's Guild did the Apostles all become Initiates. In time, these Initiates would all become Rankers, further boosting the Half-Elf's military might.

Just the thought of having 500 Low-Rankers under his direct command was enough to make Lux feel smug.

Although this number was nothing compared to the number of Rankers each Kingdom possessed, it was still a decent amount, allowing him to be of the same level as an Overlord.

"Let's go back, Eiko," Lux said as he patted the Baby Slime on his head. "Let's go meet Iris."

"Ma!" Eiko happily replied as the Half-Elf pressed his closed fist over his chest.

"Open!" Lux declared. "Heaven's Gate!"

A moment later, he and Gerhart disappeared from their Guild Headquarters and reappeared in Lux's old home in Wildgarde Stronghold.

While this was happening, the Six Kingdoms, the Skystead Alliance, and the Xynnar War Pact were all gathering their talented youths that would accompany Lux in clearing the last gate of the Sacred Dungeon.

They believed that when all the Four Gates had been conquered, the final Gate of the Apocalypse would open, allowing them to gain something that had been lost through the passage of time.

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Capital City of the Vahan Empire...

"Malcolm and Nero, both of you will follow my son's orders," Emperor Andreas said while sitting on his throne. "It is of the most importance that you follow his every command without asking why or refusing it. Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Malcolm replied. "I won't let you down."

"I will heed your orders, Your Majesty." Nero bowed his head respectfully. "I shall follow the Prince's orders without fail."

Emperor Andreas nodded his head with satisfaction before shifting his gaze to his son, who had blue hair and eyes.

He was the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire, Prince Cyrus, and he stood nearly two meters tall, towering over Malcolm and Nero, who were kneeling in front of him.

A sinister smile could be seen on the young man's face and his eyes, covered with a tint of bloodlust, were looking forward to seeing what kind of Monsters he would face inside the Domain of the Fallen.

## **Chapter 639: If They Get In My Way, I'll Just Beat The Crap Out Of Them**

"Your birthday is almost here, Lux," Gerald, the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold, said with a smile. "Time sure flies. Back then, you were a sickly brat who fainted almost everywhere. Now, look at you! You look as handsome as I had been when I was your age. Hahaha!"

Lux smirked before drinking the tea that was offered to him by Natasha, who looked at Gerald as if he was delusional.

"After your birthday, the campaign to conquer the Gate of Famine will begin," Natasha commented. "Have you made your preparations?"

"Yes," Lux nodded. "I'm as ready as I'll ever be."

Rainer, who was seated across Lux, put his teacup down on the table before sharing his thoughts.

"This time, things will be more serious," Rainer stated. "I heard that you instructed Cai, Keane, and Xander to sell their quotas to the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and the Six Kingdoms.

"The representatives of Barbatos Academy will be led by Henrietta, while Val's and Einar's quotas will be used by their own respective factions. The Barbarians have decided that they'll take this last gate seriously, and form a team centering around Einar as the leader. Val will be using his own quota to bring his Guild Members. It seems that everyone is making sure to seriously go all out with this last gate."

Lux nodded. "Malcolm was also able to clear the Dungeon this last time, so the Skystead Alliance will have five additional slots open. All in all, the Skystead Alliance will bring 11 people, including Malcolm, on this expedition, while the Six Kingdoms and Xynnar War Pact will have five members each."

Gerald blew his smoking pipe before looking at the Half-Elf, whose presence had changed considerably since the last time they met. Right now, the current Lux was giving off an aura of confidence that he hadn't seen in a long while.

There were many confident teenagers who believed that they were the strongest members of the young generation, but there was something different with Lux's confidence that made Gerald believe that he was currently one, if not the strongest member of the young generation.

"Are you worried that the Vahan Empire will pull something during the conquest of the Last Gate?" Gerald asked as he gave Rainer a side-long glance. "I believe that Nero will be participating this time as a representative of the Vahan Empire."

"Good for him," Lux replied. "Also, I'm not too worried about whatever shenanigans they've planned to do this time around. If they get in my way, I'll just beat the crap out of them."

Rainer scoffed. "You spoke with great confidence, and I believe that you have what it takes to back it up. However, Lux, remember this, you mustn't be too overconfident. Underestimating your opponents is a very foolish move."

Lux nodded his head in agreement with Rainer's words.

"That's right, Sir Rainer," Lux replied. "I'll keep that in mind."

There was a slight tension in the air, which made Gerald and Natasha frown. Fortunately, the Cleric of the Stronghold was sharp and knew what she had to do, engaging Lux in a new topic.

"By the way, are you planning to sell your Quotas to the other factions?" Natasha inquired in order to change the subject. "It seems that the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and the Six Kingdoms are willing to pay a high price for the quotas in your possession."

Lux didn't answer right away and instead, drank all the tea in his cup before placing it on top of the table.

"I don't plan to sell my quotas right now," Lux replied. "I plan to bring a few people with me to the Dungeon."

"Is that so?" Gerald puffed some white smoke from his pipe. "It seems that you're also taking this campaign seriously. Who will you be bringing with you?"

"Friends," Lux answered in a heartbeat. "Reliable friends."

He had already planned to bring Gerhart and Cethus with him into the Domain of the Fallen. As for the remaining slots, he decided to give them to Barbatos Academy, so that Henrietta could bring more of her Guild Members inside the Dungeon, giving them more options when it came to forming their teams.

"Friends," Natasha asked in a teasing tone. "Girlfriends? Have you already asked for Iris' permission?"

Lux chuckled after hearing Natasha's question. Although his Fiance was very open-minded, he wasn't the kind of man who would actively look for a new lover as he journeyed through Elysium.

"I'm bringing men with me," Lux replied. "One of them is Gerhart. I'm sure all of you are already familiar with him."

The three Guardians of Wildgarde Stronghold nodded their heads. How could they possibly forget who Gerhart was?

His performance during the tournament was something that no one had expected.

An hour later, Lux left the Keep of the Wildgarde Stronghold and met up with Gerhart at the North Gate.

"Are we going to head to Barbatos Academy now?" Gerhart asked as soon as he saw Lux walking in his direction.

"No," Lux replied. "We will pick up Cai and Keane in the Rowan Tribe first. I'm sure you also want to visit Sir Maximilian, so we're headed there first."

Gerhart felt happy when he heard that they would stop by the Rowan Tribe before going to the academy. There were so many things that he wanted to tell the Patriarch of the Rowan Clan, especially the things he experienced during his journey.

Although he had no family, the green-haired Half-Elf had treated the Rowan Tribe as his second home. This was why he was quite excited to see them again.

Two days later, Lux's Thunder War King, Jed, landed in the Plaza of the Rowan Tribe, where he was met by an excited Cai.

"Why didn't you tell me that you're going to visit us?" Cai asked in a disgruntled tone. "We could have prepared a feast to celebrate your arrival, you know?"

"Da Wae~" Fei Fei, who was on top of Cai's head, greeted Eiko.

"Fei Fei~" Eiko greeted her back, making the two Baby Slimes giggle.

"We wanted to give you guys a surprise, and it seems that we were successful," Lux replied as some of the young men and women of the Rowan Tribe began to gather at the plaza to see the Half-Elf whom they had heard so much about from Cai and their friends.

"By the way, where is Keane?" Lux asked as he scanned his surroundings. "Is he not around?"

After hearing Little Swordy's name, Cai wryly laughed before making a gesture for Lux to follow her.

"It will be much easier if you see him yourself," Cai explained. "You see, Little Swordy changed a lot after you left."

Lux wondered what this "change" was and his curiosity got the better of him. He hadn't seen the skinny swordsman for a long time, and seeing how Cai was acting so mysterious, the change that she was talking about must be quite significant.

While Gerhart went to look for Cai's Grandpa, the red-headed teenager and the boar went to the forest together, in order to spy on their friend, who was starting to find the peace that he was looking for in his life.

## **Chapter 640: Is This Trial Really Tied To My Karma?**

"No matter what happens, make as little noise as possible," Cai said softly as they snuck towards the clearing in the forest. "They should be in their regular spot."

Lux arched an eyebrow when he heard the words "they." He came to see how Keane was doing, but it seems that he was not alone.

A few minutes later, the Half-Elf and the Boar finally found the person they were looking for.

It had been a while since Lux had seen Keane, and the moment he saw him, he understood what Cai was talking about.

Back then, the swordsman was skinny, but now, he had gained a bit of weight in a good way. His lean and toned body was covered with sweat, causing his skin to glisten under the sunlight. Currently, he was practicing his sword swings, giving them his full concentration.



Not far from him was a young lady, whose beauty was starting to bloom. She was currently reading a book and seemed to be just as absorbed in it as Keane was with his sword practice.

A minute later, Keane finally sheathed his blade back to its scabbard, making a resounding clicking sound.

At that moment, the young lady also raised her head from reading her book and closed it. She then set it aside before picking up a towel and a jug and walking towards Keane.

She first handed the jug to the swordsman before wiping off the sweat on his body with the towel in her hands.

Keane slowly drank from the jug until he had his fill, standing still to allow Rose to wipe the sweat off his upper body. When she was done, the no-longer-skinny-swordsman placed his right hand on her waist, and gently pulled her close to him.

A moment later, the two shared a quick kiss on the lips. Rose took a step back and returned to the tree where she left her book.

She then picked it up and walked back towards Keane, who then took her free hand.

Without uttering a word, the two walked hand in hand toward the path that led back to the Rowan Tribe, unaware that their actions had been seen by Cai, as well as Lux who was very surprised with the changes that had happened to his good friend.

"Since when?" Lux asked the Boar who had a smug look on her face. "And who took the initiative?"

Lux had long felt that Keane and Rose might indeed become close, but he never expected their relationship to progress this fast.

"Well, it happened a few days after you left," Cai replied. "I'm not sure who took the initiative, but, when I found out about it, the two were already very close. I'm still keeping this a secret from everyone, especially Grandpa. Make sure not to tell him, alright?"

Lux doubted very much that Maximilian was really not aware of his granddaughter's relationship with Keane. As a Saint, it would be effortless for him to get wind of these things, especially when it was happening inside his Tribe's Territory.

Still, the Half-Elf nodded his head and promised Cai that he wouldn't tell anyone.

The two then took a detour to re-enter the Rowan Tribe from the other side of the forest to make it seem that they had gone to a different place, instead of watching Keane's and Rose's private display of affection.

"Lux, you're finally back," Keane said with a smile when he saw the Half-Elf. However, his smile disappeared and a solemn look formed on his face as he eyed the Half-Elf with his trained eyes. "You've become stronger... a lot stronger."

There was a hint of envy and jealousy in Keane's voice. However, this feeling only lasted for a brief moment before he exchanged a fist bump with one of his good friends.

Although Lux had gotten stronger, he believed that he would soon catch up with him and become stronger as well.

"You look way better since the last time I saw you," Lux replied in a teasing tone. "You look like a person in love!"

A faint flush appeared on Keane's face as he lightly scratched his cheeks, which almost made Lux and Cai puke sugar due to how wholesome and innocent his reaction was.

Not wanting to put the swordsman on the spot, Lux decided to ask him if he heard any kind of news within the Six Kingdoms while he was away.

"I haven't heard any news as of late," Keane replied. "All I know is that the Rowan Tribe will start their seasonal migration soon. This time, their destination will be near Barbatos Academy."

Lux was surprised that the Patriarch of the Rowan Tribe decided to make such a move. Although he understood that the Rowan Tribe migrated on a seasonal basis, he felt as if there was something more to this than met the eye.

For two Saints to be stationed that close to each other meant that they were planning to do something big.

Whatever that thing was, it would certainly create waves within the Six Kingdoms once the news of it started to spread.

"By the way, have you already talked to Sir Maximilian?" Keane asked. "It seems like he has something important to tell you."

"Really?" Lux asked back.

"Yes," Keane nodded. "Rose told me that she saw some kind of vision, so she told her Grandpa about it. A few days later, Sir Alexander and Iris visited the Rowan Tribe.

"I don't know what they talked about because Rose wasn't willing to tell me anything about her vision. However, I have a feeling that the reason why the Rowan Tribe is going to migrate near Barbatos Academy has something to do with that."

Lux's interest was piqued, but since this was between Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian, and his stepfather, Alexander, he decided to not pry and set it aside for now.

Perhaps waiting for that moment, Rose made her appearance and greeted Lux and her sister, Cai.

"Good day, Lux," Rose said with a smile. "I pray that you've been well since we last met?"

"Good day, Rose," Lux replied. "I've been well. How about you?"

The young beauty gave Keane a side-long glance before replying to the Half-Elf's question with a sweet smile.

"I'm doing well." Rose eyed the Half-Elf as if sensing something different from him. "It seems that you've reached the peak of the Initiate Rank. Have you visited a Temple to check the trials that you'll need to accomplish in order to advance your rank?"

Lux shook his head. "Not yet. I'm waiting to go back to the Academy to visit the temple there."

"Oh, you don't have to do that. We have our own temple here. Why don't you go and check it out for a bit? Brother Gerhart has just finished his visit as well."

"Is that so? I guess I'll do it here then."

Lux only planned to become a Ranker after conquering the Sacred Dungeon. Since there was a level restriction, he didn't want to take his Trial right away.

Even so, he was very curious about the kind of Trial that'll be waiting for him.

According to his Grandma, Vera, the trials to become a Ranker were closely tied to a person's Karma. As to what that meant, Lux had no idea. All he knew was that, as long as he cleared any of these Trials, he would be able to take that next step to become stronger.

"You will be given many trials to choose from, but you can choose only one," Rose explained as she guided Lux to the Temple of the Rowan Tribe. "If ever you are unable to complete your trial because it is too difficult, all you need to do is return to the temple in order to take a new Trial."

"It's that simple?" Lux asked with a smile.

"Changing the Trial is simple, but completing one is not easy. After all, if it were easy, everyone would become a Ranker in a blink of an eye. Some people are unable to complete this step for their whole lives and are stuck at the Initiate Rank until they die."

Rose's words sounded ominous, but Lux believed that, with the current force under his command, the Trials that would be given to him could be completed without any difficulties.

"Here we are," Rose stated as she pointed at a red tent that stood out from the rest. "After picking your trial, come and look for Grandpa. He is waiting for you to greet him."

"Understood." Lux nodded before entering the tent to see the Trials he needed to choose from and complete in order to become a Ranker.

At the center of the tent was a table with a big red pearl on top of it. Rose had already told him that all he needed to do was press his hands over the pearl,

and he would be connected to the Heart of the World, which sustained all life in Elysium.

Before pressing his hand over the Red Pearl, Lux took a deep breath in order to calm his heart.

When he was ready, Lux placed his palm over the red pearl, and immediately, several rows of text appeared in front of him.

"Welcome Lux Von Kaizer."

"The World has deemed you ready to take on the path of Rankers."

"You will be presented with several trials, and you may pick only one of them. Only after you complete one of them will the world give you its blessing, allowing you to take that next step to greatness."

"Here are the trials that Fate has decreed upon you."

-----

< Choose one of these Trials in order to become a Ranker! >

-----

Lux's eyes landed on the first choice, and read its contents. A moment later, he blinked his eyes in confusion due to the absurdity of the quest.

At first, he thought he was just seeing things, but after double-checking the first option given to him, he felt like the world was playing a prank on him.

-----

< First Ranker Quest >

< The Golden Trial >

– Get a Dragon Princess Pregnant and stay alive for an entire year. Once you accomplish this task, you will immediately receive the blessing of the world and become a Ranker!

– The path to happiness is a path filled with thorns. However, as long as you are willing to take the chance, a happy and fulfilling shotgun wedding awaits you on the other side of the rainbow.

Note: You may have already made her emotionally pregnant. Man up and take responsibility!

-----

"Is this Trial really tied to my Karma?" Lux couldn't believe what he was seeing no matter how many times he read the First Quest. "Just what did I do to deserve this?"

(A/N: Kekeke!)

(E/N: \*Facepalm\*)

After pondering for quite some time, Lux decided to check the Second Trial because the first one seemed to be an impossible mission.

He still wanted to live, so he decided to pretend that he didn't see the First Trial and prayed that his luck would be better with the second one.

(E2/N: Is this where Lux loses his gacha luck?)

## Chapter 641: Final Ranker Quest

< Second Ranker Quest >

< A Will Of Eternal >

– Marry a doll-like Dwarf beauty who is also the Guildmaster of a Gold-Ranked Guild.

– Although the White Lotus is beautiful to see, it still takes root upon the filth of Eternity. Past and Present Karma intertwine, thus is the makings of the Divine.

– Although her expression doesn't seem to change, and many think that her heart is calm and still like a lake. Deep inside she yearns for the one. A person she will love more than anyone.

– For you to win her hand in marriage, convince her family and show them your courage. For the Dwarves are always steady as stone. Go all in, or just go home.

(Note from a certain adorable little Dwarf.)

– Big Brother, please marry my sister, okay? That way, you will be part of our family!

-----

The corner of Lux's lips twitched after seeing the message. He didn't need to be a genius to know who the Trial was referring to.

The note at the bottom of the message was another giveaway, which reminded Lux of Collete, whom he hadn't seen in a long time.

"The first is pregnancy, now marriage," Lux muttered while rubbing his face with both of his hands. "Just who made up these trials anyway?"

The image of the doll-like beauty, who reminded Lux of his favorite Idol back on Earth, resurfaced in his mind. One of his greatest regrets in his past life was not being able to go to her concert because he died a few days before his Idol's performance.

Truth be told, it was not hard for him to develop a crush on Aina, who was also Colette's sister because of her uncanny resemblance to the person he idolized. Because of this, he was very tempted to accept the quest, but he stayed his hand and clicked to see the next option.

-----

< Third Ranker Quest >

< Misfortune's Beloved >

– In this world, there are two polar opposites. One is the luckiest girl in the world, and the other is the unluckiest girl in the world.

– Right now, the unluckiest girl in the world is imprisoned at the center of Elysium. She cries deep under the ground, near its core, all alone in the darkness.

– Although many have wanted to help her, they have refused to do so. Those who tried in the past proved that any who touched, or tried to free her from her imprisonment, would be tainted by bad luck, which would follow them until the day they died.

– Dozens have already tried, and all of them regretted their decision. They wished to save her in the past, but now they curse her for even being alive. For as long as she lives, their curse remains, and since then, no one has dared to touch Misfortune's Beloved.

Note: When you start having Bad Luck, there isn't an end to it.

-----

"..."

Lux felt complicated after reading the third quest. Although he wasn't sure, he had a feeling that the Unluckiest Girl in the world could be found in the Kingdom of Agatha, which was said to be located near the core of the world.

He currently had the key to go to such a place, and he also wished to save the unluckiest girl in the world. However, he didn't know if he had a way to counter being tainted with bad luck, and right now, he needs all the luck he could get.

"If there comes a time when I can find a way to save you, Trial or no Trial, I will come to find you," Lux said softly as he remembered the details of the quest.

Just thinking of a girl all alone in the darkness was enough to make him wish he could break her prison, and bring her to the surface world.

The Half-Elf gritted his teeth as he checked the next option, hoping that it would be something that he was capable of doing.

-----

< Final Ranker Quest >

< A True Necromancer >

– Currently, you are not able to utilize the full power of a Necromancer, because you don't fully understand what being a Necromancer is.



- You lack the ruthlessness, and the decisiveness needed to command a Legion of the Undead that would be feared far and wide, across all kingdoms, and empires in the world.
- What better way on how to learn to become a Necromancer than find a True Necromancer as your Master?
- If you are able to find your true calling, you will be able to unlock the Transcendent Necromancer Skills that will make your Unholy Army a true force to reckon with!
- So go and find a True Necromancer, who will teach you the ways of the Undead. Once you're done, it will be your enemies time to dread.

Note: When the world turns its back on you, laugh at it with all of your heart. For there is but a thin line between morality and depravity, and a happy ending can only be gained, by facing the world, and slapping it with a Legion of the Undying.

-----

Lux took a deep breath after reading the final trial to becoming a Ranker.

For some reason, the words of the trial resonated in his heart. His understanding of being a Necromancer was only to summon and raise the dead.

That was what he had been doing till now, and he thought that it was everything a Necromancer needed to do. But, according to the Trial, he still didn't fully understand what being a Necromancer was.

However, there was one problem.

"Just where can I find a Necromancer to teach me how to be one?" Lux muttered.

A moment later, an image of a black-robed man, commanding the Calamity Beast appeared in his mind.

It was the same person who obliterated an entire city, just because he could, and no one, not even a Saint, would be able to stop him alone.

This memory had a great impact to him because that was the first time he saw a Monster of that Rank. An Apex Creature that could move unhindered across the land, making all that stood on its way run away in fear for their lives.

"No." Lux clenched his fists after remembering that scene. "I don't want to be that kind of Necromancer."

On that day, many innocent people died. If he were to become someone as ruthless as that then he would rather not find a Necromancer to be his Master.

Suddenly, a familiar voice reached his ears, which made Lux almost jump in fright.

"Master, I think you have a terrible understanding of what Necromancers are."

Asmodeus, who had appeared beside the Half-Elf without his orders, said with a smile.

"Y-You almost gave me a heart attack!" Lux patted his chest in order to calm his heart. "Don't do that again, Asmodeus. I thought that my heart was going to jump out of my throat."

"Apologies, Master," Asmodeus bowed apologetically at Lux for giving him a fright. "But, I just couldn't stay silent knowing that you may have developed a prejudice against Necromancers. You see, not all Necromancers are the same. There are people like Master who still understands what is right, and what is easy.

"I strongly advise you to choose this trial because it might allow you to surpass your current understanding of your Profession. Also, the Transcendent Necromancer Skills sound interesting. If possible, I want you to obtain them, so I can use them as well."

Lux sighed deeply after hearing Asmodeus' explanation. Truth be told, he was also very interested in knowing what the Transcendent Necromancer Skills were, but after recalling what happened in Wolfpine Barony, he felt disgusted at the black-robed person's total disregard of life.

"Just take this Trial, Master," Asmodeus urged. "Even if we find a Necromancer, but if you don't like them, we can always find another. We will not lose anything."

Lux thought that the Archlich's words were true. If by chance, he happened to come across a Necromancer, it would not automatically make them the Half-Elf's Master.

He had the right to choose whom to acknowledge as his Master, like he did with Randolph.

"Very well." Lux nodded. "We'll give this one a try."

Lux then chose the Final Trial, and the other Options disappeared.

Now that he had chosen his Ranker Quest, he just had to hope that he would stumble upon a decent Necromancer, who didn't treat the lives of people like grass that could be cut at any given time.

## **Chapter 642: Celestial Maiden Physique**

After leaving the Temple of the Rowan Tribe, Lux went to the Tribal Chief's Main Residence to find Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian.

"Rose was right. You have indeed reached the limit of the Initiate Rank," Maximilian said as he eyed the Half-Elf in front of him. "Did you already pick a Trial for your Ranker Advancement?"

"Yes, Your Excellency," Lux replied.

Maximilian nodded. "Good. Now, let's talk about business."

The Saint of the Rowan Tribe waved his hand, and enclosed his room with a barrier that prevented anyone from eavesdropping, or scrying in on their conversation. What he was about to tell Lux was important, so he didn't want to risk anyone hearing it, even by chance.

"First off, let's talk about the Domain of the Fallen," Maximilian stated.

"According to my sources, the one who will be leading the representatives of the Vahan Empire and the Skystead Alliance is none other than the Emperor Andreas' Second Son, Prince Cyrus Cy Vahan. He is well known for his aggressive behavior, so he might come to you and look for trouble."

Maximilian smirked at the Half-Elf who seemed uninterested in the information about the Prince of the Vahan Empire.

"Don't worry, if he does something to you, feel free to fight back." Maximilian gave Lux his assurance that he would back him up if the need arose. "We can't have our people bullied by those pricks."

The Half-Elf was surprised at first before a devilish grin appeared on his face. Since Maximilian assured him that it was fine to fight back against the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire, he would definitely do so if the bastard tried to pick a fight with him.

Maximilian chuckled after seeing Lux's expression. It was the face of someone ready to make trouble, and he found it quite amusing.

"Okay. Now that we have settled that issue, we will talk about the main topic of why I want to have a serious discussion with you," Maximilian's expression turned serious, which made the Half-Elf pay more attention to what he was going to say.

"My two granddaughters were born with unique abilities," Maximilian stated. "Rose has the power of Precognition, which allows her to see glimpses of the future. She has no control over it, but whenever it happens, the things she sees come to pass most of the time.

"There are also no timelines for it. For example, if she sees a vision of the future, she doesn't know when it will happen. It can happen a few minutes later, a day later, a week, a year, or a decade."

Maximilian paused for a while in order to give Lux some time to digest what he had just said.

"What did she see?" Lux asked.

For him, this was the most important question. Since Maximilian was telling him this, it meant that he may have also appeared in Rose's vision.

"A beautiful lady with horns, batlike wings, and purple eyes," Maximilian replied. "In her vision, she saw you and Cai unconscious beside that beautiful lady's feet. Rose's vision ended when the lady glanced in her direction and laughed. However, just before her vision was covered with darkness, he heard the lady say a few words to her and that was... Celestial Maiden Physique."

Lux subtly summoned his Soul Book, which was invisible to everyone else except those he had given permission to see.

He then searched for the Legacy of the Celestial Maiden and the information appeared on the pages of his Soul Book.

-----

### < Celestial Maiden Physique >

– This Unique Body Constitution allows its owner to absorb the powers of the stars, and allow their Rank to increase by leaps and bounds.

The scary part about this ability is that it can also absorb the strength of others, through physical contact like kissing and making love. If their partners are weaker than them, their Ranks will regress, and their strength would be stolen from them forever.

– However, if the one being kissed or having physical union with the owner of this body constitution is stronger than the owner, they would be able to absorb the power of the owner of the Celestial Maiden Physique, making themselves stronger in the process.

The only Silver Lining is that the owner of the Physique would be able to regain her former strength once more if she bathed in starlight for a period of time.

– It is said that those who were lucky enough to find someone with the Celestial Maiden Physique will be able to reach the Rank of a Saint in just a span of a few years.

-----

Lux suddenly realized something and it made him look at Maximilian with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

"Don't tell me..."

"Yes. Cai has the Celestial Maiden Physique. Do you know what kind of Physique it is?"

Lux nodded. Since he was already aware of what kind of special body constitution Cai had, there was no need to play dumb about it.

"Since you are already aware, this will make things easier," Maximilian stated. "According to Rose, that beautiful lady seemed to be keen on using Cai as a means to make herself stronger. Of course, she wasn't certain about this part because this was just her assumption. However, she could tell that the lady in her vision was quite powerful.

"Based on the descriptions she gave me, I can only say that the one in her vision is a Succubus. No matter what happens, we can't allow Cai to fall into her hands."

Lux pondered for a bit before asking the question that appeared inside his head.

"Wouldn't it be safer if you keep Cai beside you all the time?" Lux asked. "If you do this then that Succubus wouldn't dare to come close."

Maximilian shook his head. "Like I told you. Even if I keep Cai by my side all the time, the vision that Rose saw will come to pass. Things may happen that would force me to leave her side, resulting in the vision that she saw.

"I don't know why you were there as well, but since you were in Rose's vision, it gave us some kind of assurance that Cai wouldn't be facing that dangerous situation all alone. For better or for worse, you being there gives us plenty of options for how to deal with that future scene."

Maximilian's reminder made Lux realize that he was also in danger. He had completely forgotten about it because in some way, he was worried about Cai's well being due to having a physique that was similar to a double-edged sword.

"When I first discovered that Cai had that special physique, I sealed it right away," Maximilian explained. "Perhaps, she instinctively felt that she was a bit special since she was young, so she decided to always stay in her Boar Form as a means to protect her secret, and prevent anyone from finding out about her secret."

A moment of silence descended inside Maximilian's room as he finished explaining Cai's body constitution.

"Is this why the Rowan Tribe is going to migrate near Barbatos Academy?" Lux asked after understanding how serious the situation was.

In fact, he thought that this was a good move by Maximilian.

With two saints being in close proximity with each other, it would allow them to react to certain situations at a moment's notice.

"Yes, and No," Maximilian replied. "After having a serious talk with your stepfather and Iris, the three of us came to a decision. Lux, would you consider making Cai your Fiance?"

## **Chapter 643: "... I'm Not Dumb."**

Lux was taken aback when Maximilian asked him to become Cai's fiance.

He considered Cai as a very close friend, having fought alongside her many times in the past and even been saved by her from a battle against Revon, allowing the Half-Elf to conquer the Gate of Conquest.

Also, if he had to be honest, Cai's human form was strikingly beautiful, comparable to his own fiance, Iris. He believed that any man who would immediately turn down the offer of making her his fiance was stupid.

However, Lux still asked the most burning question on his mind because this was something that would decide whether he would accept Cai as his fiance or not.

"Does Cai know about this?" Lux asked. "Has she given her approval?"

Maximilian leaned back on his chair and lightly tapped its armrest.

"At the very least, she said that she doesn't dislike you," Maximilian stated. "She also asked that she be able to talk to you in private after I discussed this matter with you."

Lux nodded. He understood that he and Cai didn't really have any romantic feelings for each other. However, that didn't mean that they couldn't foster their relationship and slowly fall in love as time went by.

"So, is that a yes?" Maximilian asked with a smile.

"I'll talk to Cai first," Lux replied. "Since we are the parties involved, it is best if we personally talk things out to understand each other."

This time, it was Maximilian's turn to nod his head.

The Patriarch of the Rowan Tribe loved his granddaughters very much, so he wouldn't agree to let just anyone marry them. They must reach his standards.

In his eyes, Lux had the qualifications to take his granddaughter's hand in marriage because he was the Guildmaster of the Mythical Guild, Heaven's Gate, as well as the son of Alexander, who stood on the same level as him.

Of course, he also knew about Rose and Keane's budding relationship and, deep inside, he was blissful about it.

After paying attention to the no-longer-skinny Swordsman, Maximilian deemed that Keane was a very loyal person and would love Rose for life. Also, his background wasn't as simple as one might imagine.

Maximilian and Alexander might be two of the three Saints within the Six Kingdoms, but below them were outstanding individuals whom they recognized as Pseudo-Saints.

Keane's Master was one of those Pseudo-Saints, and the two of them happen to be very good friends.

In fact, when Keane left the mountain, his Master, who went by the title "The Void", went to the Rowan Tribe to ask Maximilian to keep a lookout for his Disciple, who was now wandering the Six Kingdoms in order to search for his "Universal Peace".

He even gave Maximilian a recording crystal of what his Disciple looked like, so it was very easy for the Saint of the Rowan Tribe to know Keane's true identity.

Also, aside from having a powerful Master, Keane's true background was also something that only a handful of people knew.

Even Keane didn't know this information about his true identity, which was a closely guarded secret by the people who were in the know.



In order to ensure that Maximilian wouldn't bully his Disciple, the Pseudo-Saint divulged Keane's Secret, which surprised Maximilian very much.

Because of this, the Saint of the Rowan Tribe gave his silent stamp of approval for Rose's and Keane's slowly developing relationship.

After discussing a few more important matters and letting Lux know that his fiancée, Iris, approved of Cai becoming his fiancée, Maximilian finally left the room to fetch Cai.

Ten minutes later, the door of the room opened and a young lady, wearing ceremonial priestess clothes entered the room.

To Lux's surprise, Cai was wearing a veil, hiding her beautiful face from the Half-Elf's gaze.

The First Priestess of the Rowan Tribe sat on her grandfather's chair and lowered her head, looking at her hands that were resting on her lap.

An awkward silence descended inside the room as both people remained silent. Neither of them knew what to talk about, but they also understood that this couldn't continue.

The one who first broke the silence was surprisingly Cai, but the first words she said didn't make much sense.

"... I'm not dumb."

Lux blinked in confusion because he didn't understand what Cai was talking about. Because of this, he decided to agree with her for the time being.

"Um, I know you're not dumb," Lux replied.

"No, you don't understand." Cai sighed. "I'm dumb and not dumb at the same time."

The Half-Elf scratched his head in confusion but simply waited for Cai to clarify what she was talking about.

"I-It's when I turn into a Boar," Cai stated. "The me as Cai and the me as Me are different. It's like I revert to the mindset of a six-year-old whenever I am in my Boar Form."

"Ah! So that's what you're talking about."

"... Yes. So, I would appreciate it if you don't think of the real me as dumb."

After Cai finished her explanation, another moment of awkward silence descended inside the room, which made Lux decide to take the initiative this time around.

"Cai, are you really fine becoming my fiancée?" Lux asked. "Have you thought long and hard about it?"

Cai remained silent for a few seconds before she raised her head to look at the Half-Elf in front of her.

"I did," Cai replied. "After careful consideration, I deemed that you are indeed a good person, and I would be happy if I were to become your fiancée."

"Is that your only reason?"

"No. I also want to be with Iris, so this is just like hitting two birds with one stone. Ah!"

Cai accidentally spoke out her true intentions out loud, which made her face turn beet-red. Fortunately, she was wearing a veil, preventing Lux from seeing her current expression.

A chuckle escaped Lux's lips after hearing Cai's reply. He had known how much she loved his fiancée, Iris, even going as far as to join the tournament in order to prevent the blue-haired beauty from marrying someone she didn't love.

"Wait... are you planning to use your title as fiancée in order to cuddle with Iris on the bed with me?"

"..."

"I knew it."

Lux could only smile and shake his head helplessly because this was something that Cai would very much love to do.

"Don't misunderstand," Cai stated. "I also plan to have a serious relationship with you. Cuddling with Iris is just a side benefit of being your fiancée."

Lux smirked, but he decided to let this matter slide. In the end, he didn't mind having Cai as his fiancée, and a part of him was even looking forward to the time when the three of them could cuddle on the same bed together.

"How about you remove your veil for now?" Lux asked. "I've already seen your face twice, so there is no use hiding your face now."

"...My face isn't the only thing you've seen twice," Cai pouted. "But both are accidents so I didn't hold a grudge against you."

Although Lux had a calm expression on his face, a tinge of red could be seen on his cheeks. Cai's words reminded him of the time when he had seen her fully naked, and he would be lying if he said that he didn't appreciate what he saw.

Making his resolve, Lux stood up and walked towards Cai.

The priestess of the Rowan Tribe didn't move and only watched him approach her.

"I hope that the two of us get along well, Cai," Lux said as he slowly parted the veil that covered her beautiful face.

"Caitlin," Cai replied. "When I am in my human form, you can call me, Caitlin."

Cai raised her hand and offered it to Lux, which he held firmly in his own hand. She could feel his rough hand, which had seen its share of struggles in Elysium.

The beautiful Priestess had also been part of those struggles, so she understood more than anyone else that Lux had always faced these challenges with his life on the line.

"Although the circumstances that tied our fates together are because of my sister's vision, just know that I don't dislike the idea of spending my life with you," Cai replied. "Of course, that goes for spending my lifetime with Iris as well."

Lux chuckled, but he still nodded his head to acknowledge Caitlin's words.

"On my part, I will do my best to treasure and protect you to the best of my ability," Lux promised.

The two held each other's gaze before Cai closed her eyes. It was as if she was giving Lux a silent invitation, and the latter understood what she wanted.

A moment later, Cai felt something soft press against her forehead and smiled inwardly.

This was a test that she had given Lux, and she was happy to find out that the latter truly cared about her.

He also gave her a sign of respect and a promise that he would be there when she faced the darkest moment in her lifetime.

## **Chapter 644: Hey! Long Time No See!**

"Make sure to eat on time, okay?" Rose said as she handed Keane a basket filled with sandwiches. "If you come back skinny like the first time I saw you, I'll ignore you for a month."

"Okay," Keane replied as he took the basket from Rose's hand and put it inside his storage ring. "Thank you. And please, take care of yourself too, okay? I know you have a lot of responsibilities, but don't push yourself too hard."

"Don't worry, I know." Rose nodded. "Come find me in our Ancestral Grounds when you return, okay?"

"I will."

"Good. I'll be waiting."

The two then hugged each other, very reluctant to let each other go. However, both of them understood that they had responsibilities to take care of.

Under the cover of the forest, on the outskirts of the Rowan Tribe, Keane and Rose shared a kiss of farewell before returning to where the others were while holding each other's hands.

The two of them only separated at the very last minute when they were nearing the Plaza, where everyone had gathered in preparation for the Tribe's journey toward Barbatos Academy.

"Safe journey to all of you," Maximilian said with a smile. "I pray that the next time we meet, all of you have emerged victorious and have learned a lot from your adventure."

Lux and the others all nodded their heads to acknowledge Maximilian's words. Cai had also returned to her Boar form with Fei Fei perched on top of her head, similar to how Eiko was perched on top of Lux's head.

With one final wave of farewell, the Giant Manta Ray flew into the sky and headed East, where Barbatos Academy was located.

Xander would meet up with Lux at the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen because he still needed to assist with the migration of the Rowan Tribe.

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Several hours later...

As the Giant Manta Ray flew peacefully in the sky, Lux noticed a flying ship in the distance. It was quite big and reminded Lux of the Viking Ships of his world.

"It's a Barbarian Ship," Cai said. "Are they perhaps heading to Barbatos Academy as well?"

"A Barbarian Ship? Do they perhaps belong to Einar's Kingdom?" Keane pondered as he looked at the ship that seemed to be approaching them.

Gerhart, who was suspicious by nature, summoned a fan and held it firmly in his hand.

"Are you good friends with the Barbarians?" Gerhart asked. "I hope that this isn't a Raiding Ship that is coming to rob us. I've heard that they were quite a menace back in the days when the Six Kingdoms were still at each other's throats."

Lux eyed the flying ship in the distance. Although he considered Einar as a trusted comrade at arms, he didn't have too many interactions with other Barbarians to know if they were battle junkies or not.

"Everyone, be on your guard," Lux ordered, taking the role of the leader of the group. "If they show any signs of aggression, don't hesitate to fight back."

Fortunately, before all of them could take out all of their weapons, a loud shout coming from the flying ship reached their ears.

"Hey! Long time no see!"

Einar Mordosk, the Barbarian Prince, shouted and waved his hand towards his companions whom he hadn't seen for a long time.

"Fancy meeting you guys here," Einar said before jumping off the flying ship and landing on top of the Giant Manta Ray. "Are all of you going to the Academy?"

Lux raised his fist at the same time Einar did. The two then exchanged a fist bump as a greeting, and this exchange made the Barbarian Prince laugh. However, his laughter was short-lived as he eyed the red-headed Half-Elf with an appraising gaze.

"So, you have reached the Peak of the Initiate Rank." Einar grinned. "Very good!"

Lux smiled as he crossed his arms over his chest. "Look who's talking. Did you steal some Beast Cores from your Kingdom's Treasury to also reach the peak of the Initiate Rank?"

Einar nodded. "Aye. Although I did hunt some Monsters, it was taking too long. That is why I asked my Father to give me a few Cores in preparation for our dungeon exploration. Don't tell me you find fault in my method?"

"Of course not," Lux replied in a heartbeat. "The stronger you are, the better. Besides, our team needs some additional hard hitters."

Einar smirked before shifting his gaze to Keane, who gave him a brief nod.

"You're still not at the peak of the Initiate Rank, but your aura is sharper than the last time I saw you, Keane," Einar commented. "It seems that you don't even need to draw your sword in order to cut people."

Keane didn't deny or affirm Einar's statement. He simply smiled and acted like his usual self.

Einar didn't mind Keane's reaction because he had expected as much. However, when his gaze landed on Gerhart, the Barbarian narrowed his eyes as if seeing something he didn't like.

"He's coming with us?" Einar asked Lux. "Are you sure of this? Enlil and he might start a duel when they see each other. Also, the Rankers of the Elves will be there. What would you do if they decided to kidnap him then and there?"

Cai snorted. "They'll do that only if they want to court death. My Grandpa won't sit idly, and knowing him, he would also drag Iris' father into joining him in trashing the Elven Kingdom. Gerhart is now one of our people. I'd like to see them snatch him under my watch!"

"Da Wei!"

Fei Fei glared at the Barbarian, which made the latter laugh out loud.

"Well, we'll see if they court death at the Gate of the Fallen or not." Einar raised his hands in surrender. "This is not my problem. I'm just saying that there might be trouble if we bring him with us."

Lux who had remained quiet until now only nodded.

"I understand, but don't worry," Lux replied. "This is a crucial time for everyone. I'm sure that they will not make a scene when all the other Rankers of the different Kingdoms are there."

Einar didn't answer right away. Instead, he gave Gerhart a side-long glance before asking another question.

"But, what if they did do it?" Einar asked. "What if they didn't care about saving face, and simply wanted to get rid of Gerhart, whom they consider to be a threat to their kingdom?"

"If it happens, it happens." Lux shrugged. "Gerhart is aware of the risks yet he still chose to come with us. Since that is the case, we'll just see if the Elves really want to court death."

The red-headed Half-Elf's tone carried a finality to it, so Einar no longer pursued the issue.

"Brother, dinner is ready!" a young lady with light-brown hair and green eyes called out to Einar from the Flying Ship. "Come and get some before it disappears!"

Einar chuckled as he waved at his younger sister, Fiora, who was about to turn eighteen years old in a few months.

"Well then, I'll be back later," Einar stated. "Dinner comes first."

The Barbarian Prince then jumped back to the Flying Ship to join the others, who were about to partake in their early dinner.

The sun was setting in the West, and according to Lux's estimate, there was only an hour left before sunset.

"Should we have dinner as well?" Lux asked.

"Yes!" Cai answered. "I'm hungry. How about you Fei Fei?"

"Wei~"

"Fei Fei said she's hungry as well, so let's eat!"

Everyone else agreed with the notion of having dinner, so they unloaded the food that the best cooks in the Rowan Tribe had prepared for them before they left.

They still had a long way to go before arriving at their destination, and if nothing unexpected happened, they would land near the gates of Barbatos Academy before sunrise the next day.

## **Chapter 645: By The Way. Tonight, Lux And I Will...**

"Iris!"

"Cai!"

The blue-haired beauty hugged the boar, while the latter snuggled in Iris embrace.



"Ma!"

Eiko jumped off Lux's head and used Air Steps to land on her Mama's shoulder, giving her a kiss on the cheeks.

Iris, in turn, gave the baby slime a kiss, which made the latter giggle.

Lux watched this scene with a smile on his face because he could see the love Iris and Eiko had for each other.

The sun was about to rise from the East, and the surroundings were still a bit dim. But, that didn't matter.

Barbatos Academy was expecting the arrival of their guests and prepared accordingly. Floating lanterns were all around the Academy, providing enough illumination to their surroundings.

"Welcome back, Lux," Alicia greeted the Half-Elf, who had just arrived alongside the Flying Ship of the Barbarians.

"It's nice to see you again, Alicia," Lux shook hands with the beautiful woman who served as his Father's personal secretary. "It seems that the Academy has more visitors than I expected. Is there some kind of event?"

The Half-Elf and the others were surprised at the sight of several Giant Eagles outside the Academy grounds. They were the Apex Predators in the Kingdom of Elswyth and also served as the Beast Companions of Elves.

They were very powerful Beasts, and even Gryphons would do their best to not antagonize them.

"They are the representatives the Elven Kingdom sent here to Barbatos Academy to celebrate your birthday," Alicia replied. "You, Sir, are now a very important person, and it seems that the Six Kingdoms intend to have a better relationship with you."

"Oh? Am I really that popular now?"

"Yes. Although your birthday is still four days away, some factions have come to the Academy early to celebrate this event with you."

Lux couldn't help but smile after hearing Alicia's reply. Back then, he was just an insignificant Half-Elf that the other factions didn't even pay any attention to.

However, after accomplishing many incredible feats, especially inside the Sacred Dungeon, all of the other factions had changed their impression of the red-headed teenager, now treating him like one of the previous Four Kings of the Younger Generation.

"I just hope that they don't mess with my friends while they are here," Lux stated as he gave Gerhart a side-long glance. "Can you ensure that no problems will arise, Alicia?"

"His Excellency, Maximilian, communicated with the Headmaster the day you arrived at the Rowan Tribe," Alicia replied. "He mentioned that Gerhart was coming as well, so your Father already talked to the Elven Emissaries and reached a compromise."

Everyone within their circle knew that Gerhart and the Elves had a vendetta between them and that both sides were at each other's throats.

However, since they were on the grounds of Barbatos Academy, a direct conflict was something that both sides didn't want to happen.

"Don't worry," Gerhart said. "I won't kill anyone."

"That's good," Alicia replied. "The Elven Rankers who accompanied Prince Enlil said the same thing. But, just to be safe, make sure to stay within the Academy grounds and don't wander outside."

Gerhart nodded his head in understanding. He didn't come here to fight with the Elves and was aware that he wasn't a match to any of their Rankers. But that would only be for now. He believed that as long as he stayed in Heaven's Gate, he would definitely reach a level where he no longer had to fear the Elves.

"Well then, everyone, come with me," Alicia clapped her hands. "Prince Einar, Princess Fiora, we have prepared accommodations for you, as well as for your escorts. If you can just follow me, I will take you to your temporary quarters."

Einar and Fiora thanked Alicia for her hospitality and followed behind her.

Lux and the others did the same. Their journey had been quite long, and they hadn't had much rest along the way.

Just as he had expected, Cai's temporary quarters were in Iris' private residence in the Academy, which made the Boar very happy.

"Breakfast will be ready in an hour," Iris said. "I'm sure you are tired from your journey. Do you want to take a bath together?"

"Of course!" Cai replied. "Let's go together!"

Iris smiled before shifting her gaze to the Half-Elf, who was sitting on the couch.

"You want to come with us?" Iris asked in a teasing tone.

Lux thought about it for a brief moment before shaking his head.

"Maybe later tonight," Lux replied. "I still have to talk to Father about a few things."

Truth be told, Lux wanted to go, but he didn't want to make things difficult for Cai at the moment. He had agreed to become her Fiance, but they weren't at the stage where they were comfortable enough to show each other their naked bodies.

Also, he wanted to give Cai some breathing space because he was certain that she was more anxious than he was when it came to skinship.

Iris gave her Fiance a wink because she understood what Lux was thinking. She then took Cai, Eiko, and Fei Fei into her private bathhouse, where they would soak in a hot spring before heading down to the dining area for breakfast.

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"Are you disappointed that Lux didn't come with us?" Iris asked the beautiful lady beside her, who had returned to her human form.

"No," Caitlin replied. "I'd be too embarrassed if he was here. Now that I am also his fiance, I've noticed that he is quite a gentleman."

"That's true," Iris agreed with pride. "That is one of the reasons why I love him very much. But, since you are now his fiance, you should also do your best to get accustomed to him."

"...I'll do my best."

"By the way. Tonight, Lux and I will..."

Caitlin's face immediately became beet red after Iris told her that she would be making love with Lux tonight.

Seeing her reaction, the blue-haired beauty giggled before dragging the still-blushing priestess toward the hot spring.

Eiko and Fei Fei played tag while swimming on top of the water, while the two beauties soaked in the hot spring, cleaning their seductive bodies, which would make all the teenage boys in Barbatos Academy howl like wolves.

Suddenly, Caitlin said something that Iris didn't expect her to say.

"...Can I watch the two of you make love to each other?" Caitlin asked.

This time, it was Iris' turn to blush. Although she was open to the idea of sharing Lux with her best friend, the idea of being watched while the two of them were doing the deed was still embarrassing for her.

After a few minutes later, a reply, which was like a small squeak, escaped Iris' lips.

"... Okay," Iris replied with a flushed face.

The blue-haired beauty wanted Cai to be more comfortable around Lux, so she decided to make a little sacrifice to help her best friend see the intimate things that lovers did.

The Priestess of the Rowan Tribe didn't know much about the pleasures of the flesh. However, she was very curious about it. Also, she thought that it was a good idea to see how the deed was done as a future reference for when she and Lux would share their first union together.

While Iris and Cai were talking about the things that they would do that night, Lux knocked on the door of the Headmaster's office.

"Come in."

Alexander's words were curt, but they held the power of his position as the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy.

The moment Lux entered the room, he noticed that the Headmaster wasn't alone. There were three men with him.

One of them was an Elf, the other was a Swordsman, and last but not the least was someone that Lux didn't expect to see in Barbatos Academy.

"Captain Jack Spawow," Lux's eyes widened in shock. "What are you doing here, Captain?"

"Ah, Lux my boy. I came here to look for some Rum," Jack Spawow replied with an over-exaggerated gesture.

"Rum? Here?"

"Aye, boy. Rum is where the heart is."

Lux blinked once then twice before nodding his head. Although he had no idea what the Ship Captain was talking about, he decided to just nod his head and agree with him for the time being.

"Oh, so this is Lux?" the Swordsman eyed the Half-Elf with a smile. "Thank you for taking good care of my disciple, Keane. I've heard many good things about you."

Although the Swordsman was smiling and looked friendly enough, the air around him was giving off a very sharp presence that could probably slice anything that was thrown in his way.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Your Excellency," Lux replied. "How may I address you?"

"The Void," the swordsman replied. "That's what my friends and enemies call me."

"Or you can just call him Voidy," Jack Spawow commented. "Don't worry, my boy. He acts tough, but he's still a virgin. I've been trying to get him laid for the past decade, but the man holds his pants tighter than his sword."

"Spawow, it seems like you're itching for a fight. I'll be more than happy to oblige. Should I cut your ship in half?"

"Why fight when we can negotiate? Peace friend, let's drink some Rum after Alex is done with his work."

The Captain then laughed before walking towards Lux and whispering something in his ear.

"Advance happy birthday, Lux," Captain Jack Spawow whispered. "I wish I could stay, but I need to set sail when morning comes. My crew in Elysium sometimes causes trouble when I'm not around. If you happen to need a ship to travel in the open seas, look for me. I'll be your guide in the Caribbean."

Captain Jack Spawow then walked towards the door to leave, but as soon as he opened the door, he turned around to look at the Half-Elf, who was still looking at him, once more.

"In case I don't see her later, say hi to Eiko for me," Captain Jack Spawow said. "That girl has the makings of a true pirate!"

A laugh escaped the Captain's lips before he closed the door behind him. He had come to the Academy to talk to Alexander in private, but his former acquaintances had arrived before him.

Because of this, he decided to take his leave for the time being and wait for Alexander to finish whatever he was doing before trying to talk to him again.

"He never changes," the Elf snorted before shaking his head in dismay. "He's still the unruly and uncouth bastard that he has always been."

"Well, he's still better than a hypocrite," Keane's Master replied. "I'll also take my leave. Let's talk later, Alex."

The Void left the room without leaving even a backward glance, leaving Lux, the Elf, and Alexander inside the Headmaster's Office.

## **Chapter 646: Time Does A Lot Of Things**

"This is the first time we've met, so allow me to introduce myself," the Elf said with a curt nod. "My name is Zarazel Neifion. I am the Elven King's brother and a permanent member of the Elven High Council in my Kingdom. It's a pleasure to finally meet one of the heroes of the younger generation."

Zarazel, like all Elves, was quite handsome. His green hair was cut short, and his green eyes were as sharp as the arrows he frequently used to hunt the Beasts around their kingdom.

Lux took his hand and shook it twice before letting go. Although being called "one of the heroes of the younger generation" sounded good, the Half-Elf could tell that this was just flattery in order to get him to have a good impression of the Elven Noble who had visited the Academy.

"Now that we're both acquainted, allow me to cut to the chase," Zarazel said. "The slots for the 6 Kingdoms are very limited. Cai, Xander, and Keane had given the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and the Six Kingdoms their quotas.

"However, those are just 5 quotas. Even if the Barbarian Kingdom and the Azov Kingdom are no longer vying for those five slots, the three kingdoms need to divide them. Unfortunately, our Kingdom got the short end of the stick, and we were only able to get one quota out of the five.

Because of this, I have asked your father to give me one of the slots that Henrietta has, and he agreed... at least, in return for some favors."

The Elf glanced at Alexander, who was busy signing documents, completely ignoring his gaze.

"Usually, we can ask Prince Einar and Vallaki Meitar (Val), to give us some of their quotas as well, but they refused this time," Zarazel narrowed his gaze in displeasure. "The Barbarians are sending their own Initiates, while Vallaki has decided to bring his Guild Members to conquer the dungeon.

"The way I see it, the Gesian Kingdom (Barbarian) and the Azov Kingdom want to increase their quotas for the Final Gate once the Gate of Famine is cleared.

"With you leading this exploration, the chances of success are nearly 100%. To this day, the representatives we sent in the Gate of Conquest regretted their decision to separate from your group. It is not an understatement to say that their regrets know no bounds, especially for the Wildgarde Stronghold who sent so many people last time."

The Elf's slight jab at the place where he grew up almost triggered Lux into slapping the arrogant man silly. However, since Zarazel was a High-Ranker, he decided to just let it slide for now.

"Tell you what, the Elswyth Kingdom is willing to purchase the five slots in your possession," Zarazel stated. "Also, you may also ask us for a favor, with the exception of Gerhart's safety. You already know that he is hell-bent on making the Royal Family suffer, so we will not stand by and allow him to do as he wishes."

Lux pondered for a bit as he considered Zarazel's proposal. Currently, he needed a few slots to take Gerhart, and Cethus with him. The reason why he planned to take Cethus with him and not summon him inside the dungeon like what he intended to do with Flamma was because of his race.

Cethus was a Dragon Born, and although the Six Kingdoms rarely interacted with Dragons and Dragon Borns, they understood that it was a race that mustn't provoke at any time.

Lux wanted to show the Skystead Alliance, the Xynnar War Pact, as well as the Six Kingdoms, that he was on good terms with the Dragon Born.

This would act as a deterrence, as well as a reminder to the other Factions, that he had some friends in high places.

Originally, he planned to give the remaining three slots to Barbatos Academy, but since his father agreed to give the Elves one Slot, it only meant one thing.

His father was thinking about the bigger picture.

Since that was the case, Lux decided to do the same.

"I have three slots remaining, but I can only give the Elswyth Kingdom one slot," Lux replied. "I intend to auction the last two remaining slots to the Sevede Kingdom, Razohan, as well as the Navarre Kingdom. This is the only compromise I can make."

Zarazel frowned and tried to negotiate with Lux, giving him promises of wealth, as well as more favors from the Kingdom. However, the Half-Elf was firm in his decision, which made the Elf Diplomat give up in the end.



"Dealing with you Kaizers is always problematic." Zarazel sighed. "Fine. We will take the one slot you have for the agreed price. Also, you may ask us for one favor, but this favor mustn't exceed our bottom line."

"Understood." Lux nodded.

Although he was a bit disappointed with the outcome of the Negotiation, Zarazel was still able to secure two additional quotas for the Elswyth Kingdom. This allowed them to bring three representatives into the Dungeon.

If all went well, and those three survived, the Elves would have fifteen slots for the exploration of the last gate, which was rumored to open once the Four Gates had been conquered.

When Zarazel finally left the room, Alexander raised his head and made a gesture for Lux to sit.

"You did well," Alexander stated. "Did you originally want to give Barbatos Academy those slots?"

"Yes, Father," Lux replied. "But, after gauging the status quo, I deemed that it would be unwise to annoy the other kingdoms any more than they already are. Although you are a Saint, and they can't do anything to you, maintaining friendly relations with our neighbors can give us better rewards in the future."

Alexander nodded. "That's right. It is better to make friends than to make enemies. This way, we can focus on what is in front of us without worrying about being stabbed in the back."

Lux agreed with his father's words, and they chatted in detail about the things that were happening behind the scenes. When their talks were finally over, Alexander finally breached the issue with Cai.

"I apologize if I decided on your behalf about Cai's issue," Alexander said. "I thought that it was a good idea at that time. Also, Iris didn't reject the idea, so I thought that it was fine to push through with it. Maximilian has already told me your reply, and I just want to ask you one thing."

The Saint of Barbatos Academy held Lux's gaze and asked his question.

"Are you really fine with this arrangement?" Alexander asked.

Lux nodded. "Yes. I have thought long and hard about it, and the answer is still yes. Although Cai and I are far from being lovers, this can be nurtured as we spend time together. Also, Iris seems to like the idea of having Cai as my Fiance. I'm sure that it will work one way or another. All we need is time."

"Right. Time does a lot of things." Alexander agreed before once again looking at the document in front of him. "The representatives of the other Kingdoms will arrive before your birthday. Having considered this, we decided to hold a grand party for the event. I know that you aren't fond of these kinds of things, but since guests from far away have arrived, it would be inappropriate if we do not hold a proper ceremony."

Lux felt like a major headache was about to hit him, but since his Father had already decided, he deemed it best to just let him do what he wanted.

## Chapter 647: Intimate Things That Lovers Do

(Disclaimer: Softcore scenes up ahead. Nothing too graphic.)

Two hours before midnight, right after Lux had finished his bath, Iris dragged him to the bedroom.

He was originally planning to sleep on the couch so Cai could sleep with Iris in bed. He knew that the Priestess wanted to spend some time with the blue-haired beauty, so he decided to let them spend the first night together.

However, Iris seemed to have other things in mind, making the Half-Elf wonder about what was going on.

"Um, maybe I should put something on first?" Lux asked as Iris opened the door to her bedroom. "Cai is inside, right? I don't think letting her see me wearing only a bath towel is appropriate?"

"Why should you still wear clothes when you're just going to take them off later anyway?" Iris replied with a beet-red face.

She wasn't blushing because she was embarrassed to see Lux naked. After all, the two of them had shared many intimate moments together and had made love several times already.

However, she couldn't help but feel anxious about making love with her fiancé while someone else was watching. Iris was just trying to act unbothered because this was her idea. Since that was the case, she had to see it through till the end.

Cai, who was already waiting inside the room, was also blushing because she already knew what was going to happen next.

"C-Can someone tell me what's going on?" Lux felt that something wasn't right when he realized that the two Baby Slimes weren't inside the room.

Iris had taken Eiko and Fei Fei to where her Guardian Beasts were staying and asked the pair to sleep with them for tonight. The two Baby Slimes had a keen interest in knowing Iris' other Guardians, so they agreed with Iris' arrangement.

"The two of us will make love as usual," Iris replied while trying to keep a straight face. "Cai will just watch from the side as a reference."

Cai, who had been called out, nervously cleared her throat and said something to back up Iris' statement.

"J-Just treat me as someone invisible," Cai stuttered. "I promise I won't make any noise. This is just for future reference."

Lux didn't know whether he should cry or laugh out loud when he heard the two ladies' words. After careful judgment of the current state of affairs, the Half-Elf inferred that the one that initiated this plan was none other than Iris.

The Princess of the Rowan Tribe had no knowledge about the art of lovemaking, and yet, she was very curious about how it was done. Iris' proposal was perfect for her because it would allow her to learn what was in store for her in the future.

"Well, I don't really mind, but is this really okay?" Lux scratched his head.

"It's fine," Iris replied.

"I don't see anything wrong with it," Cai answered. "After all, I am also your fiancé. We are bound to do this sooner or later, so learning how it is done is better than not knowing anything at all."

Lux wanted to say that she wasn't wrong, but he still felt a bit awkward doing this act with someone watching him.

"Don't worry," Iris said softly as he pulled Lux to the bed. "If you don't feel like taking the lead, I will do it."

With a simple tug, the bath towel covering Lux's lower half fell to the floor. The Half-Elf's body was lean and toned, and this was the first time that Cai was seeing it in full view.

The blush on her face turned a shade deeper. In her heart, she knew she liked what she saw.

"Don't be too conscious of her," Iris whispered as she slowly pinned Lux to the bed. "I'll handle the rest."

Although she was embarrassed, she was willing to take the lead because she missed her fiance terribly.

Lux, who also missed Iris, no longer resisted and soon found himself being kissed by the blue-haired beauty who loved him very much.

The sound of kisses echoed inside the room as Iris' lips clashed with Lux's, biting it like a hungry wolf that hadn't eaten for days.

A few minutes later, Iris pulled back and sat on top of Lux with a mischievous smile on her face.

The Half-Elf found this expression of hers very cheeky, so he raised his hands and pulled the string of her nightgown, baring her breasts.

Lux's hands moved to grope them, while his fingers played and pinched the firm tips that reacted to his touch.

Cai, who was watching this scene, felt her body heat up as feelings she had never experienced before rose to the surface.

Iris, who had decided to take the lead, playfully pried her fiance's hands off her breasts and stood up, making the nightgown slide down from her body and drop onto Lux's waist.

Iris then lightly kicked the nightgown to the other side of the bed.

Lux, who hadn't seen Iris for quite some time, felt his desire slowly awakening inside his chest, making him feel hot and bothered. However, since he agreed that Iris would take the lead, he painfully endured how her soft hands moved up and down while holding his...

The two once again shared a deep and passionate kiss as Iris continued to stroke her fiance's member, which was standing tall and proud.

Cai, who was seeing Lux's little brother for the first time, subconsciously gulped as she watched her best friend's practiced movements.

Lux's right hand wasn't being idle either, gently caressing Iris' folds, preparing them for what was about to come.

Finally, after two painstaking minutes, Iris decided that it was now time for the main act.

With practiced movements, she sat on top of Lux and slid his member inside of her before once again lowering her head to kiss his lips.

If earlier, she felt embarrassed that Cai was watching them, now she had completely forgotten about the latter and began moving her hips in a steady rhythm with the intention of making her fiance feel good.

Lux had also been swept by the flow and no longer cared about the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe and moved his hips to match Iris' rhythm, making her moan in pleasure.

A few minutes later, Lux let out a grunt, and Iris, who was on top of him, shuddered after feeling his burning love for her seep deep inside her womb, melting it from the inside out.

After a sweet, and long release, the blue-haired beauty fell on top of the Half-Elf panting for breath.

Cai could see something white, seeping out of her best friend's... which stirred something inside of her.

Just as the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe was about to say something, Lux moved and gently laid Iris on the bed.

This time, he was the one on top, and he immediately proceeded to make love to her in a missionary position.

Although he just came, he was still pretty lively, so he decided to do it once again while his Fiance was still recovering from the afterglow of their first round.

Soon, only Iris' moans and the sound of flesh hitting flesh echoed inside the room.

Cai didn't know how many minutes had passed and how many rounds of lovemaking the two had. The only thing she knew was that after everything was over, Lux carried the limp Iris in a princess carry and walked toward the bathroom so that he could wash her properly.

When the Half-Elf had left the room, Cai finally stirred and subconsciously moved towards the bed.

The scent and aftermath of Lux and Iris' lovemaking was still on the bed, making Cai feel a little light-headed. Even so, the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe curiously traced her hand over the bed, replaying everything she had just seen inside her head.

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"Are you alright?" Lux asked the blue-haired beauty who had just regained her consciousness after passing out on their sixth round. "Sorry, I was a bit rough in the end."

Iris just smiled and allowed Lux to carefully clean her body, while her back leaned against his chest.

She felt how much Lux had missed her through his actions, and it made her feel happy inside. When all of her nooks and crannies were cleaned, the Half-Elf planted a kiss and sucked on the nape of her neck, leaving his mark on her white skin.

He had left similar marks on her body earlier, which would slowly heal when morning came. Now that both of their lusts were sated and they were now thinking properly, they remembered that there was a third person in the room earlier.

"I wonder if I went too far?" Lux asked. "Cai is probably scared after seeing something like that."

"She's not a vase, you know?" Iris replied. "Still, I understand what you're trying to say. But, now that she has seen how much stamina you have, she would no longer have to worry about your capability of making love with the two of us at the same time."

"...You know Cai really likes you, right? She'd probably help me attack you if you are capable if given the opportunity."

"Well, I'll look forward to that day. I'm sure that it will be a brand new experience for the both of us."

Lux couldn't help but chuckle after hearing Iris' positive reply.

Both were unaware that while they were taking their time soaking in the bath, the beautiful lady that was left inside their room had started to understand the intimate things that lovers do when they are together.

## **Chapter 648: It Seems That All Of You Are Courting Death**

When Iris opened her eyes, she found herself locked in the embrace of two people.

On her right was Lux, and on her left was Cai.

After they returned from their bathroom, they found Cai sitting on top of the bed with a flushed look on her face. Of course, they found this to be a very natural reaction.

Iris and Lux said nothing and simply removed the bed sheets and replaced them with new ones. After that, the three of them all slept on the same bed, with the blue-haired beauty in the middle.

'Waking up like this isn't too bad,' Iris mused.

Lux was the person she loved, and Cai was her best friend. Being embraced by these two people made her feel something warm stir in her chest, chasing away the sleep that still clung to her senses.

There was a faint light coming out of the window, which was the sign that morning had already come.

Even so, Lux and Cai were still asleep with no signs of waking up anytime soon. In consideration of this, Iris didn't move and simply enjoyed the happiness she was feeling right now.

However, that silence only lasted for a minute longer as the door of the room opened. Two lively Baby Slimes came in and jumped on the bed.

"Ma!"

"Pa!"

"Da Wei!"

Eiko and Fei Fei jumped up and down Lux's and Cai's bodies, waking them up from their slumber.

Seeing the two Slimes being so hyper early in the morning made Iris giggle. After being jumped on like a trampoline countless times, Lux opened his eyes and grabbed Eiko as she was just about to land on his body, making the Baby Slime giggle.

Seeing that Eiko wasn't even a little bit sorry for waking him up, the Half-Elf tickled her, causing the baby slime to uncontrollably laugh and squirm in his hands in an attempt to escape.

Only after Iris intervened did Eiko manage to free herself. The baby slime jumped into her Mama's arms, asking to be spoiled like a little child.

Cai, who had finally woken up due to Fei Fei's actions, caught the Baby Slime in her hands before lightly patting her head.

"Are you hungry, Fei Fei?" Cai asked as she stifled a yawn.

"Wei~" Fei Fei nodded.



The members of the Rowan Tribe were early risers, and Fei Fei had grown accustomed to their daily routine. Right now, it was two hours past sunrise, and the Baby Slime was already very hungry.

Half an hour later, Lux, Iris, and Cai left the room to have breakfast.

Cai had returned to her Boar Form, not wanting anyone to see her human form—of course, aside from a handful of people and her family.

Although her Grandpa, Maximilian, had placed a seal on her body, making others unable to see through her body constitution, Cai had been using her Boar Form since she was a child.

For her, turning into a Boar was similar to breathing. It was a very natural action for her, and she was known to stay in that form for as long as possible.

When they arrived in the Dining Area, they saw Gerhart and Keane seated beside each other. Einar and Enlil were seated at the opposite table, alongside the Elves and the Barbarians that had come to Barbatos Academy to celebrate Lux's Birthday.

Fortunately, Gerhart and the Elves weren't doing anything that would provoke the other, which made Lux breathe a bit easier.

Einar and Enlil gave Lux a curt nod, and the Half-Elf returned their gesture with a nod as well. After that, he went to Gerhart's and Keane's table so that they could eat breakfast together.

Everyone ate in peace and made small talk with each other.

Lux ignored the side-long glances from the Barbarians and the Elves, who looked at him from time to time.

They had heard many stories about Lux from Einar and Enlil, and most of them wondered if they were true or not. Some were even itching to spar with him, making Einar chuckle at their ignorance. His companions had no idea who they were dealing with.

If possible, he wanted Lux to show them a thing or two to let them understand why he had recognized the Half-Elf as the Team Leader whenever they challenged the Sacred Dungeon.

"He doesn't look strong, Your Highness," one of the Elves said softly. "Why don't you fight him for the position of Team Leader in the Sacred Dungeon?"

Enlil firmly shook his head because he learned firsthand that Lux was a very capable leader. Those who had challenged the Gate of Conquest were still regretting their decisions to this day and, if possible, the Elven Prince didn't want to repeat that mistake.

His Father and the Elven Council had given a decree that the Elves accompanying Prince Enlil must follow Lux once they were inside the Sacred Dungeon regardless of how absurd his orders were.

Of course, the two other representatives that were accompanying their Prince weren't too happy about it, but the punishment for disobeying the decree by the Elven King, as well as the Elven Council, was severe. This gave them no other choice but to reluctantly accept the orders.

However, if their Prince wished to take the position of Team Leader, they would support him regardless of the punishment waiting for them back home.

Half an hour later, Lux had finished his meal and was about to leave the Dining Area with the others when several of the Barbarians blocked their path with their arms crossed over their chest.

"We've heard great things about you, Sir Lux," one of the teenage Barbarians said. "Our Prince has recognized you as our Team Leader, and we are willing to follow his words. However, we Barbarians only follow the strong. If possible, can you have a sparring match with us, so we can better understand if you have what it takes to lead us to battle?"

Before Lux could answer, Cai, who was by his side, snorted.

"It seems that all of you are courting death," Cai stated in an arrogant tone. "Do you wish to get beaten up that badly?"

"No," another teenage Barbarian shook his head. "We just want to spar. That is all. How about it, Sir Lux? Will you grant our request?"

The Elves who had eaten alongside the Barbarians all clapped their hands in support of their proposal. They also wanted to see with their own eyes if the fame the Half-Elf currently had was just an exaggerated rumor, or if he really had the strength to back it up.

"Okay," Lux replied with a smile. "Let's go to the Training Grounds."

The Barbarians were very happy to hear Lux's reply, so they allowed him to pass and followed behind him and his entourage.

Naturally, the Elves followed suit, leaving Einar and Enlil walking a good distance from the back.

"Why aren't you stopping them?" Enlil asked.

"They won't recognize Lux unless they understand how strong he is," Einar shrugged. "Also, I want to see how much he has improved since the last time I saw him. You want to see it as well, right?"

Enlil didn't comment, but his silence was enough to tell Einar that he was right. After the battle in the Gate of Conquest, the strongest members of the Young Generation within the Six Kingdoms had all risen to the Peak of the Initiate Rank.

They had received enough resources to achieve their current Rank in preparation for the great battle that was waiting for them inside the Sacred Dungeon.

Although Cai and Keane were also in the Initiate Rank, they were not Peak Initiates. However, that didn't matter because both of them had the ability to go above and beyond their current ranks, making them even stronger than the side characters that Einar and Enlil brought to accompany them to the Domain of the Fallen.

"It seems that the brats are itching for a fight," Zarazel commented as he finished drinking his cup of tea. "Should we also watch?"

The Barbarian High-Ranker who went by the name Kavan nodded his head.

"I also want to see if this kid is as good as the rumors," Kavan replied. "I sure hope he doesn't disappoint."

Zarazel only smiled, and stood up from his seat.

Now that there was an opportunity to watch Lux fight, he would definitely go and see for himself, if the Half-Elf was worthy of the title of the "Strongest

Fighter of the young generation", which he earned after winning the tournament in Barbatos Academy.

## Chapter 649.1: I Can Do This All Day [Part 1]

"So this is where the tournament of Barbatos Academy was held," one of the Barbarians said. "Not bad."

"Indeed," another Barbarian agreed. "Too bad, there are only a few dozen students who will watch our moment of glory."

Barbarians were similar to the Orcs in a way that most of them were battle junkies. Einar was like that as well in the past. But after several close calls in the Sacred Dungeon, he was now a seasoned warrior and his attitude in regards to fighting had also changed.

Alicia, Zarazel, Keane's Master, and Jack Spawow appeared in the stands. Clearly, they were also quite interested in watching how Lux would handle the feisty Barbarians who didn't know what was good for them.

"Okay, let me just tell you the rules of this sparring match," Lux started. "Anyone who falls off the stage, loses consciousness, or is unable to continue fighting loses the match. Are these terms acceptable for all of you?"

The Barbarians nodded their heads. The rules that Lux spoke of were no different from what they had back home.

"Very well." Lux nodded. "As you may already know, I was the Champion of the Tournament in the past. Because of this, it will be unfair if you can just challenge me just like that. So, I'll give you one condition. You need to beat one of my summons. If you are able to do that, then I will allow you to challenge me."

The Barbarians frowned and communicated by glancing at each other. However, Lux's words held a bit of truth in them. If they wanted to fight him, they must prove that they were worthy, so they all agreed to his condition.

"Great!" Lux smirked before raising his hand. "Come, Pazuzu!"

Lux's fearsome Fortress Defender appeared, making the Barbarians narrow their eyes.

"Pazuzu, feel free to go all out," Lux ordered. "Show them your might!"

"Yes, My Lord," Pazuzu replied.

Currently, the Fortress Defender was wearing golden plate armor and holding a golden shield. The shield was the one stolen from Ronan on the battlefield, and the plate armor was from the same person, taken when he took it off to try and take advantage of the unconscious Sarah.

In other words, except for his spiked mace which was a Pseudo-Legendary Weapon, Pazuzu's defensive armor and shield were both Legendary Equipment!

Even if the fearsome Defender's attack damage wasn't that high, the Barbarians could only dream of breaking past his defenses!

"I'll fight him first!" one of the Barbarians said. "This monster looks similar to that girl that dumped me a few months ago. It's time for revenge!"

Hearing that, Pazuzu looked at the Barbarian in contempt. Even though he admitted that his looks weren't that good, he was still more good-looking than the Barbarian in front of him.

"Battle start!" Lux shouted from outside of the Arena.

As soon as the cue sounded, the Barbarian charged toward Pazuzu, planning to strike with the War Axe coated in blazing flames.

The Fortress Defender didn't move from his spot and simply waited for his opponent to strike him with his strongest blow.

"Die, Ugly Monster!" the Barbarian roared as he slashed at Pazuzu using his full power.

Since his opponent was a Summoned Monster, there was no need for him to hold back his attacks.

A metallic clang reverberated in the surroundings as the Flaming Axe and Pazuzu's Golden Shield collided.

The ground under their feet shattered, but Pazuzu's defensive stance didn't break.

As if thinking that one strike wasn't enough, the Barbarian unleashed a flurry of blows. However, all of his strikes were blocked perfectly by the Fortress Defender, preventing the latter from gaining any advantage in the exchange.

A few minutes later, the Barbarian backed away panting for breath. He couldn't believe that he was unable to even put a dent in the Golden Shield that Lux's Summoned Monster was holding.

"Impossible!" the Barbarian shouted. "This is a Mythical War Axe! Why isn't your shield breaking?!"

Pazuzu lowered the shield blocking his body and looked at the Barbarian who was uglier than him.

"Do you know why you can't break past my defenses?" Pazuzu asked.

"Why?!" the Barbarian asked in a heartbeat.

The Fortress Defender walked fearlessly toward the Barbarian as if he was invincible.

He only stopped when he was a foot away from the teenager, and lowered his head until it was only a few inches away from his face.

"It's because I can do this all day," Pazuzu replied. "How about you? Can you do this all day?"

The Barbarian looked down as if pondering Pazuzu's question. Half a minute later, he answered.

"Is it because I can't do it all day that girls don't like me?" the Barbarian asked.

"No," Pazuzu replied. "It's because you don't know Da Wae~"

Without another word, Pazuzu used his shield to bash the teenager, sending him flying out of the arena.

Everyone watching, with the exception of the Rankers and Lux's entourage, booed.

"Haters gonna hate," Pazuzu replied before making a gesture for the other Barbarians to come up the stage and challenge him. "Who's next?"

"Me!" The biggest among the teenage Barbarians jumped on the stage and summoned a two-handed Great Sword. "I'll make you pay for what you had done to my comrade!"

"I don't think so," Pazuzu replied as he raised his shield in front of him.

"Shield Counter!"

Earlier, the Fortress Defender only blocked his opponent's attacks. But the reason why wasn't just to defend against the Barbarian's attack. It was because he was charging up his skill, Shield Counter.

This ability allows Pazuzu to store the force behind each blow that was directed at him and return it to his enemies by 200%.

Before the Barbarian could even engage the Fortress Defender in a battle, a powerful blast of energy erupted from Pazuzu's shield, sending the Barbarian crashing toward the walls of the stands.

The Fortress Defender had calculated the strength of the attack perfectly, and made sure that his opponent would only receive a minor injury from his attack.

"Who's next?" Pazuzu asked as white smoke rose up from his golden shield. "I already said this, but I will say it again. I can do this all day. Who wants to fight me next?"

The Fortress Defender looked down at the three remaining Barbarians who were staring at him with bloodshot eyes.

"Come," Pazuzu said as he made a taunting gesture to the three Barbarians who wanted nothing more than to snap his neck. "I'll fight the three of you at the same time."

## **Chapter 650.2: I Can Do This All Day [Part 2]**

"Bastard!"

"You're looking down on us?!"

"Let's go! Let's teach this Orc a lesson!"

With Pazuzu's taunt, the three Barbarians jumped to the arena and took out their weapons. Although they had no intention of fighting Pazuzu 3 to 1, his arrogant words made them want to give him a good beating.

Einar, who was watching this scene, couldn't help but cover his face in embarrassment. This was supposed to be a one-on-one battle, and yet, his comrades had decided to gang up on the Fortress Defender 3 to 1 because of just a few words.

"So the three of you want to fight me?" Pazuzu smirked. "Good! Let's see what the three of you can do together!"

Truth be told, Pazuzu had a lot of pent-up frustrations. He had always fought creatures who were many times stronger than him, with some of them able to kill him in two blows.

The more he died, the more Pazuzu's resentment grew. But he also learned a lot of things, like how to properly meet an attack head-on and how to keep his calm even if death was staring at him in the face.

Right now, the Fortress Defender was learning to effectively deflect blows instead of taking them head-on. This would give him an opportunity to counter-attack and deal as much damage as he could to his enemies.

Although his role in Lux's Army was to be a Tank, that didn't mean that he couldn't use his defensive skills as an offensive strike.

The three Barbarians spread out and encircled Pazuzu. Even though they were very angry at how their comrades were defeated, they weren't dumb.

They were specifically chosen to accompany Einar to the Sacred Dungeon, which meant that they weren't weak.

Still, they couldn't understand how the Summoned Monster, who was actually weaker than them, defeated their two comrades.

Pazuzu was only at the Initial Stage of the Initiate Rank, which was slightly lower than theirs.



All of them were Peak Initiates, and they had faced many challenges together.

Right now, they were treating Pazuzu as a Boss Monster that needed to be taken down as a team, so they didn't feel like what they were doing was against the rules.

Well, in a way, they weren't wrong. Although Pazuzu was indeed at the Initiate Rank, his equipment, with the exception of his weapon, were all Legendary Items, raising his overall strength to that of an E-Ranker.

In short, Lux had cheated from the very beginning. Pitting mere Initiates against a Pseudo-Ranker that had died countless times on the battlefield.

"Madlad Rush!" Pazuzu shouted. "Shield Bash!"

As if he was injected with two liters of steroids, the Fortress Defender ran like a Madlad and slammed his shield into one of the Barbarians, which sent the latter skidding out of the arena.

"Shield Throw!"

The Fortress Defender then made a backhand throw, making his shield fly into one of the Barbarians who had targeted his backside.

"Fool! You let go of the only thing that protects you from us!" The Barbarian thought that he could smash the shield aside with his weapon and follow up a counterattack on Pazuzu.

However, as soon as his weapon hit the spinning shield, it instantly bounced off, leaving him unable to react before the shield smashed into his chest, making him groan in pain.

"You're open!" The third Barbarian, who managed to close the distance, hacked his weapon upwards with the intention of decapitating Pazuzu, who had lost his shield.

"No," Pazuzu replied. "You're open!"

As if waiting for that exact moment, Pazuzu raised his golden gauntlets and blocked the Axe, sending sparks flying in every direction.

After the attack had been successfully deflected, the Fortress Defender wrapped his arms around the Barbarian's waist and did a suplex.

The latter's head was slammed onto the ground, shattering the floor of the arena.

Lux winced after seeing such a brutal scene, not expecting that his Fortress Defender would use the Barbarians as tools to vent out his frustrations for always dying on the battlefield.

The reason why he summoned Pazuzu instead of his other Named Creatures was because he thought that Pazuzu was the least aggressive of the bunch.

But now that he had seen how the Fortress Defender used wrestling techniques to body slam his opponents, he felt the need to give Pazuzu a paid vacation, so that the latter could do some soul-searching.

In the end, the Half-Elf was forced to intervene and stop the fight because Pazuzu was treating the two Barbarians who were still in the arena like punching bags. Their faces had already turned black and blue due to his Named Creature's punches.

Truth be told, Pazuzu didn't need to use his shield. His golden armor was enough to repel any attacks that came from Initiates and below.

Once the fistfight was over, the Barbarians were all taken to the infirmary, while those who watched the "sparring match" looked at the Half-Elf with complicated looks on their faces.

Zarazel's, as well as the Barbarian Ranker, Kavan's, expressions were solemn because this fight alone told them many things.

Although they were both High-Rankers and Lux was no match for them, they understood that very few among those of the same rank as the Half-Elf could beat him.

The fact that his one Summon could beat five Peak Initiate Barbarians was more than enough to let them see the red-headed teenager in a new light.

It was not only them who learned a lot of things from this fight. The Elves, who were led by Prince Enlil, all quieted down after the match was over.

They knew that the Barbarians didn't use their Trump Cards in the battle, but that didn't mean that they hadn't fought against Pazuzu seriously. Because of

this, they all decided to listen to the Half-Elf, as was decreed by their King and the Elven Council.

Only Alexander, who was watching this battle from within his office, shook his head helplessly.

He knew that Lux cheated, but he was fine with that.

'With this one move of his, he managed to make his peers acknowledge him as their temporary leader in the expedition,' Alexander thought. 'However, the news I received from our spies in the Vahan Empire is quite troubling...'

According to the men he had stationed in the Vahan Empire, aside from Malcolm, Nero, and Prince Cyrus, Emperor Andreas was able to recruit some other powerful individuals who would act as their representatives inside the Sacred Dungeon.

He knew that his stepson was strong.

But, being strong wasn't enough to deal with the unexpected guests that would make their appearance at the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen.

"I just hope they don't do anything stupid," Alexander muttered as he placed the documents he just finished reading on top of the table. "This is not the right time for conflicts."

Right now, all the Factions only wanted one thing, and that was to successfully conquer the Gate of Famine, which would be the key to unlocking the final Gate of the Apocalypse.

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Vahan Empire...

"We are truly honored that you have graced us with your presence, Your Excellencies," Emperor Andreas said with a smile.

"As you should," a person wearing a black robe replied. "You and your people are very lucky that someone of my standing is wasting my precious time talking to lowly beings such as yourself."

Emperor Andreas' smile stiffened, but he kept his smile, knowing that this was an important moment for him and his Empire.

"Are you sure that this Domain you spoke of is truly the Domain of the Fallen?" the black-robed figure asked.

"Yes," Emperor Andreas answered. "We have already sent representatives to challenge it repeatedly, and now, we are facing the Gate of Famine."

The black-robed figure nodded. "It seems that you people are not as incompetent as you look. Very well, I will accompany your son on this expedition, but I will not follow any of his orders. I and my servants will move separately."

"Understood," Emperor Andreas replied. "Thank you for your graciousness."

The black-robed figure snorted before walking out of the throne room, accompanied by his two servants.

He moved as if he owned the place, making even the arrogant Emperor of the Vahan Empire take a step back and do his best to flatter his guests that came from a very far away place.

## **Chapter 651: Life Is Never Easy**

"You hid deeply," Einar said to the Half-Elf, whom he had asked to meet in private. "I didn't think that Pazuzu had become that strong."

As soon as his companions finished receiving their treatment in the Academy's infirmary, the Barbarian Prince had come to look for Lux.

Einar had seen Lux's Named Creatures before, and among them, Pazuzu didn't stand out as a fighter.

Although his comrades didn't use their Trump Cards because they were forbidden to use them, he believed that the Fortress Defender hadn't shown his own Trump Cards either.

Truth be told, Einar was very surprised when he realized how much Lux had changed since the last time they met each other. The Half-Elf was radiating an aura of confidence like a veteran fighter who had fought countless battlefields.

"Well, he has faced many strong foes as of late," Lux replied. "So, tell me, what did you want to talk about in private?"

Einar looked at the Academy from the balcony of Iris' personal residence.

This was the most protected place in the Academy, so it was guaranteed that whatever comes out of their mouth wouldn't be heard by anyone.

"Since we have fought many battles together, and I recognize you as my temporary leader in the Sacred Dungeon, I'll be honest with you," Einar stated. "This time around, the representatives of the Vahan Empire might be a cut above us. I only heard this news from my father before I came here, and I believe that you will be told by your father as well before we leave for the Sacred Dungeon.

"However, I strongly advise you to be more lowkey this time. It is possible that the 'guest' of the Vahan Empire will forcefully take over the leadership of the operation by killing you once we enter the Sacred Dungeon."

Lux arched an eyebrow after hearing Einar's words.

He knew how proud the Barbarian was, and it would be very difficult to make Einar submit to others. For the Barbarian Prince to tell him something like this, meant that the guest coming from the Vahan Empire was truly a big shot.

A big shot that mustn't be offended at all costs.

But Lux only laughed internally. If a mere Initiate dared to try killing him inside the Sacred Dungeon, they would definitely find themselves at death's door.

However, curiosity won him over, so he decided to ask Einar who that guest was.

"Who is it?" Lux asked. "What faction do they belong to?"

"I don't know who it is because my old man is tightlipped," Einar replied. "But, for him to warn me that I shouldn't offend the guest from the Vahan Kingdom means only one thing—we are talking about someone that is coming from a powerful organization. At the very least, the information I received states that two Saints are acting as that person's bodyguards."

Lux's face immediately became grim after hearing Einar's explanation. If that guest was being guarded by two Saints, it certainly meant that they weren't simple people.

Saints weren't cabbages and, at most, a Kingdom would only have one.

Empires might have two, or even three of them at once, however, these powerhouses didn't have that much free time to act as bodyguards for a person.

Even Emperor Andreas only had a High-Ranker by his side. The Saint of his country would move only when their national interest was in danger. As long as it didn't come to that point, they would not actively participate in any large-scale wars, even if Emperor Andreas were to order them.

"Do you know what Kingdom or Empire they belong to?" Lux asked.

Einar shook his head. "All I know is that they come from a faraway place—farther than the neighboring Kingdoms and Empires of the Skystead Alliance."

Lux quieted down for a bit before nodding his head in understanding.

"Thank you for telling me this," Lux stated. "I'll also ask my father for information about these guests from the Vahan Empire."

Einar nodded. "Even though my Father told me to avoid offending this guest, that won't stop me from teaming up with you on this expedition."

The Barbarian Prince then gave Lux a devilish smile, which greatly enhanced his sharp features.

"If they want to form a team on their own, they are free to do so," Einar said. "I'll stick to the winning team, so I'm going with you."

Lux smirked and raised his closed fist.

Einar did the same and the two shared a fist bump as comrades who had fought side by side throughout the previous expeditions inside the Sacred Dungeon.

"I'm sure that Val feels the same, so you don't have to worry about us," Einar crossed his arms over his chest. "Even if the Six Kingdoms and the Xynnar

War Pact align themselves with that guest, we will still go with you. I'm sure that Henrietta and her Guild Members will do the same.

"But, know this. If you and that person come to blows, I will just watch from the side. My old man doesn't want to have any conflicts with that organization, so I'll apologize in advance for not being there if ever your ass gets handed to you."

Lux chuckled after hearing Einar's statement.

Everyone thought of him as a troublemaker because of the conflicts he had with the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and even the Six Kingdoms.

However, as long as they were inside the Sacred Dungeon, where Saints are barred from entry, he was sure that he would be able to deal with anyone of the same Rank as him without much trouble.

The two then chatted about a few more things before parting ways on good terms.

'Life is never easy,' Lux thought. 'When one problem is solved, another one takes its place. I'd better find Father and ask him for all the information he has about this mysterious organization. My Guild is still not strong enough to fight against Saints.'

The Half-Elf sighed as he made his way toward the Headmaster's Office, where his Father, Alexander, was also waiting for his arrival.

## **Chapter 652: The Best Birthday Gift Ever**

Lux stayed inside the Headmaster's office for nearly an hour before returning to Iris' residence to digest everything that he had learned from his father.

Einar told him that the Vahan Empire's guest was being guarded by two Saints, but according to Alexander, there were not just two, but four Saints.

This was a very alarming number, which proved that they were not dealing with an ordinary Kingdom or Empire, but an SS or even an SSS-Ranked Kingdom or Empire.

Lux knew that the highest rank a Kingdom or Empire could have without a Saint was B-Rank.

If a Kingdom or an Empire had a Saint, it would immediately reach the A-Rank Status.

From that point onwards, the more Rankers, High-Rankers, and Saints a Kingdom or Empire had, the higher their Rank would be.

Right now, Lux had access to three SSS-Ranked Kingdoms.

The Kingdom of Agarthia near the Core of Elysium.

The Kingdom of the Dragon Race, Karshvar Draconis, which was located high above the clouds floating, near the center of Elysium.

The Kingdom of Espoir Frieden, the home of the High-Elves, where the oldest race in existence lived.

These three Kingdoms boasted an army that was capable of conquering the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and Six Kingdoms without too much effort.

Why? Because SSS-Ranked Kingdoms and Empires all had one thing in common.

They had a Supreme-Ranked Being.

Supreme was the Strongest Rank among Mortals.

The Rank equivalent to this among the Monsters was called Demigod.

Supremes and Demigods were the strongest beings in existence, and no one would dare to offend the factions they belonged to.

'Four Saints, so it's at least an S-Ranked Kingdom or Empire,' Lux thought. 'The Barbarian King was right when he asked Einar to not antagonize these people.'

When Lux asked his father, Alexander, what stance he should take in the upcoming Dungeon exploration, the Saint of the Barbatos Academy told him that he was free to do whatever he wished.



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"We, Kaizers, are not afraid of conflicts," Alexander stated. "However, we should never start one. If we are provoked, then we will fight back. But, if you ever plan to do something, wait until you are inside the Domain of the Fallen.

"These people are from Elysium, so they can't touch us here in Solais. Besides, you have a way to travel to different places, so you won't have to worry about being alienated anywhere in the territories of the Xynnar War Pact."

Although Lux had plenty of ways to dodge the hunt of Four Saints in Elysium, he was more worried about Henrietta and Iris' guild, Serenity.

Their Main Guild Headquarters was located within the territories of the Xynnar War Pact, and if their allies decided to root them out, there was nothing that they could do about it.

Alexander's answer to this was quite simple.

"If Serenity gets dissolved, you will have to take responsibility and invite its Core Members to your Guild," Alexander replied. "Problem solved."

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Lux never expected that his father would be very resolute in his decision, allowing him to breathe a little easier.

In the beginning, he was willing to suffer a bit to ensure that Iris' and Henrietta's Guild would remain untouched by the Politics between the Skystead Alliance and the Xynnar War Pact.

Now that Alexander had given his permission to dissolve the Guild anytime and allow its Core Members to join Heaven's Gate, Lux no longer had to worry about offending some people if they touched his bottom line.

After making peace with his future plans, Lux went to find Iris so they could spend some quality time together.

A few days passed, and the representatives of the Six Kingdoms had all arrived in Barbatos Academy, in order to take part in Lux's Birthday Celebration.

The turnout was better than expected, and among the sea of unfamiliar people, there were familiar faces.

Gerald, Natasha, Rainer, Val, and Xander were among them.

There were also other people that Lux was meeting for the first time, and most of them were the High-Ranking Nobles and Diplomats that belonged to the Six Kingdoms.

"Tomorrow is your big day. Are you nervous, Lux?" Iris asked while washing her fiance's hair inside the bathroom.

"A bit," Lux replied. "I'm not good with big celebrations."

"Well, you better get used to it. I'm sure that things like this will be happening more often in the future."

"Mmm. I guess you're right."

Cai, who was washing Lux's back with her hands, simply listened to the discussion without saying a word.

Under Iris' teaching, the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe was training to touch Lux's body little by little, starting from his back.

Although her washing technique was a bit clumsy, she was making great progress in overcoming her embarrassment about being around Lux while naked.

The Half-Elf had already seen her naked body twice, and even then, he didn't demand anything from her nor did he take advantage of the fact that she had agreed to become his Fiance.

Lux was fine in taking things slow with Cai. He wanted to properly embrace her as his lover and Fiance when both of them were ready in heart and body.

After the two ladies washed Lux's every nook and cranny, all three of them entered the hot spring together.

Iris sat on Lux's right, while Cai sat on his left. With a beauty on each side, the Half-Elf would certainly be the envy of everyone if they were to see him at that moment.

Under the water, Lux was holding Cai's hand, as part of her training.

Iris, on the other hand, wrapped her arms around Lux's waist, resting her head on his shoulder.

"Lux, look forward to my and Cai's gift tomorrow," Iris said mischievously. "I'm sure that it will be the best birthday gift ever."

"I like the sound of that," Lux replied before kissing Iris' forehead. "Will you give it to me at the party or in private?"

Iris giggled before nodding her head. "In private. What we are going to give you is for your eyes only. Isn't that right, Cai?"

"Y-yes," Cai stuttered. "It's a surprise, after all."

The beautiful priestess' face became beet-red as she remembered Iris' proposal for Lux's birthday gift.

She never thought that the blue-haired beauty was that bold, but since they were doing it together, she felt that she would be able to overcome her embarrassment.

Even though she still wasn't ready to give Lux her chastity, she was fine with giving him the next best thing, which would be her gift to the Half-Elf on his seventeenth birthday that would be celebrated with great fanfare.

Seeing her reaction, Lux had a vague idea about what the two were planning. However, as a man, he was looking forward to what the two ladies were planning to give him.

## **Chapter 653.1: A Match Made In Heaven [Part 1]**

Finally, the big day arrived.

"I hope I don't have to do this every year," Lux said as adjusted his clothes in front of the mirror. "I feel like an animal in the zoo, being stared at by tourists."

"Pa?" Eiko, who was perched on top of Lux's head, tilted her head in confusion.

"Um, a zoo is a place where exotic animals are kept in cages, Eiko."

"Okay!"

The Baby Slime nodded her head even though she didn't completely understand what her Papa was talking about.

Lux had just finished styling his hair, and repeatedly told her not to ruin it for the entire duration of the festivities.

Eiko agreed and decided to behave, simply sitting on top of Lux's head like she always did. After making sure that he looked presentable, the Half-Elf left his room and headed to the Main Event Hall.

Iris was still being assisted by Cai in her private residence, so she asked Lux to go ahead first.

It was an unspoken rule that girls took longer to dress up than men, so the Half-Elf heeded her words, and went to the Event Hall to talk to his acquaintances.

As he walked through the hallways, he noticed how busy the staff of the Academy was, and he felt sorry because they had to work so hard in order to keep the event going smoothly.

The moment he entered the Main Hall, almost everyone's heads turned in his direction.

Lux wasn't fazed by their stares and simply walked at a confident and steady pace, heading towards Gerhart and Keane. The two were wearing formal clothes, which made some of the ladies glance in their direction from time to time due to how dashing they were.

Keane, in particular, stood out the most because he had grown quite exceptional under the care of Rose, who made sure that he ate three times a day and got enough sleep.

The once-skinny swordsman was still as quiet as ever, and would only give curt responses when Gerhart spoke to him. But the way he carried himself made him look so mysterious in the eyes of others, making them want to know him better.

"So, how does it feel to be a year older?" Gerhart asked in a teasing tone.

"It feels good," Lux replied as he picked up a glass of fruit juice from the tray of one of the servers that walked past him. "I look forward to another year of working with you guys in Elysium."

Keane and Gerhart also raised their own glasses and clinked them with Lux's because both of them felt the same.

"To our growth and future success in Elysium."

"Cheers!"

The three drank from their glasses and started to make some small talk about random things.

But, that didn't last for long because Alicia came looking for Lux and dragged him away to meet the dignitaries from the Six Kingdoms.

The Half-Elf didn't resist, knowing that this was politics, and he also wanted to know how the other Kingdoms viewed him.

"I saw the sparring match the other day, and I have to say that the information we have on you is very wrong," the High-Ranker of the Barbarian Kingdom, Kavan, said with a smile. "Please, take good care of Prince Einar inside the Domain of the Fallen. The Barbarian King and I have high hopes for future collaborations between you and His Highness.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to formally give you an invitation—on behalf of His Majesty, to visit the Gesian Kingdom anytime. We will do our best to show you how we Barbarians treat our friends, so we hope you can take some time off of your busy schedule to visit us."

Lux nodded. "Einar and I are good friends, so I'll be happy to visit the Gesian Kingdom when I'm done tying up some loose ends on my part. I consider the Barbarians as my and my father's steadfast allies, so a future collaboration between us is something I look forward to as well."

Alicia, who was standing beside the red-headed teenager, nodded her head as if to confirm that the Headmaster's and Lux's statements were one and the same.

Kavan was highly satisfied with Lux's reply and Alicia's reaction because it meant that the Saint also considered them as allies. Because of this, he became warmer as he continued to chat with the Half-Elf as if they were old friends who hadn't seen each other for a very long time.

A few minutes later, Alicia escorted Lux to meet with Zarazel, who was the Elven King's brother, as well as a permanent member of the Elven High Council.

"I believe your father has already briefed you about the guest from the Vahan Empire, correct?" Zarazel asked.

"Yes," Lux replied. "I want to know the Elves' stand in regard to this matter."

The corner of Zarazel's lips rose slightly as he eyed the Half-Elf, who everyone deemed to be the key to conquering the Gate of Famine.

"To answer your question, the Elven Kingdom decided to choose you as the temporary leader that will lead Prince Enlil and his Protectors to clear the Gate of Famine. Although the origin of the Vahan Empire's guest is unknown, we Solaians are not fazed by their background.

They might be strong in Elysium, but they can't touch us here. However, that doesn't mean that we need to antagonize them. As the leader chosen by the Six Kingdoms to lead the younger generation, make sure to show some restraint.

"Even if you are provoked, as long as they are not threatening your life or anyone around you, make sure to endure a bit and learn to suffer a little. Politics is like that. For everyone to get along, compromises must be made. Do you understand?"

"It is as you say, Your Excellency." Lux nodded. "As long as they don't touch my bottom line, I will be willing to endure some of their provocations."

"Good. You have the makings of a good statesman. This is an attitude that is befitting of a Guild Master. By the way, what's the name of your Guild?"

"Ars Goetia."

Zarazel pondered for a bit as he tried to decipher what the name meant. However, even with his knowledge, he was unable to determine what Lux's Guild symbolized.

"What language is Ars Goetia?" Zarazel asked. "Is it just words you made up, or does it have a deeper meaning?"

Lux had already prepared the answer for this question ever since he chose to use the name Ars Goetia as the Pseudonym for his guild.

"It means Parade of a Hundred Demons," Lux replied. "I intend to create a Guild that will make everyone fear its name."

"Parade of a Hundred Demons? This is indeed a domineering name." Zarazel smirked. "I'll keep my eyes and ears open for any accomplishments that your Guild will make. If there is an opportunity, you should collaborate with Prince Enlil's Guild, Noblesse, when dealing with World Bosses or High-Ranking Dungeons."

Collaboration between allied Guilds was a very common thing. The Storm Dragons Guild, which belonged to Wildgarde Stronghold, often teamed up with the members of Henrietta's and Iris' Guild, Serenity, every time there were important missions.

This allowed both Guilds to send their elite members, allowing them to have a higher chance of clearing a Dungeon or defeating strong monsters without suffering too many casualties.

"I'll seriously consider this," Lux replied. "However, does Noblesse help with large-scale wars? When I talk about large-scale wars, I mean participating in a war where millions of soldiers fight against each other."

"Large-scale wars are a bit... difficult." Zarazel frowned. "Elves don't breed as fast as Humans, so every Elven child is precious. However, as long as they are not treated as cannon fodder, and there is a higher chance of survival, we will consider it."

Zarazel wanted to ask where in Elysium this war would take place, but he decided to hold back his question.

Although there were tensions between the Skystead Alliance and the Xynnar War Pact, a war was unlikely to happen unless Emperor Andreas and the

Steward of the Alliance were confident that they could win against their greatest rival.

Lux wasn't really thinking of waging a war against anyone and was merely fishing for information about how far the Elves were willing to side with him when sh\*t hit the fan.

Zarazel's lukewarm answer was enough for Lux to know that he couldn't count on the Elves when it came to high-risk missions.

## **Chapter 654.2: A Match Made In Heaven [Part 2]**

After talking to the Elven representatives, Alicia escorted Lux to the other Diplomats of the Six Kingdoms.

This experience allowed Lux to gain a better understanding of which Kingdoms were willing to truly ally themselves with him and BarbaTos Academy.

Aside from the Barbarian Kingdom, the Azov Kingdom, where Val came from, was very eager to have a formal alliance with Barbatos Academy.

For Lux, this was a normal outcome because Val could be considered the strongest member of the young generation in the Azov Kingdom. This meant that the Royal Family paid close attention to his opinions, which ultimately led them to actively pursue an alliance with Barbatos Academy.

A few minutes after Lux and Alicia finished making their rounds, Alexander appeared at the top of the great staircase, catching everyone's attention.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank all of you for coming to celebrate my son's birthday," Alexander said with a smile. "He has now turned seventeen years old. Although he can no longer be considered a boy, he is not yet an adult either. Even so, I have confidence that he will be able to do great things that even those older than him wouldn't be able to do."

It was very rare for Alexander to praise Lux. Because of this, the latter felt his cheeks burning and wondered if his father had drunk a lot of alcohol because he was praising him a lot.



The Headmaster of the Academy, who was not aware of the Half-Elf's thoughts, made a gesture for Lux to come up the staircase and stand by his side, which Lux obeyed with a smile.

The Saint of Barbatos Academy then rested his hand on Lux's shoulder before continuing his speech.

"The date of the expedition for the Gate of Famine is drawing near, and I'm sure that all of you have already made ample preparation for the challenges ahead," Alexander stated. "However, know this. Those who choose to side with us will be treated as friends. Those who don't will of course be treated as strangers.

"The young are filled with passion and never lack the energy to do many things, going beyond their limits. For us adults, we know that there are boundaries that we should pay attention to in order to ensure that everyone gets along to maintain the status quo.

"But, remember this. We Kaizers are an unruly lot. If even one of us is hurt, all of us will fight back."

Alexander gave a smile that wasn't a smile, which made the High-Rankers of the different Kingdoms shudder subconsciously.

Aside from Lux, Iris, and Vera, Alexander had no more family members in the world. If one of them were to suffer any grievances, he would definitely make his anger known to the world.

After making sure that everyone understood the message he wanted to pass along, he raised his hand and made a gesture.

"As you may already know, my daughter, Iris, is Lux's fiance," Alexander stated. "The two of them will get married in two years, so I hope that everyone will bless their union."

As if waiting for that cue, a beautiful, blue-haired young lady wearing a white dress, started to descend from one of the upper staircases.

Everyone in the hall, especially the teenage boys, couldn't help but gaze at Iris with infatuated looks.

Even Lux, who had already made love with his fiancée many times in the past, couldn't stop his heart from skipping a bit due to how beautiful she was right now.

Her hair was styled like that of a princess, and the silver tiara on her head made her look like the real deal.

The blue-haired beauty's graceful movements carried an air of confidence that seemed to be engraved in her very bones.

Although everyone already knew that she was Lux's fiancée, that didn't stop them from envying the Half-Elf, who managed to win the heart of a Saint's daughter.

They were aware that, although they were step-siblings, they weren't truly blood-related, so there was no problem with their union.

In everyone's eyes, they were like a match made in heaven, and the moment the two of them stood side by side, holding each other's hands, this image only became more profound.

Cai, who entered the Event Hall in her Boar form, wasn't noticed by anyone, not even by Xander, who was one of her protectors.

She had helped Iris fix her hair and clothes and followed behind her using the secret pathways of the Academy in order to arrive at the Main Hall undetected.

"They look good together, right Fei Fei?"

"Wae~"

Cai smiled as she looked at the two people that she would share the rest of her life with in the future.

Despite knowing that the path that she was going to take was filled with thorns, she had already made her decision to take that step and was doing her best to get closer to the Half-Elf, who was also doing his best to make her feel that she was an important person in his life.

Originally, Alexander was supposed to announce her engagement with Lux as well, but due to her delicate circumstances, they decided to keep it a secret for now.

"Are you sure about this Cai?"

Out of nowhere, Maximilian appeared beside his granddaughter, which almost made Cai shout out in fright.

Fortunately, she didn't do that, or it would have ruined the current mood inside the venue.

"Yes, Grandpa," Cai replied after regaining her composure. "I don't want to expose myself to others right now."

Maximilian sighed in his heart, but he also understood that this was for the best.

He was just a little sad that his beautiful granddaughter wasn't up there on the staircase beside Lux and Iris.

He wanted Cai to live a normal and peaceful life, but her Body Physique would cause wars to break out if people became aware of it.

As if sensing his presence and gaze, Lux glanced in the direction of the Saint of the Rowan Tribe and held his gaze.

The two stared at each other for nearly half a minute. No words were said between them, and yet, both men understood each other.

The red-headed teenager nodded his head as if to assure the Saint that he understood what the former wanted from him.

Maximilian nodded back because Lux's gesture decreased the worries inside his heart.

Although they had already talked about it in great detail back in the Rowan Tribe, the Saint was still feeling a little anxious because of the vision that his granddaughter, Rose, saw a week ago.

His only hope was that Lux, who was also there at the scene, would ensure Cai's safety and prevent her from falling into the hands of the beings that wished to use her for their own selfish desires.

## Chapter 655: The Two Shameless Powerhouses

"You've gotten better at dancing," Iris commented as she danced with her fiancé in the center of the ballroom.

"I practiced a bit," Lux replied.

Under everyone's eyes, the two shared the first dance together. Back then, it was Iris guiding Lux to dance, but now, the Half-Elf was able to dance alongside her and match her movements.

"The two of them dance well together," Maximilian stated. "I can't help but compare him to that sickly boy Vera brought to my Tribe several years ago. Back then, he looked as fragile as a dry twig, but now, he is hailed as the strongest member of the young generation. Speaking of which, I haven't seen Vera as of late. How is she?"

Alexander emptied his wine cup first before placing it on top of the table.

"Mother's life is no longer in danger," Alexander answered. "However, she's still recovering. As to when she'll return, only time can tell."

"I see..." Maximilian sighed. "Well, it's good to know that she's no longer in danger. It's just weird to not see her here, especially since it's her grandson's birthday."

The Saint of the Rowan Tribe then moved closer and said something in a very low tone that only Alexander could hear.

"I've found an ancient record belonging to one of the tribes near the location of the Domain of the Fallen," Maximilian stated. "I don't know how accurate these records are, but it seems that the Domain was created to lock up an Abyssal Duke from the Void who once attempted to conquer Elysium. The Gates are actually the seals that bound him in place."

"Duke-Ranked Abyssal?" Alexander narrowed his eyes. "Then, is it a Saint?"

"Yes, but if the records are accurate, then his rank should've degenerated over the hundreds of years that he has been sealed. Maybe he's just a

Pseudo-Saint or a High-Ranker at the moment, but he is a threat nevertheless."

"If that's the case, then that explains why no Rankers are allowed to enter the Domain of the Fallen," Alexander commented. "Whoever locked that Duke inside probably thought that there was no way for Initiates to survive the Deimos and Argonaut-Ranked Monsters inside the Domain of the Fallen, as well as conquer the Four Gates of the Apocalypse."

A wry smile appeared on Maximilian's face as he thought about the three out of four gates that had been unlocked. If the final Gate of Famine was conquered as well, then the last Gate where the Duke was sealed would also open.

"I think it's a little too late to stop this now," Maximilian commented. "Even if we warn the others, they will just think that we're getting in their way from getting resources inside the Domain of the Fallen."

Alexander nodded. "Is there anything else that you haven't told me?"

"Yes," Maximilian replied. "Although this is not confirmed, the records said that once the Four Gates have been opened, Low-Rankers will be able to enter the Domain of the Fallen as well."

"..." Alexander looked calm on the surface, but this information that Maximilian shared with him would definitely break the delicate balance that had been maintained since the Domain of the Fallen had been discovered.

He and Maximilian were Saints, and both of them had Rankers belonging to their factions.

However, the number of these Rankers wouldn't surpass the number of fingers on their hands.

Although the Six Kingdoms didn't have Saints, they had plenty of Rankers, which would allow them to send more people to the Domain of the Fallen once the restrictions had been lifted.

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Alexander asked as he looked at the Saint of the Rowan Tribe, who was looking back at him with a devilish smile on his face.

"Yes," Maximilian replied. "I guess it's better to tell Lux to start farming all the resources available in the Domain of the Fallen before others get them. I've heard from Cai that your son's Guild has this special ability that allows him to summon his Guild Members in his current location.

"How about it? Do you feel like taking a stroll together with me inside the Domain of the Fallen? We'll split everything 40/40/20. Both of us get 40% and your son gets 20%. Do we have a deal?"

This time, the corner of Alexander's lips rose up as he held Maximilian's gaze.

"Sounds fun," Alexander commented. "Count me in."

Maximilian grinned as he picked up his wine cup and toasted with the Headmaster of the Barbatos Academy.

Since the Domain of the Fallen was bound to be looted by the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and Six Kingdoms once the Gate of the Famine had been conquered, it wouldn't be a bad idea to take everything before the others got a chance.

Since they had the ability to do it, why not do it?

Cai was now Lux's fiancée, making her part of Alexander's family. Since they were already joined at the hips, the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy didn't mind sharing the spoils with his future in-law.

The representatives of the Six Kingdoms, who were paying close attention to the two Saints, didn't have any idea about what the two of them were talking about.

If only they knew that the two shameless Powerhouses were planning to loot everything inside the Domain of the Fallen, to the point that not even scraps were left behind, they would definitely latch onto them like leeches and beg them to take them with them.

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Right beside the Saint's table, Cai, who was busy feeding Eiko and Fei Fei some pork chops, noticed the smiles on Alexander's and Maximilian's faces.

'Gramps and Iris's father look like bandits right now,' Cai thought as she fed Fei Fei some pork chops. 'Are they perhaps talking about the plan I proposed to Gramps?'

The Boar had heard her Grandpa mention in passing back in the Rowan Tribe that if he could just enter the Domain of the Fallen, he would definitely take all the treasures inside, and not leave anything behind.

Since Cai was in her Boar Form, her "I love treasure" mentality suddenly gave her a brilliant idea.

She then talked to her Grandpa about Lux's ability to summon his Guild Members anywhere, like what he did in the Haca Dynasty when the red-headed teenager was rescuing Great General Garret's family.

Cai thought that if it was possible for Lux to summon her Grandpa inside the Domain of the Fallen, then all the treasures inside it would belong to them without fail!

It would belong to her!

Deimos-Ranked Monsters?

Argonaut-Ranked Monsters?

In front of a Saint, all of them were just like little bugs that could be crushed under her grandpa's foot!

Lux also needed some High-Ranked Beast Cores, as well as Monster Corpses and Monster Parts, for the upgrade of his Undead Army, so killing those strong monsters, which they avoided every time they entered the Domain of the Fallen, was also a good thing.

When Maximilian had finished listening to his Granddaughter's story, a plan immediately came to his mind.

He knew that if he asked Lux's father, Alexander, to come with him to "take a stroll" inside the Domain of the Fallen, the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy would definitely say yes.

Because of this, he waited until Lux's birthday ceremony in order to share this news with Alexander, making the latter agree without a second thought.

Both Saints were laughing internally because they now had a way to one-up the Six Kingdoms, Xynnar War Pact, and Skystead Alliance, who were greedily eyeing the resources of the Domain of the Fallen.

The two Saints had long wanted to make these three factions suffer, and what better opportunity was there than taking everything they coveted, right out from under their noses.

## Chapter 656: Be Gentle With Me

The party would last until past midnight, but Lux and Iris retired right before the clock was about to hit twelve.

The blue-haired beauty was a bit tipsy because she had drunk quite a bit of wine, forcing Lux to carry her back to her room in a princess carry.

Cai followed behind the two, with Eiko and Fei Fei perched on top of her head. Both Slimes were already sleeping because they had also drunk some wine out of curiosity. Since both of them were still Babies, and had very low tolerance for alcohol, one glass was all it took to make them tipsy.

The moment the door of Iris' room closed, Cai transformed into her human form and carried the two Baby Slimes to the basket where they slept.

She then moved the two baskets to the other bedroom, allowing Eiko and Fei Fei to sleep in peace.

Lux gently laid Iris on the bed and looked at his fiancée, whose cheeks were tinged with a scarlet hue, making her look exceptionally delicate.

'I want to eat her up so badly,' Lux thought as he looked at the defenseless beauty on the white sheets. 'But, I'll let it slide for now. She looks so tired.'

Cai, who had just finished tucking the kids in the other room, walked up to the bed and lightly caressed the side of Iris' face.

"She's down for the count," Cai said. "Help me remove her dress. I'm sure that it's very uncomfortable to sleep in."



Lux nodded and, with Cai's help, they managed to strip the clothes off Iris' body, baring her naked beauty in front of them.

Cai then unceremoniously covered her best friend's body with a blanket before helping Lux take off his own clothes.

After sleeping and bathing together multiple times, the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe's shyness towards her fiance had decreased significantly.

Lux was also very gentle and respectful to Cai, making the latter feel safe around him. The Half-Elf never did anything that would make his second fiance feel uncomfortable, and because of this, Cai's resistance to his touch also decreased.

The two had already kissed on the lips a few times and cuddled together on the bed.

However, they never went past that and focused on getting comfortable with each other.

After all of his clothes were removed, with the exception of his underwear, the Half-Elf proceeded to help Cai take off her dress as well.

Although Cai went to the party in her Boar Form, Iris insisted that she wear a dress when going to the party.

The Priestess agreed and wore the Ceremonial Clothes of the Rowan Tribe, which were worn during special occasions.

One by one, the Priestess' clothes fell on the carpeted floor beside her feet.

Lux had never mentioned this to her before, but Cai gave off a fragrance that fanned the desire in his chest when she was in her human form.

He assumed that this was one of the side effects of Cai's Unique Physique, enticing the opposite gender to approach her.

Lux had also drunk a few glasses of wine, but he wasn't that tipsy. Even so, he was intoxicated with Cai's irresistible scent, making him subconsciously kiss the nape of her neck, causing the Priestess' body to stiffen in surprise.

When the Half-Elf came to his senses, the deed was already done, so he immediately apologized to Cai for doing something uncalled for.

However, to his surprise, Cai only shook her head and cupped his face.

"I am your Fiance," Cai said. "What you did is within your rights as my Fiance. Also, I didn't dislike your gesture of love towards me."

"This is more like lust instead of love," Lux replied with an apologetic face. "Your scent is more intoxicating than the fine wine I drank earlier."

Cai blushed, but Lux's straightforwardness made her innocent heart flutter.

"Actually, Iris and I are supposed to give you a gift tonight, but she's already down for the count," Cai said as she looked at the sleeping beauty on the bed with a helpless smile. "But, since I'm still sober, I'll give you your gift on her behalf."

Cai then held Lux's hand and gave it a light squeeze. "You're going to accept it, right?"

"Yes," Lux replied in a hoarse tone and allowed himself to be led to the bed by Cai.

The Priestess then took out a long red cloth from her storage ring and blindfolded the Half-Elf before making him lie down on the bed.

"Don't move, okay?" Cai whispered in Lux's ears. "I'm still not used to this, but I'll do my best."

A few seconds later, Lux felt Cai's soft lips press over his own.

The Priestess was only a beginner when it came to kissing and was still not comfortable with using her tongue. Because of this, she could only do quick kisses, but it was enough to make the heat rise to the Half-Elf's chest.

Cai then stopped kissing his lips and moved to kiss his neck, collarbone, and slowly made her way downwards. When the kisses reached his abs, he felt two delicate hands move to take off his underwear.

Lux never thought that the Priestess would do something so bold, but he still raised his hips to allow her to take them off smoothly.

Just as Cai had successfully taken off Lux's underwear, the blue-haired beauty who was sleeping earlier opened her eyes by a fraction to see what her best friend was doing.

Iris regained her consciousness when she felt that she was being undressed. But, after sensing that the ones removing her clothes were Lux and Cai, she pretended that she was still asleep and waited to see what would happen afterwards.

Iris wanted the two important people in her life to take that next step in their relationship, so she didn't get in the way when Cai decided to take the initiative in order to give Lux their birthday present.

She watched as the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe stared intently at Lux's little brother, who was standing tall and proud, as if challenging Cai to fight him for ten rounds.

Of course, Cai had no intention of going all the way with Lux for now because her heart and mind weren't ready yet. Even so, she lowered her soft and delicate lips and kissed Lux's member.

After kissing it for a minute, Cai felt that she had reached her limit and was about to call it off when Iris slowly propped herself up and kissed the Priestess' cheek.

"Sorry for making you wait," Iris said softly. "Let's do it together."

Iris knew that Cai was still holding back, so she decided to lend her hand and lips to ensure that their birthday gift to Lux would make the Half-Elf happy.

The red-headed teenager, who was blindfolded, suddenly felt two soft lips kiss and lick his... making his heart shudder.

Since he couldn't see anything, his sense of hearing and touch was enhanced, making him more sensitive.

A moment later, he felt someone sit on top of him, and slid his... inside her body.

Naturally, Lux knew that the one who did this was Iris because Cai was still not ready to do such a thing.

Just as he was enjoying his fiancée's loving gesture, he felt a hand slide under his head, and raised it up.

The Half-Elf then felt his lips brush against something soft, and fragrant. Then, he felt something firm enter his mouth, making him swallow his saliva subconsciously.

It didn't take long for Lux to realize what his lips were touching, which surprised him greatly.

"Don't suck them too hard, okay?" Cai's voice that held a tinge of shyness reached his ears. "Be gentle with me."

Lux obeyed his second fiancée's words and sucked on her soft right breast, which was slightly bigger than Iris'.

The Half-Elf used everything he knew about making a lady feel good and, before long, Cai's muffled sighs reached his ears, making him feel happy in his heart.

'This is the best gift ever,' Lux thought as he enjoyed the present that was offered to him by his two Fiancées, who were doing their best to make him feel good, allowing him to reach a peak of pleasure that he had never felt before.

Two hours later, Lux laid on the bed with Iris and Cai hugging him from his left and right sides, making him feel blessed to have them as his Fiancées.

He knew that the Priestess of the Rowan Tribe had tried her best in her own way, making Lux feel smitten with her.

However, he knew that this time that they had together would only last for a few more days before they had to go back to Elysium to challenge the Gate of Famine.

In regards to the Gate of Famine, Lux was confident that he would be able to clear it. However, he admitted that the presence of the silver-haired devil, who had once tried to kill Cai, was giving him cause for worry.

Although he could summon strong Warriors to help him in battle, his instincts were telling him that the Abyssal Noble wasn't someone so simple.

'I just hope that I don't see him again,' Lux thought before slowly closing his eyes to sleep. 'I just want to get this over with so I can visit Colette and the others.'

The Half-Elf had so many things to do, but he couldn't do it all at the same time.

After the Gate of Famine was conquered and he finished meeting up with his Dwarven Friends, he planned to take a look at one of the SSS-Ranked Kingdoms, whose keys were in his possession.

Karshvar Draconis had given him a pleasant surprise, so he was wondering if he would find an even bigger surprise once he went to the Kingdom of Agartha, a legendary Kingdom that only a few privileged people could ever dream of visiting.

## **Chapter 657.1: A Low Lander Scum Like You Isn't Even Qualified To Lick My Feet [Part 1]**

"Be careful," Iris said before kissing Lux's lips. "Prioritize your safety above all else."

"I will," Lux replied and gave his fiance a firm hug. "Take care while I am away."

"Be safe, Eiko," Iris kissed the baby slime perched on top of Lux's head, and the latter kissed her back with a smile.

After a minute, Iris reluctantly took a step back, glanced at her best friend, and gave Cai a hug.

"Be safe, Cai." Iris hugged her best friend tightly. "Make sure that Lux doesn't cheat on us, okay?"

"Thank you," Cai hugged Iris back and kissed her cheeks. "Don't worry. If he ever did that, I'll beat him up. Isn't that right, Fei Fei?"

"Wae~"

Today was the day that they would go back to Elysium and travel to the location of the Domain of the Fallen.

The representatives of the Six Kingdoms had left a few hours ago, leaving only Lux and his entourage inside Barbatos Academy.

Everyone was making last-minute preparations while waiting for the Half-Elf to take the lead on their journey to their destination.

"Time to go," Lux softly said as he hugged Iris and Cai at the same time.

Although Cai had already been Lux's fiancée for quite some time now, only a handful of people knew about it. They agreed to not tell anyone for the time being, keeping the betrothal a secret for as long as possible.

After their group hug, Cai transformed into her Boar form, trailing after Lux as they exited Iris' room.

The blue-haired beauty didn't walk them out since she had already said her goodbyes. Partings were always hard for her, so she deemed it best that she not see Lux and Cai leave this time around.

When the Half-Elf and the Boar arrived at the Teleportation Gate of Barbatos Academy, Keane, Gerhart, Xander, and Einar, with his Barbarian entourage, were already there, waiting for them.

Aside from them, Henrietta and the four other representatives of her Guild, Serenity, were present as well because they decided to go together with Lux.

"Is everyone here?" Lux asked.

Everyone around the Teleportation Gate nodded their heads.

The Xynnar War Pact, Skystead Alliance, and the Six Kingdoms had all built a one-way teleportation gate that would allow everyone, who had the qualifications to enter the Domain of the Fallen, to teleport a kilometer away from it.

"Before we go, I would like to tell everyone something," Lux stated. "I'm sure all of you are aware of the mysterious group that will be coming to the Domain of the Fallen alongside the Skystead Alliance. If they provoke you in any way, make sure to ignore them. We will move separately from them once we enter the Sacred Dungeon."

Once again, everyone nodded their heads to acknowledge Lux's words. They all recognized him as the temporary leader of their group, so everyone listened to his orders.

After saying what needed to be said, Lux took the initiative to enter the Teleportation Gate first, while the others followed behind him.

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Between the borders of the Xynnar War Pact and the Skystead Alliance...

"So you guys are finally here," Xander's father, Hector, greeted them. "Took you long enough."

Lux smiled as he returned the High Ranker's greeting.

"Sir Hector, are you here to escort us to the meeting place?" Lux asked.

"Yes. I can't possibly leave you kids to fend for yourselves, can I?" Hector crossed his arms over his chest. "So, are all of you ready to conquer the Gate of Famine?"

"Of course," Cai answered. "Conquering the Gate of Famine is like a walk in the park. We've already got this one in the bag."

While everyone had their attention on Cai, a person wearing black robes suddenly materialized beside Lux.

Hector, who thought that the black-robed individual was someone that had evil intentions, immediately moved to knock them unconscious, but Lux stepped up and blocked the High-Ranker's path.

"Sir Hector, it's fine," Lux said. "This is a friend of mine that I invited to come with us to the Domain of the Fallen."

"A friend?" Hector frowned. As a High-Ranker, he made sure that he was always paying close attention to his surroundings.

The black-robed person suddenly appeared out of nowhere, catching him by surprise, so he thought that he was dealing with another High-Ranker who specialized in assassinations.

"Yes. He is a friend I met in Elysium. Don't worry. He is pretty harmless," Lux replied. "Go on, introduce yourself to them."

"I'm not interested in introducing myself to Low-Landers," the black-robed figure said. "It is beneath my dignity to do that."

Lux had the strong urge to slap the arrogant Dragon Born, but he decided to give him face and simply smiled apologetically at Hector, whose frown had grown deeper.

"Would it kill if you act like a proper person and show humility?" Gerhart asked the black-robed figure in irritation.

"Shut up," the black-robed person replied. "Let's just go to that Sacred Dungeon and get this over with."

Einar, Xander, and Henrietta looked at the black-robed figure and wondered if he was one of Lux's Summons.

It wasn't the first time seeing the Half-Elf summon his subordinates out of thin air, so they were already used to seeing some new faces every now and then.

"Um... shall we go then?" Hector asked.

Since the black-robed figure wasn't an enemy, then there was no need to apprehend him.

Everyone summoned their mounts and began the short journey toward the cliff that would lead them down to the Gate of the Fallen.

As soon as they arrived, all the eyes of the people inside the Cavern looked at their location.

Hector took the lead, and Lux followed behind him.

The Half-Elf glanced at the people inside the Cavern and noticed that there were more Rankers present compared to last time.

He also noticed several people wearing black robes like Cethus, who was keen on hiding his true identity until the last minute.

As the Half-Elf glanced at the "guests" from the Vahan Empire, he noticed four people with exceptionally strong auras guarding a person at the center.

'Just like the report that Father received,' Lux thought. 'They really do have four Saints.'



The Half-Elf then shifted his attention to the person standing among these four strong individuals, and couldn't help but feel something vaguely familiar about him.

What he didn't know was that the person being guarded by the four Saints was feeling the same way, making him pay close attention to the red-headed teenager who was infamous among the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and the Six Kingdoms.

## **Chapter 658.2: A Low Lander Scum Like You Isn't Even Qualified To Lick My Feet [Part 2]**

"Is that him?" Prince Cyrus asked Malcolm who was standing on his right side.

"Yes, Your Highness," Malcolm replied. "That is Lux Von Kaizer."

The Second Prince of the Vahan Empire eyed Lux from head to foot as if gauging how strong he was.

"He doesn't look that strong," Prince Cyrus commented. "Are you sure that he is the reason why the three gates have been conquered?"

"Yes, Your Highness."

"I see."

Aside from Prince Cyrus, all the teenagers, who would be participating in the dungeon expedition, locked their eyes on the Half-Elf.

"Is that him, Jasper?" one of the representatives of the Xynnar War Pact asked their temporary leader. "He's the one that beat you?"

"I can't remember," Jasper replied. "All I know is that I tried to backstab him in the past, but I couldn't recall what happened after that."

"You can't remember? He might have knocked you unconscious before you could even deliver the killing blow."

"Maybe you're right."

Jasper, who had been mercilessly gangbanged by the Skeleton Gang Bangers had his memory erased, in order to prevent him from developing trauma due to the horrifying experience that he had been through.

As one of the Top Prodigies from the Xynnar War Pact, they couldn't allow his future to be destroyed just because of the one mistake that he had unknowingly committed.

Even so, Jasper's sixth sense was telling him that no matter what happened, Lux was someone that he shouldn't try to cross again no matter what.

Aside from Jasper, someone else was also paying close attention to the red-headed teenager.

Nero, who had fought Lux in the past, narrowed his eyes when he vaguely sensed that the Half-Elf had grown a lot stronger since the last time they met.

This could easily be seen in the way Lux walked, which carried an air of confidence that could only be obtained after surviving many hard battles.

Now that all the representatives from the different Factions had gathered inside the Tavern, it was time to delegate the leaders of the expedition.

Prince Cyrus, Jasper, Lux, and the black-robed figure guarded by the Four Saints had all gathered in front of the Gate of the Fallen to discuss who would be leading the expedition.

"I've heard many things about you, Lux Von Kaizer," Prince Cyrus said with a fearless smile on his face. "But I don't know if those stories are true or not. Looking at you today, I can say with certainty that those rumors were greatly exaggerated."

Lux ignored Prince Cyrus' taunts and decided to speak what was on his mind.

"I have my own way of doing things, so I'll only take my people with me," Lux stated. "Of course, if any of you want to join my team, you are welcome to do so. But, you must follow my orders without fail."

"Heh~ look at you talking like a big shot," Prince Cyrus snorted. "Are you sure you don't want to join our team instead?"

"No."

"Your loss."

Jasper, who had been listening for a while lightly cleared his throat and voiced out his thoughts.

"The representatives of the Xynnar War Pact will accompany Lux Von Kaizer in this expedition," Jasper stated before raising his hand for a handshake.

"This is the decree given to us by our Kings, so that is what we will do. I look forward to working with you, Lux."

"I look forward to working with you as well," Lux replied before shaking Jasper's hand.

Truth be told, he was slightly feeling guilty about what happened to Jasper in the past.

Although they were enemies, getting gangbanged by his Skeleton Gangbangers wasn't the best thing a young man in his early twenties should experience.

'Fortunately, we are on the same side now,' Lux thought. 'He will not have to suffer from PTSD again.'

Suddenly, and without any warning, Prince Cyrus moved and tried to grab the Baby Slime that was perched on top of Lux's head.

He had heard that the Half-Elf cared deeply for the Baby Blue Slime, so he wanted to see how the latter would react if he took Eiko as hostage.

Suddenly, a loud rumbling sound echoed in the surroundings as the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire spat a mouthful of blood after his body crashed towards the walls of the Cavern.

Aaron, who was Emperor Andreas' right-hand man, immediately went to check how serious Prince Cyrus' injuries were.

He had known long before that Prince Cyrus had been wanting to test Lux to see how strong he really was ever since he had heard his name.

The Prince of the Vahan Empire was an arrogant and violent person. He had developed a very big ego because he always got away with anything he did due to his family's background.

He believed that he was practically untouchable until the delegation of the black-robed individuals arrived in their capital city.

Even if their Empire was strong, they only had one Saint to look after their kingdom's interests.

Their visitors, on the other hand, had four Saints who served as bodyguards to the black-robed person that Emperor Andreas recognized as their faction's leader.

Because of this, Prince Cyrus didn't dare to act arrogant in front of them. Since then, he had been waiting for a long time to vent his frustrations on the red-headed Necromancer whom he heard many things about.

"So, that's your true color," Prince Cyrus said as he wiped the blood that flowed from the corner of his lips. "I guess there is some truth to the rumors after all."

The Prince of the Vahan Empire looked at the five-meter-tall Corpse God that enclosed the Half-Elf in a protective stance

The Unholy Apparition had eight arms, and seven of those arms were holding a weapon.

The last arm held a shield, which it had used to bash Prince Cyrus' body, and sent him flying toward the wall of the cavern.

Overall, the Corpse God was quite a sight, making one of the Saints wearing a black robe mutter the words "Memento Mori" the moment he saw it.

Of course, no one was paying attention to the Saint because they were all busy looking at the Half-Elf, who had dealt first blood to the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire.

"The next time you try to hurt those who are important to me, I will kill you," Lux said with a hint of killing intent.

"Kill me?" Prince Cyrus laughed as he propped himself up from the ground. "You sure are cocky. Is it because your father is a Saint that you can spout such nonsense?"

The Rankers of the Vahan Empire all moved in unison and stood in front of their Prince, waiting for his order to teach the Half-Elf a lesson.

However, before Prince Cyrus could even give an order, an arrogant and contemptuous tone reached everyone's ears.

"Stand down, Low Landers."

Cethus took a step forward and threw away the black robe that was covering his body, revealing his battle regalia, which was the trademark of the Royal Guards of the Dragon Kingdom, Karshvar Draconis.

"I am Cethus, one of the Royal Guards of the Dragon King," Cethus declared in a tone filled with arrogance. "Lux Von Kaizer is under my supervision. Anyone who dares to harm him will have to go through me first."

The Dragon Born, who didn't want to reveal his identity at the beginning, stood between Lux and Prince Cyrus with his arms crossed over his chest with his draconic wings spread wide.

"If you don't want your entire Empire to be wiped off from the face of the world, kneel and apologize like the maggot you are," Cethus stated. "A Low Lander scum like you isn't even qualified to lick my feet."

Lux and Gerhart who had beaten the crap out of Cethus in the past couldn't help but give the arrogant Dragon Born a thumbs up in their hearts.

Although they had beaten Cethus black and blue in the past, the shameless Dragon Born was still as domineering as ever, making them wonder where his confidence was coming from.

However, since they were all on the same side, they kept silent and simply watched Cethus stare down on the Rankers of the Vahan Empire as if they were mere bugs that he could trample under his feet.

## **Chapter 659: Dumb Humans, Do You Still Not Know Your Place?!**

While Cethus was staring down the Rankers and High-Rankers of the Vahan Empire, the guild chat of Heaven's Gate had turned very lively.

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Cai: Go Cethus! Damn, I never thought you had it in you. The readers and I had almost given up on you, but you're making us so proud of you right now. Mad respect bro, mad respect! For someone who was dropped when he was still an egg, you are seriously bringing out the big guns and taking one for the team. Is this what they call character development?

Gerhart: This Idiot is done for. Lux, maybe you should hire the Game-shin Impact Merchant Guild to make a marble coffin for this fool.

Keane: Rose taught me a lot about flowers. I can probably pick some good ones to put in his grave.

Lux: Sounds like a great idea. I'll also pick some flowers in the Outer Reaches. What quote do you think is good enough to put on his tombstone?

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The corner of the Dragon Born's lips twitched as he read the chat logs in the Guild chat. Unable to take their bullcrap any longer, he retaliated and sent his thoughts, making everyone know how displeased he was.

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Cethus: You ungrateful bastards! Who do you think I am doing this for?! Instead of supporting me, you're even badmouthing me? You damn f\*ckers!

Cai: Why should I support you? Those are Rankers and High-Rankers. I only bully the weak and fear the strong. I don't want to die, you know?

Gerhart: Stepping into the argument of others... who do you think you are? Do you seriously think you're a big shot or some kind of hero? You're just a Cethus. You should know your place.

Keane: A wise man once said, "Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake." Please, do carry on.

Lux: Cethus, if you have any treasures hidden somewhere, now is the time to reveal their location. It is best to share your blessings with others.

Cethus: You damnable motherf\*ckers!

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While the Guildchat of Heaven's Gate had turned into a cursing war, Aron, who had deemed that Prince Cyrus' condition wasn't serious, looked at the imposing Dragon Born in front of them.

A single glance was enough to tell him that the Dragon Born was only of an Initiate Rank. Had this been an ordinary situation, he would have ordered his men to capture Cethus and Lux so that he could punish them for attacking their Prince.

However, he couldn't put out such orders because of Cethus' Race.

Even Prince Cyrus, who was known to be a very arrogant and aggressive individual, held back as he glanced at the black-robed men that were observing everything from the side.

Cethus, who had reached the limit of his anger because of his Guildmates' bullsh\*t, glared at the Rankers and roared.

"Didn't I tell you maggots to kneel and apologize to me!" Cethus roared in anger. "Do all of you really court Death? Do you really wish to face the might of the Dragon Kingdom's Army?! Do you dare?!"

"Shut up, Weakling!" a D-Ranker from the Vahan Empire shouted back. "You are the one who should know your place!"

Without another word, the Ranker charged at Cethus with his blade poised to strike. However the next moment, the Ranker found himself hitting the ground face first, as one of the black-robed men stepped on his head.

"You are as arrogant and obnoxious as the last time I saw you, Cethus," the black-robed person said. "One day, that stupid mouth of yours will cause your death."

Cethus looked at his own clawed hand and rubbed it over his plated armor before blowing on them as if he had everything under his control.

"And you are?" Cethus asked in an arrogant tone. "Your voice sounds familiar. However, do you know that it is impolite to not show your face in front of a Royal Guard of the Dragon Kingdom?"

"Cheeky brat, you don't really know how to spell the word death, do you?" the black-robed person replied before taking off the hood that covered his face. "You're the only one who has the guts to talk like this in front of me."

After removing the hood that covered his face, the expression on Cethus' face changed to that of surprise because he never expected to see a familiar face so far from their Kingdom's zone of influence.

"Uncle Piccoro?" Cethus blinked in confusion. "What are you doing here?"

The black-scaled Dragon Born snorted before kicking the D-Ranker toward the other Rankers that belonged to the Vahan Empire.

Aron and Prince Cyrus had been wanting to ask the Saint why he attacked their man when they were all supposed to be on the same side.

However, after hearing the younger black-scaled Dragon Born call the powerful Saint, Uncle, they all decided to keep their mouths shut and think of a way to salvage the situation.

"Now you call me Uncle, you brat?" Piccoro walked forward and smacked Cethus' head making the latter cry out in pain. "I should be the one asking you questions. What are you doing here?"

"Um, I already said this earlier, Uncle," Cethus replied with a face filled with injustice. "I'm here to supervise the Half-Elf. This is an order from the Dragon King himself."

"Oh, him?" Piccoro glanced in the Half-Elf's direction before narrowing his eyes. "If it had been any other Dragon Born, I would have already smashed their head into a pulp. You're lucky your two Grandmas love you very much."

Cethus smirked at his Uncle before shifting his gaze to the person that was still being protected by the three other Saints.

"Does the Crystal Palace have business with the Domain of the Fallen?" Cethus asked his Uncle, who was still eyeing Lux with an appraising gaze.

"That's none of your business, you brat," Piccoro replied. "Have you forgotten that Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace don't see eye to eye? You should just go back to your Floating City and stay out of trouble."



Cethus firmly shook his head and once again crossed his arms over his chest.

"No can do, Uncle," Cethus stated. "I already mentioned it earlier—I'm here to supervise Lux. As for why the Crystal Palace is here, I am willing to keep this a secret from the Dragon King for Grandma's sake. Although he doesn't look like it, he still honors the Oath he gave hundreds of years ago."

"An Oath of Convenience," Piccoro scoffed. "We don't recognize him as the true and rightful king of the Dragon Throne. He's just an usurper."

Cethus sighed before shaking his head. This issue had long started even before he was born, so he had no intention to make a big deal of it. Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace were like oil and water.

Once the Dragons and Dragon Borns from both sides meet somewhere in Elysium, there was a high chance that it would immediately escalate into a fight.

Piccoro wasn't lying when he said that if the Dragon Born wasn't Cethus, he would have already killed him to ensure that their secret wouldn't reach the ears of the Dragon King.

"Uncle, I'll just say this," Cethus said with a solemn face. "Lux and his comrades are my Guild Members. I would appreciate it if you don't do anything to harm them."

Piccoro didn't reply right away. Truth be told, their goal was to take something that belonged to the Dragon Race from within the Domain of the Fallen.

It was a treasure that had been given to a Saint of the Human Race by the former Dragon King, which the latter used to fight against the Duke from the Abyss, sealing the Devil inside the Domain of the Fallen.

If not for the fact that the Artifact they used to find the Domain's location had just been fixed recently, they would have long conquered the Four Gates of the Apocalypse and retrieved the Demigod-Ranked Artifact that had been sealed inside it.

Now that the location had been discovered by Humans and quotas used to enter it were limited, they had no choice but to use the Humans as cannon fodder in order to get what they wanted.

The Crystal Palace had a Pseudo-Demigod artifact that would allow them to enter the Domain of the Fallen, so they didn't need to forcefully take the quotas of the teenagers who managed to conquer it in the past.

However, at most, they could only bring thirty people inside, and all of them had to be Initiate and below.

They had brought enough loyal Dragon Borns from the Crystal Palace who were still of the Initiate Rank, in order to assist their leader to conquer it without fail.

Part of their plan was to coerce Lux, as well as everyone who belonged to his team, to work for them, just like they did with the Vahan Empire.

However, Cethus' existence was a variable in their plan that they had to carefully consider.

"Who are the people that belong to that Half-Elf's group?" Piccoro asked.

Immediately, Jasper and the members of the Xynnar War Pact moved to stand beside the Half-Elf.

Val, Enlil, Einar, and Henrietta also moved toward the Half-Elf, bringing their subordinates with them.

Cethus gave these people a side-long glance before shifting his gaze back to his Uncle.

"Uncle Piccoro, although Lux is the only one that I am supervising, I consider the rest of these Low Landers my servants," Cethus stated. "Rest assured, I will not interfere with your plan to clear the Gate of Famine. However, I will also lead these people to clear it as well. May the best team win."

Piccoro laughed after hearing Cethus' words that were filled with determination.

"Fine," Piccoro replied. "Since they are your servants, we will not take the initiative to attack them. However, if they get in our way, we will not hold back. Do I make myself clear?"

"Sure," Cethus answered coolly. "I've always wanted to see how strong the younger generation of the Crystal Palace is. I hope I won't be too disappointed."

The thirty black-robed individuals that belonged to the Crystal Palace all glared at the arrogant Dragon Born. However, since they were all wearing hoods, their expressions couldn't be seen so easily.

Cethus then glanced in the direction of the Rankers of the Vahan Empire and clicked his tongue.

"What are all of you doing staring at me like idiots?" Cethus asked. "Didn't I tell all of you to kneel and apologize? Dumb Humans, do you still not know your place?!"

Piccoro crossed his arms over his chest and glanced in the direction of the Vahan Empire. His gaze was telling Aron and Prince Cyrus to just do it already so that they could already go inside the Domain of the Fallen and start the expedition.

Left with no other choice, Aron, Prince Cyrus, and all the Rankers of the Vahan Empire knelt and apologized, making the corner of Cethus' lips curl up into a smile.

After this incident, everyone belonging to the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and Six Kingdoms drastically changed their impression of the Half-Elf, who had a very strong backer supporting him.

What they didn't know was that the arrogant Dragon Born, who had made the proud Prince and Rankers of the Vahan Empire kneel, was gloating in the Heaven's Gate Guild Chat, making all of his Guildmates want to spit on his face so badly.

## **Chapter 660.1: A One-Way Ticket To The Abyss [Part 1]**

After the Vahan Empire's "apology", the candidates all lined up at the gate of the Domain.

Cethus had his arms crossed over his chest as he stood at the very front, with Lux behind him.

Right beside Cethus were the black-robed members of the Crystal Palace, led by the one that was being protected earlier by the Four Saints.

Although Lux had tried to ask Cethus several times about who the leader of the Crystal Palace was, the Dragon Born was tight-lipped and simply said that this was a matter between the Dragon Race.

Seeing that Cethus didn't want to disclose anything, Lux no longer pried and just focused his attention on the expedition.

"Please be careful inside," Piccoro said to the black-robed individual leading the members of the Crystal Palace. "If things get out of hand, evacuate right away."

The one leading the members of the Crystal Palace nodded.

"All of you, make sure to protect HIM at all costs," Piccoro stated. "Lay down your lives if you have to."

""""Yes Sir!""""

Cethus sighed as he looked at the Gate of the Fallen. Although he had ties with the Crystal Palace, he just couldn't agree to their methods when it came to getting what they wanted.

"Let's get this over with," Cethus said before pressing his palm on the Gate in front of him.

A second later, the gate slightly opened and Cethus, along with the others who had the right to enter the Domain of the Fallen, all turned into particles of light.

These lights then flew towards the opened Gate where the Sacred Dungeon was waiting for them.

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Domain of the Fallen...

"So, this is the Domain of the Fallen." Cethus frowned. "I can sense danger everywhere."

The Dragon Born was about to take a step forward, but Lux's hand rested on his shoulder, preventing him from taking another step.

"Don't leave the Safe Zone," Lux stated. "I can sense an Argonaut-Ranked Monster hiding in front of us."

All of the teenagers who had decided to follow Lux stopped in their tracks.

Just like Cethus, they were about to move away from the Safe Zone, but when they heard Lux's words, all of them immediately felt their blood turn cold.

They had followed the Half-Elf in the previous expeditions and knew that his words were something that should be taken seriously.

"Bunch of nonsense," Prince Cyrus snorted. "I don't see anything."

The Second Prince of the Vahan Empire ignored Lux's words and was about to leave the Safety Zone when he heard an authoritative voice, filled with power, stopping him in his tracks.

"Don't move."

The leader of the Crystal Palace didn't even bother to give Prince Cyrus a sidelong glance as he ordered him to stand down.

"Now I know why you were able to clear the three Gates despite being a Low Lander."

The leader of the Crystal Palace took off the hood covering his head and glanced in the direction of the Half-Elf.

"Your ability is the real deal."

An angelic-looking young man with blue hair and blue eyes looked at the Half-Elf with a faint smile. On his head, two Crystal Dragon horns glittered faintly in the sunlight.

It was truly an exceptional face, free from imperfections. Even Lux who was confident in his looks had to agree that the person in front of him was way more handsome than he was.

"My name is Aur," Aur said.

"Lux," Lux replied.

Aur gave Lux a curt nod before shifting his gaze to the path in front of him. Although the surroundings looked perfectly normal from a distance, those with heightened senses would feel that there was something lurking somewhere, which the eyes couldn't see.

Originally, just like Prince Cyrus, Aur wanted to see just how strong Lux was. However, the moment he laid his eyes on the red-headed teenager, he sensed some kind of familiarity in him that prevented him from doing anything rash.

What he didn't know was that the feeling that he, the Saints, as well as the Dragon Borns felt was Lux's passive skill, Dragon Conqueror's Majesty [EX].

This skill raised Lux's Charisma, preventing the Dragons and the Dragon Borns from immediately becoming hostile to him unless Lux attacked or provoked them first.

For a few minutes, everyone stayed where they were and simply tried their best to look for the Argonaut-Ranked Monster that the red-headed teenager had warned them about.

The entrance of the Gate of the Fallen had a protective barrier that prevented monsters from attacking those who had just entered the Domain.

As long as they didn't leave its protective perimeter, no Monsters would be able to attack them.

Unlike the others, Lux could pinpoint the location of their enemy and was even able to identify what kind of monster it was.

Because of this, he knew that anyone who left the Safe Zone would immediately be killed due to how proficient their invisible enemy was.

"Hey, Aur, do you have anything on you that can seriously injure an Argonaut Ranked Monster?" Lux asked.

"Don't casually talk to our Leader, Half-Elf," one of the Dragon Borns that escorted Aur inside the Domain stated. "You don't have the qualifications to even speak his name in a casual manner."

"Shut up," Cethus snapped at the Dragon Born who suddenly interjected in the conversation. "Lux was talking to Aur. Are you Aur? Since when did your parents give you the name Aur? Can you please not interfere in a discussion where you weren't called for? It makes you look like an attention whore."

"Y-You!" the Dragon Born was about to hurl insults at Cethus when Aur raised his hand, making the Dragon Born hold back what he was about to say.

"It's fine," Aur replied. "It will be difficult to communicate in this Dungeon if names aren't used. Also, to answer your question, I indeed have an artifact that would allow me to seriously injure an Argonaut-Ranked Monster. Have you found it?"

Lux nodded. "I can bring it out from its hiding place, but luring it out is useless. We need to seriously injure it, so it will leave us alone."

"Very well. As long as I can see it. I will be able to deal with it."

"Good. Make your preparations now."

Aur summoned a crystal scepter and held it firmly in his hands. What he was holding was a Pseudo-Demigod Artifact that was given to him to ensure his safety inside the Domain of the Fallen.

Lux then summoned Pazuzu and ordered his Fortress Defender to step outside of the Safe Zone.

Pazuzu then raised his shield and took a defensive stance, and waited for Lux's order.

"Are you ready?" Lux asked Aur.

"Yes," Aur. "Ready when you are."

Lux nodded "Then, on the count of three. One, two, three!"

The Fortress Defender then activated his skill Duel [EX] and aimed it in front of him.

At first, nothing seemed to change. But, after a few seconds, the scenery in front of them suddenly shook before suddenly becoming distorted.

A moment later, a seven-meter-long, green-skinned Chameleon appeared in front of them, shocking almost everyone into taking a step back.

With an annoyed screech, the Chameleon extended its tongue, and used it as a whip to lash at the Fortress Defender, who had already braced himself for the imminent impact.

However, when the tongue was only dozens of meters away from Pazuzu, Aur placed his crystal scepter in front of his lips and blew on it.

"Crystal Dragon's Breath!"

A misty dragon's breath filled with crystal shards flew toward the Argonaut-Ranked Chameleon, turning its tongue into crystal.

As if sensing that it would die if it didn't do anything, the Green Chameleon decisively used its razor-sharp claws to cut its own tongue before jumping out of the path of the Dragon's Breath.

Aur's attack continued for hundreds of meters, turning everything it hit into crystals, including the ground, rocks, and trees.

The Green Chameleon glared hatefully in Aur's direction as blood dripped from its lips like a faucet.

Its reptilian eyes locked onto the Crystal Dragon's body as if trying to memorize the face of the person that it would seek vengeance on at a later time. This glare lasted for a full minute before the Green Chameleon left the scene, melding with its surroundings.

After the Argonaut-Ranked Monster disappeared, everyone was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief and look at the crystalized scenery in front of them.

"You can take that tongue as a souvenir," Aur said to Lux, who was busy tracking the Argonaut Ranked Monster with his Soul Book. "I have no need for it."



Lux wanted to say that he had no need for it either, but suddenly remembered that the crystallized tongue might be a good ingredient for his Skeleton Maker skill.

"Thank you," Lux replied. "The Monster has left and is no longer a threat to us. We can continue on our journey."

"Good," Aur commented. "I've heard that you can guide us along a safer path with the least amount of danger. You can take the lead until we reach the entrance of the Sacred Dungeon."

"You want me to lead everyone until we reach the Sacred Dungeon?"

"Yes. Although I am not afraid of Argonaut-Ranked Monsters, it is best to avoid conflicts as much as possible."

Aur didn't mention that the Crystal Scepter in his hands could only be used five times a day, which is why he didn't want to use it unless absolutely necessary.

The most it could do was deal with Argonaut Ranked Monsters up to the Alpha Rank. Field and World Bosses of the Argonaut Ranked would be able to break free from the Crystal Breath's effects after a few minutes.

The Green Chameleon might be strong, but it was only an ordinary Argonaut-Ranked Beast, so the scepter was more than able to handle it without any problem.

"Very well," Lux replied. "Follow me."

The Half-Elf took the lead as he entered the forest where Deimos and Argonaut-Ranked Monsters were in abundance.

His father, Alexander, and Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian had a proper discussion about the strategy that they thought of once they were inside the Domain of the Fallen. However, for that to happen, Lux must wait for the right opportunity to summon them in a subtle way.

All the representatives of the other Factions, including the members of the Crystal Palace, were carrying artifacts that allowed those that were outside the Gate of the Fallen to see what was happening inside.

Because of this, he couldn't summon his father and the Saint of the Rowan Tribe with everyone paying close attention to him.

If he did, an uproar over the "looted" resources within the Domain of the Fallen would become a big issue if they were discovered, and this was something that they didn't want others to discover.

'I'll just tell them later that I need to pee,' Lux thought as he continued to lead everyone along a much safer path away from monsters. 'They won't follow me if I give that excuse, right?'

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Inside the Fifth Gate of the Apocalypse...

A white-haired devil opened his eyes, while the corner of his lips rose up to a sneer.

"You've finally returned, Half-Elf," the Abyssal Devil said hoarsely. "Time for me to send you a one-way ticket to the Abyss. I hope you enjoy my hospitality."

The sound of hoarse laughter echoed in the surroundings of the Sacred Dungeon as the Sealed Duke of the Abyssal Race prepared his surprise for the Half-Elf that was slowly, but surely, headed in his direction.

## **Chapter 661: What Will You Do If I Get In Your Way?**

Lux, who was leading everyone to take the safest route toward the Sacred Dungeon, decided that he'd only summon his Father, Alexander, and Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian, after they'd reached their destination.

That way, the observers outside of the Gate of the Fallen would have no chance to see that two Saints had snuck inside the Domain in order to loot everything, while all the teenagers were challenging the Sacred Dungeon.

For some reason, the High-Ranking Monsters were quite active, so Lux took breaks from time to time in order to let the dangers pass.

Fortunately, after what happened in the Safe Zone, everyone was convinced of his ability and followed him without a doubt.

Even Prince Cyrus and the representatives of the Skystead Alliance behaved themselves as they followed behind the Half-Elf, listening to his orders as they traversed the dangerous forest.

While they were traveling, Lux did his best to try and talk to Keoza, asking him what he knew about the Crystal Palace.

He had a feeling that the Crystal Dragon knew about them, but no matter how much he tried to call Keoza from the Dragon Token, he didn't get any reply.

It was as if the Token and the Dragon inside it had become dormant, becoming an ordinary artifact.

Of course, Lux suspected that the Crystal Dragon was deliberately ignoring him and playing dead.

'I'll just ask later,' Lux thought as he continued to check his Soul Book for any dangers that might be in their surroundings. 'Still, the monsters are very active right now. They weren't this restless when we tried to go to the Sacred Dungeon in the past.'

A few hours later, all of them arrived safely at the entrance of their destination.

The vicinity of the Sacred Dungeon was also a Safe Zone, so no Monsters would try to attack them now that they were inside its protection.

"All of you, wait for me for a bit," Lux said to the people that planned to join his team inside the Gate of Famine. "I need to pee first."

"Sure, take your time," Jasper replied. "We'll rest for a bit too."

Lux nodded and started to walk toward the exit of the cavern.

The Half-Elf could sense several gazes glued on his back, but he ignored all of them. Just to be safe, his Soul Book was still active to check if someone was brazen enough to follow him.

After making sure that no one had followed him, the Half-Elf looked for a secluded place and summoned the Two Saints, who had been waiting patiently outside the Domain of the Fallen.

The space crackled around Lux. It was as if something was preventing him from summoning powerful individuals inside the Domain. This lasted for five minutes before two people, wearing black robes, and silver masks on their faces, appeared in front of him.

"That was terrible," Maximilian complained as he poured some Rejuvenation Potions on the wounds on his shoulders. "I thought I was going to die. Good thing we came prepared."

Alexander, on the other hand, drank a Rejuvenation Potion before opening and closing his hands as if he was testing something.

"A portion of our strength has been sealed away, but overall it's still good," Alexander stated.

"It has been a while since I felt like this," Maximilian took out another Rejuvenation Potion and chugged it. "Right now, I'm only an S-Ranker. How about you, Alex?"

"Same," Alexander replied. "But we're only dealing with Argonauts anyway, so it's not a problem."

Maximilian nodded. With their current strength, they would be able to easily solo an Argonaut-Ranked World Boss without any problem.

Of course, the two had already considered the chance that there might be a Dreadnaught, or worse, an Empyrean-Ranked Monster hiding in the Domain of the Fallen. But, they came prepared and were confident that they would be able to handle any tricky situation that the Domain might throw at them.

"You go back, boy. They might get suspicious if you are gone for a long time," Maximilian said. "Don't worry. We will split it evenly and give you 20%."

Lux nodded, and immediately left the two Rankers who didn't want their identities to be known by anyone. Since they were planning to loot the Domain of the Fallen before any of the other Factions did, they would certainly take everything and not leave any scraps behind.

-----

Sacred Dungeon...

"Did you take a dump?" Prince Cyrus asked in a contemptuous tone. "What took you so long?"

Lux arched an eyebrow as he gazed at the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire.

"You're still here?" Lux asked back. "Are you perhaps waiting for me to hold your hand before you enter the Sacred Dungeon? Last time I checked, we're not on the same team, so why are you waiting for me?"

"It's not me who's waiting for you, you prick! It's our leader."

"Aur? Is there anything you want from me?"

The Half-Elf shifted his attention to the angelic-looking teenager, whom he believed was a Crystal Dragon in humanoid form.

"Before we enter, I would like to discuss some things with you first," Aur stated. "Since you are affiliated with Karshvar Draconis, that makes me your enemy, but I am willing to turn a blind eye to our differences while conquering the Dungeon. I advise you to not get in my way."

"Although I have a good impression of you, that doesn't mean that I will hesitate in turning you, and your comrades into Crystal Statues if you interfere with my mission. You have been warned."

"And, your mission is?" Lux crossed his arms over his chest. "Spill it, so that we will not accidentally get in your way."

"That is none of your concern."

"Cethus. How about you talk to this person? It seems we're not speaking the same language."

The black-scaled Dragon Born eyed Aur before heaving a sigh.

"We're here to conquer this Dungeon," Cethus replied. "I don't care what the Crystal Palace is here for, but if you get in my way..."

"What will you do if I get in your way?" Aur asked in a challenging tone. His handsome features became sharp as he held the Dragon Born's gaze as if finding his threat very amusing.

"If you get in my way, I'm going to go and tell my Grandmas about it."

"...."

"""" .... """"

The Dragon Born raised his chin arrogantly as if daring Aur to talk back to him.

Although the handsome Dragonoid (Dragon Humanoid) held a position of power within the Crystal Palace, Cethus wasn't afraid of him.

Why?

Because one of his Grandmas was the Steward of the Crystal Palace, whose authority was only second to the famed Crystal Dragon, Keoza, who had vanished on the day of his coronation ceremony.

## **Chapter 662: What's Meant To Be, Will Always Find Its Way.**

Everyone was speechless after hearing Cethus' reply.

It was like watching two kids having a verbal fight, and the loser was threatening the one who had beaten him by saying that they would call their parents in order to take revenge for them.

"Are you a kid?" Cai asked in an amused tone. "You're going to tell your Grandma if someone offends you?"

"You're one to talk," Keane interjected. "When you get bullied, the first thing you do is threaten people using your Grandpa's name. You're no different from Cethus."

"It's different. My Grandpa gave me permission to use his name when I get bullied. Cethus is just being Cethus."

"Well, you do have a point."

Cethus pretended that he didn't hear the two annoying fools that were talking smack behind his back. He simply gazed at Aur as if challenging him if he had the guts to mess with his two Grandmas.

Aur turned his back on the Dragon Born and led his subordinates without even saying another word.

Cethus had twin Grandmothers.

One of them was the current Dragon King's right-hand lady, whose authority was second only to him.

Cethus' other Grandma was the Supreme that guarded the Crystal Palace against all threats. She was also Keoza's Steward and was considered to be the temporary leader that everyone obeyed without fail.

Basically, Cethus could be considered one of the Untouchables in both the Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace.

However, this poor Dragon Born couldn't do anything to the people whom he recognized as his comrades, who liked to talk crap about him anytime they wanted.

Aur pressed his palm on the Gate of Famine, and turned into an orb of light, flying into its center. The rest followed suit, and soon, everyone belonging to his faction was no longer in sight.

"It's time for us to go as well," Lux stated. "Remember. Our goal is to clear the dungeon. Avoid any conflicts with the Crystal Palace and the Skystead Alliance if possible. However, if they take the initiative to attack us, we will definitely beat them up to a pulp. Now, follow me!"

The Half-Elf walked towards the Gate of Famine and pressed his hand over it. Soon, his body turned into an orb of light and flew towards the Gate.

Cai and the others followed because they also wanted to start their conquest as soon as possible.

At that exact moment, the Silver-Haired Devil reached out his hand from the darkness. He ignored the other orbs of light that flew past him because his gaze was locked on a particular person, whom he wanted to take revenge on.

However, as soon as he was about to grasp the Orb of Light that represented Lux, it vanished, which surprised the Devil greatly.

"Someone interfered?" the Silver-Haired Devil looked at his empty hand in disbelief. "But how?"

After his initial shock, he closed his eyes in order to pinpoint Lux's location within the Gate of Famine, but for some reason, he couldn't find any trace of him, which made him wonder what was going on.

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High above the world of Elysium, the God of Gamblers was looking at the three dice that he had tossed earlier.

Each of them was showing the number 666, which made Macuilxochitl chuckle.

(A/N: Let's just call him Max for short.)

"Nice toss," Eriol commented from the side. "Fortunately, luck is on your side today."

"Mmm." Max hummed as he picked up the three dice in the air. "Lux is still not ready to face the top Dogs of the Void. I won't let this Devil have his way."

Eriol smiled because he, too, felt that it was still too early for Lux to face off against the Abyssal Legion.

"Too bad, we can't interfere often," Eriol said as he looked down at the orb of light that was traveling between the border of the Void and Elysium. "We may not be able to save him next time."

"Worry not. Both of us have taken a Gamble," Max replied as he looked at the Dices of Destiny in his hand. "As to whether we will hit it big or not, it will all depend on the roll of the dice. Sometimes, I wish I could cheat in gambling. But, even the God of Gamblers must follow the rules given to him."

Suddenly, the two Gods heard two lively voices behind them, which made them turn around.



"Lily, are you sure this is fine?" a little God, who looked like a two-year-old baby wearing diapers, said while flapping his angelic wings. "The Gods have already abandoned this world. We shouldn't be here."

"Relax, Cupid," the Loli Goddess, Lily, said with a smile. "We're just sightseeing. We're not doing anything illegal, right, Dim Dim?"

The Dimsum God that was perched on top of Lily's head nodded its head while saying the words "Dim Dim!"

"See?" Lily looked at Cupid with a smug smile on her face.

"Um, if you say so."

"Don't worry. We'll somehow wing it like we always do!"

"Dim Dim!"

The three little Gods were so busy talking to each other that they didn't notice Eriol and Max looking at them with weird looks on their faces.

"What are the three of you doing here?" Max asked in a loud voice which startled the three Gods, who were busy chatting with each other.

"Oh my God! It's old pervert Max who watches Hent\*i on his PC!" Cupid exclaimed. "Mom, this guy is bad news!"

"D-Don't worry!" Lily spoke up in an encouraging tone. "I got the extremely rare, limited edition, Doki Doki Director's Cut. Maybe we can use this to distract him!"

"T-Toss it, Lily! Hurry before he catches us!"

"Dim Dim!"

Lily no longer hesitated and tossed the Blu-Ray DVD in her hands toward Max before making a run for it.

The God of Gamblers had gained notoriety within the Temple of the Ten Thousand Gods for his unique taste and his circle of friends, which were composed of the New Generation Gods, namely the MILF God, Lolicon God, Furry God, 2D God, and BDSM God.

"Wow, they ran like their lives depended on it." Eriol chuckled as he watched Lily's and Cupid's backs disappear into the distance. "Your reputation precedes you."

Max snorted before taking a closer look at the Doki Doki Eroge Game that Lily tossed in his direction.

He then sneakily put it inside his robe before once again looking at his chosen candidate who had arrived at the boundary of Elysium and the Void.

A place where once a powerful and prosperous kingdom thrived before it was destroyed when the Abyssal Creatures first descended upon the world.

"It might take a year, it might take a day," Maximilian said softly. "But what's meant to be, will always find its way."

Eriol nodded because he understood what Max was referring to.

They were the only two Gods who hadn't abandoned Solais and, if possible, they wanted Lux to succeed in saving it.

They were doing this, not for their sake, but for the memory of a very dear friend, who had sacrificed her life to give the world of Solais a second chance at life.

## **Chapter 663: An Unreachable Place**

Gate of Famine...

"Are you sure this is the Gate of Famine?" Cethus asked. "Why does everything here look so abundant?"

Cethus stared at the wheatfields in front of him that were ready for harvest. In fact, there were already many farmers in the distance, busy cutting the wheat down and tying them in bundles.

In the distance, he also saw a grape orchard, which was also ripe for the picking. He couldn't understand why something so bountiful would be found inside the Gate of Famine.

"Don't judge everything by what you see," Cai commented. "Maybe there is another place here experiencing famine, where we might also find our Quest. Um, what should we do next, Lux?"

The Boar looked behind her, expecting to see the Half-Elf, but what she only saw was Eiko looking around, seemingly confused.

"Pa?" Eiko scanned her surroundings. "Pa!"

The Baby Slime jumped up high and summoned one of her Undead Legion, whom she had created using the Skeleton Generator skill.

Lux and Eiko both had 4 Undead Creatures that had been created using the Skeleton Generator Skill, and all of them had been added to their Undead Army.

The Half-Elf's Skeleton Generated creatures were now serving under Revon, and all of them were a cut above the rest.

Eiko had four Skeleton Summons.

One of them was Boomer, the Crimson Monkey Kong Skeleton Bombardier.

The other three Skeletons under Eiko's command had the names Bomber, Bom Bom, and BAM.

Bomber was a Floating Skeleton Bomb that had eyes similar to that of a beholder. It had no other abilities aside from True Strike and Lock On, which allowed it to fly toward its target at a great speed, never missing its target.

Simply put, Bomber was a "suicide bomber", and its explosive damage was similar to that of a full-powered strike from Lux's and Eiko's Grand Bazooka.

Bom Bom, on the other hand, was a moving Skeleton Cannon. It could walk; it could fly; and it could even swim! It had the ability to fire Blast Bombs [EX] and had a very long range, allowing it to hit targets before they could even hit it.

Last but not the least was BAM.

BAM was an interesting Skeleton because he donned the clothes of a martial artist. His ability was similar to Boomer. This meant that his punches and kicks had an explosive side to them, dealing great damage to anything he hit.

Perhaps, the only difference between them was that BAM didn't have any long-range attacks. He was a pure close combat fighter, whose speed, flexibility, and technique were just as fast and deadly as Lux's Nightstalker, Ishtar,

Right now, Eiko was perched on top of Bomber, who was hovering twenty meters above ground, providing the Baby Slime a wider view of her surroundings as she searched for her Papa.

"Pa!" Eiko shouted. "Pa!"

Cai, Keane, Gerhart, and Cethus immediately understood that something was wrong.

All of them knew that Lux would never leave Eiko behind, and his disappearance was something that none of them had expected.

"Mumumumu!"

After trying to locate her Papa using their shared connection, Eiko confirmed that the Half-Elf was nowhere near them.

Because of this, she decided to use her skill, Family Bond [EX], allowing her to teleport to where Lux was.

However, before doing so, she made sure to tell Fei Fei about what she was planning to do so that the others wouldn't be worried about her.

"Wei!" Fei Fei nodded her head in understanding and translated what Eiko was trying to say to Cai.

When the Golden Slime finished relaying Eiko's message, Cai nodded her head in understanding.

"Eiko said that Lux isn't near our location, so she will go to where Lux is," Cai explained. "She added that there is a possibility that Lux isn't here in the Gate of Famine anymore."

Cai's explanation made everyone who had decided to choose Lux as their Temporary Leader inside the dungeon frown.

"He's not here?" Einar asked. "Then where do you think he is?"

"I have no idea," Cai replied. "Even Eiko doesn't know despite the two of them having a very strong connection with each other."

The Boar then shifted her attention back to the baby Blue Slime and nodded her head.

"Be careful, Eiko," Cai stated. "Tell Lux that he should send us a message and tell us what's going on!"

Eiko nodded. "Kay!"

After getting Cai's approval, the Baby Blue Slime turned into a beam of light that shot toward the heavens. She would go to where her Papa was and make sure that he was safe.

When Eiko was no longer around, Lux's group fell into an awkward silence.

This silence was broken by Prince Cyrus' arrogant laughter, who was standing dozens of meters away from them.

"Looks like your leader ran away," Prince Cyrus gloated. "How about it? Care to join our team? I'm sure that His Excellency, Aur, will permit it."

Einar and Val glanced at each other as if trying to decide if they should go or not. They had always been with Lux on the expeditions in the Sacred Dungeon, and they didn't know whether they could trust the Dragonoid, who might just use them as cannon fodder.

"There's no need for that," Cethus announced. "Since Lux isn't here, I will be this group's temporary leader. I will do my best to help you guys clear this dungeon."

At first, Cai, Keane, and Gerhart were planning to reject Cethus' declaration. However, they held back what they were going to say after seeing the message that he had sent through their Guild Chat.

-----

Heaven's Gate Guild Chat...

"It is important that we keep this team together for the time being," Cethus stated. "All of you belong to different factions. None of you would recognize a

new leader amongst yourselves, so we need someone with enough influence to bind everyone together.

"Everyone saw my exchange with Aur earlier and, because of that, they have a high opinion of me. Regardless of what the three of you think, I am the only one here that has sufficient influence and authority to keep this group together."

-----

Cai, Keane, and Gerhart weren't fools. Although they made fun of Cethus a lot, they understood that he was right.

Although they didn't mind working with just the four of them, having a bigger group would ensure a higher chance of success.

The Dragon Born then looked at the faces of the teenagers that belonged to the Xynnar War Pact and Six Kingdoms with a confident gaze. Giving them some kind of assurance that everything was under control.

Cethus might lack a lot of things, but he never lacked arrogance and confidence. His sharp features also make people slightly intimidated by him, and his race spoke volumes.

(E/N: You make it sound like it's a good thing.)

Simply put, the Dragon Born had a lot of experience ordering people around because of his position as one of the Royal Guards of the Dragon King.

"If any of you have a problem with me being the leader, then you can leave if you want," Cethus declared. "But know this, when Lux returns, I will tell him that you didn't follow my orders and are not qualified to be part of our team."

Cethus laughed in his heart because he was trying to get back at Lux for everything the Half-Elf had done to him. Now that he could use the red-headed teenager's name and influence without worrying about the repercussions, the Dragon Born was hell-bent to use it all to his advantage.

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Cai: Scum.

Keane: Blackmailer.

Gerhart: Wow! One day, this bastard is going to get stabbed in the back.

-----

The Dragon Born ignored the comments of the three annoying pricks in the Guild Chat and focused his attention on the people in front of him.

Henrietta, Einar, Val, Enil, Jasper, and the representatives of the Six Kingdoms all glanced at each other before reluctantly nodding their heads.

"We will follow you for now," Henrietta was the first to voice out her opinion. "However, if we don't deem you worthy, we will go our separate ways."

"Fair enough," Cethus replied with his arms crossed over his chest. "Now, let's spread out and start asking for information. We need to understand the goal of clearing this dungeon and to do that, we need to get a better understanding of our location.

"All of you go in groups according to your factions. Whatever happens, do not engage the enemy. We will all meet up in this location in two hours. Remember, prioritize escaping. We don't know what kind of dangers we will be facing here."

The leaders of the temporary alliance all nodded their heads and led their groups in different directions to get a better understanding of the layout of the land.

Cai, Keane, Gerhart, and Cethus also made their move, leaving the members of the Crystal Palace and Skystead Alliance behind.

Aur, who had been feeling that something was off in their surroundings, was currently deep in thought.

He didn't believe that Lux had escaped or had gone somewhere else right after entering the Sacred Dungeon.

Just like the Half-Elf's close friends, he saw that the Baby Slime, Eiko, was left behind. Since Lux had protected the Baby Slime from Prince Cyrus, Aur understood that there was simply no way that the Half-Elf would leave his pet behind.

'Just what is going on here?' Aur thought as he narrowed his eyes to look in the distance. 'Although everything seems calm on the surface, I can vaguely sense someone watching us from somewhere.'

It was not only Aur who felt that they were being observed by someone.

Cai, Keane, Gerhart, Cethus, Einar, Val, Henrietta, Jasper, and Enlil had also sensed this presence and had been subtly trying to discern where the gaze on them was coming from.

However, no matter how they tried to pinpoint that person's location, they couldn't do it.

The reason for it was simple.

The feeling they were getting was that they were being watched by someone in the sky.

A place that none of them, even with wings on their backs, could ever hope to reach.

## **Chapter 664: The Boundary Of The Void And The Mortal Plane**

Lux's disappearance had caused a stir among the diplomats and Rankers who were waiting outside the Gate of the Fallen.

They had clearly seen that Lux had entered the Gate of Famine, but he disappeared soon afterward.

While the Crystal Palace and the Skystead Alliance weren't the least bit affected by what transpired inside the Sacred Dungeon, the Xynnar War Pact and the Six Kingdoms were currently dealing with a headache.

Although Cethus had forcibly taken control of their temporary alliance, they didn't know him too well to judge whether the Dragon Born was capable of leading the members of their younger generation or not.

However, they also understood that the chance of them being treated as cannon fodder by the Crystal Palace and Skystead Alliance was high. Having



known this, they could only hope for the best and see how things were going to turn out.

While all of this was happening, cries of outrage and pain reverberated inside the Domain of the Fallen as Alexander and Maximilian started their looting operation.

"Hahaha! A five-hundred-year-old Spirit Ginger." Maximilian carefully dug out the precious plant that was rarely seen in Solais. "If those snobbish Kings of the Six Kingdoms could only see us now, they'd probably die from anger. I knew that looting this place was the right thing to do."

Not far from Maximilian, an Argonaut-Ranked Golden-Winged Tiger lay on the ground panting for breath.

"Choose between submission or death," Alexander stated. "There is no third option."

"Grrrr!" The Golden-Winged Tiger was filled with indignation as it glared at the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy whose eyes were as calm as a lake.

The Tiger was one of the Apex Beasts inside the Domain of the Fallen, and those that could beat it could only be counted by the fingers on one hand. It didn't expect some illegal trespassers to enter its domain and one-sidedly beat it, taking the prized herb that it had been guarding for so long.

In the end, the Golden-Winged Tiger bowed its head and submitted to Alexander, allowing the Headmaster to bind it with a Beastial Contract.

The moment the Argonaut-Ranked Beast became Alexander's subordinate, the Saint waved his hand and sent the Tiger to his Miniature Domain, where he kept his other pets.

Maximilian, who had just finished digging the herb, also hid the treasure he found inside his own Miniature Domain, which contained various rare and exotic herbs that could be used as ingredients for Elixirs.

All Saints had this ability, allowing them to do many things that ordinary High-Rankers couldn't possibly do.

"My senses tell me that we should continue to head North," Maximilian rubbed his beard. "I sense a very strong life energy coming from that direction. Maybe

it's a primordial Panacea that can heal any injuries or some kind of exotic plant that is already extinct in Solais. Either way, we must have it at all costs."

"Okay." Alexander nodded.

A moment later, the two disappeared from where they stood and headed North.

Both of them were unaware of the events that were happening inside the Sacred Dungeon. The only thing on their minds was to get everything as fast as they could and return home with all the treasures that they had found inside the Domain of the Fallen...

-----

Boundary between the Void and Elysium...

"Where am I?" Lux thought as he scanned his surroundings. "Where is everyone?"

After he entered the Sacred Dungeon, the Half-Elf found himself in a place, where everything was red in color.

The ground, the sky, the moon—all of them were red.

However, the most notable thing was the broken sky above his head, which looked similar to a cracked mirror that could shatter anytime.

Lux also noticed something else. There was a city, or what remained of a city, in the distance.

The City Walls, which should have protected it from any outside threats, were in shambles, just like everything inside it.

Even the castle that towered in the distance was destroyed and dilapidated, which was a contrast to its once glorious past.

Just as Lux was thinking about what to do next, he suddenly felt a familiar weight on top of his head, making him breathe a sigh of relief.

"Pa!" Eiko crawled down the side of Lux's face and peppered his cheeks with kisses.

"It's good to see you too, Eiko," Lux replied before gently prying off the Baby Slime from his face, giving it a kiss on the cheeks. "I thought I lost you. Good thing you can teleport to my location anytime you want."

"Un!" Eiko happily nodded her head, agreeing with her Papa's words.

After sharing a bit of skinship, the Baby Slime told her Papa about what happened to Cai and the others.

"I'm glad they're fine," Lux sighed in relief. "It seems that I'm the only one who was sent to a different place. I'm sorry, were you scared earlier?"

"Un!"

"Don't worry, we're together now. Everything is going to be fine."

"Pa!"

Lux once again placed Eiko on top of his head before summoning his Soul Book. Now that he was reunited with the Baby Slime, it was time to figure out where he was and find a way to get back to the others.

Fortunately, the Elysium Compendium and his Soul Book had merged together, giving the Half-Elf easy access to almost every piece of information that he needed.

The first thing he did was open his Map to see the name of the place he was in.

"Zangrila?" Lux muttered. "Never heard of this place."

The Half-Elf then searched the compendium for any information about Zangrila, and the data he saw made his eyes widen in shock.

-----

Zangrila, the boundary of the Void and the Mortal Plane.

– Hundreds of years ago, Zangrila was a prosperous kingdom that thrived in the Western Regions of Elysium. It was located on the very edge of the continent, allowing it to grow uncontested.

However, after hundreds of years, something unexpected happened.

A crack appeared in the sky and, from it, monsters that had never been seen before descended on their peaceful kingdom.

These creatures were quite strong, with some of them standing over hundreds of meters tall. Of course, Zangrila was a powerful Nation, boasting three Saints, who fought bravely against the invaders.

However, even the three of them weren't able to push back the darkness that had come to consume their land. In the end, no one was able to escape—not even the Saints who were the Kingdom's strongest fighters.

Many years passed, and the Kingdom of Zangrila was still in ruins. None dared to move even a single stone from this place, in fear that the ghosts of the departed would haunt them for eternity.

It was said that those that were killed by the Abyssal Creatures couldn't cross over to the Tree of Life, where they would be reborn once again. These countless pitiful spirits of the dead wander around Zangrila, waiting for the day their suffering will finally end.

Note: Since this is the border of the Void and Elysium, Abyssal Creatures often appear here. It is a very dangerous place, and even Saints are weary to tread in this place.

-----

Lux's face immediately became solemn when he read that Abyssal Creatures often appeared in his location.

Although he could probably fight a Deimos-Ranked Abyssal Creature by himself, that didn't mean that he was comfortable staying in a place where danger could appear at any time.

'I'd better leave this place. I'll just think of a way to get back to the others after I've gained a safe distance from this place,' Lux thought as he gave the cracked-sky one last glance before turning around.

He had tried to contact the others through his Guild Chat, but there seemed to be some kind of force preventing him from accessing the features of his Guild.

Lux was about to summon his Mount, Jed, when he suddenly heard a cryptic voice behind him, making his entire body shudder in fright.

"Leaving so soon? Why not stay a while? It has been quite some time since I saw a living person in this Godforsaken place."

The Half-Elf slowly looked behind him to see who the owner of the voice was.

"Hoh~ it has been a while since I've seen a Half-Elf. You seem to be pretty young too. What are you doing here, my boy? Are you lost?"

An old man, leaning on a cane, asked Lux in a teasing tone.

He was just a little over three feet tall, and his gray eyes had an amused glint in them, making him look very harmless.

"Ah, right. Where are my manners?" the old man lightly scratched his head. "My name is Gaap El Nash. Just call me Gaap. How about you, My Boy? What's your name?"

"Lux," Lux replied. "Lux Von Kaizer."

The old man smiled, revealing the three teeth that had managed to survive his long decrepit life.

After staying in Zangrila for many years, he finally found someone who wasn't an Abyssal Creature in the place that was located between the boundary of Damnation and Beyond.

## **Chapter 665.1: Why Are You So Salty? [Part 1]**

"So, Lux, what brings you here?" Gaap asked after eating the sandwich Lux had given him. "Did you come here to take a look at the ruined kingdom of Zangrila?"

"Actually, I don't know how I managed to get here, Grandpa Gaap," Lux replied. "I entered a Dungeon with my friends, and before I knew it, I was already here."

"A Dungeon?" Gaap rubbed his chin. "Well, the world has a lot of unexplained mysteries. Perhaps your arrival here is just one of them."

Currently, he and Lux were staying in one of the least dilapidated houses inside the destroyed city of Zangrila. Since the place was known to spawn Abyssal Monsters, the Half-Elf decided that it would be best if he stayed somewhere safe to better understand his current situation.

"How about you, Grandpa?" Lux asked. "What are you doing here?"

"Me? Oh, I'm just waiting for someone," Gaap replied with a toothy smile, even though he only had three teeth to display. "You see, I'm looking for a successor because I want to pass my knowledge to them. You see, I'm getting old. It's likely for me to kick the bucket anytime soon."

The old man cackled before taking another sandwich from the basket beside him.

Even though Lux's Rank was only that of a Peak Initiate, it was very easy for him to sense the strength of people who were weaker than him.

He was surprised when he found out that Gaap was only an Initiate Stage, Grade-A Apostle.

When asked how he had been able to survive in the city where Abyssal Creatures appear from time to time, Gaap simply answered that he was very good at hiding.

Of course, there were times when Abyssal Creatures found his hiding place, but since he was just a weak Apostle, none of them cared much about him and left him alone.

"Gramps, why don't you come with me to leave this place?" Lux proposed. "I am confident that we will be able to avoid any confrontation with Monsters as long as you stick with me."

Gaap thought for a while then shook his head. "I can't leave right now, Lux. You see, I've been guarding a special gift for the person that I am waiting for. Only when that person receives my gift will I be able to leave this God-forsaken place."

Just as the old man was about to bite on his sandwich, a rumble sounded not far from their location.

"An Abyssal Creature has appeared," Gaap stated before tearing off a piece of the sandwich and putting it inside his mouth. "This one is a bit strong, so don't leave this place for the time being."

Lux, who had subtly summoned his Soul Book, gazed at the blinking red dot on the map.

For an ordinary Monster, the size of the dot was small like a small bean. However, if the monster was strong, like a Deimos or Argonaut-Ranked Monster, the size of the dot would be four to five times bigger.

And right now, Lux was seeing a big red dot on his map, which meant that the newly spawned Abyssal Creature was a Deimos-Ranked Monster at the minimum.

Suddenly, the blinking red dot on the map moved. At first, Lux didn't mind it. However, he noticed that the Abyssal Creature was slowly heading in their direction which made him frown.

"...It looks like it has discovered us," Gaap said with an eerie calmness that gave Lux goosebumps. "Well then, Lux, we have two choices. Are we going to flee, or are you going to fight that monster? You better think fast because... it is already here."

As if waiting for that cue, the roof of the house they were staying in suddenly crumbled, forcing Lux to grab hold of Gaap and flee as fast as he could.

Since he had reacted right away, the old man was safe and sound, making the Half-Elf breathe a little easier.

"Gramps, I don't know how you managed to survive all these years," Lux said as he stared at the Abyssal Creature in front of him. "This place is not really a good place to retire."

Standing at least ten meters tall, a Black Octopus with a red gem on its forehead looked at the Half-Elf and the Old Man with a sinister gaze.

"Ah... a Deimos-Ranked Octopath." Gaap frowned. "The last time I saw one of those was a year ago. You be careful, Lux. That thing spits corrosive black ink that can melt steel."

Lux nodded and summoned his Named Creatures to his side.

"Asmodeus, look after Grandpa Gaap," Lux ordered. "The rest of you, we will lure the Monster away."

As soon as Lux gave his orders, he immediately summoned the armor Favonius Legacy that bestowed upon him the power to fly.

He didn't want to involve Gaap in the battle, so he decided to lure the Monster as far away as possible.

Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, Orion, Lazarus, Revon, Zagan, and ALL-MITE all followed behind their Master as they prepared to fight against the Deimos-Ranked Monster.

A moment later, Lux's army that numbered in the hundreds appeared on the battlefield, which immediately engaged the Abyssal Creature in a heated battle.

While Gaap watched this battle from a safe distance, he also appraised Lux's current fighting strength. A moment later, he shook his head and breathed out a helpless sigh that made Asmodeus, who was tasked to guard him, smile.

"So, what do you think of my Master's Undead Army?" Asmodeus asked.

"His Undead are too 'clean'. This is not how Necromancers fight," Gaap replied. "It's like someone using flashy swordsmanship. All show

and no substance. If any real Necromancer sees him now, they will probably feel what I'm feeling right now."

Asmodeus chuckled. He knew that Gaap was a Necromancer the moment he was summoned. Because of this, he wanted to ask his opinion about his Master's Undead Legion.

"True, my Master doesn't know a thing about being a Necromancer," Asmodeus replied. "His Undead are too pure. It's like comparing innocent children to greedy adults. They are simply worlds apart."

"Well, not all of them are pure and innocent." Gaap gave Asmodeus a side-long glance. "You should have taught him how to be a proper Necromancer. He needs more rotten individuals like you."



"It is not my place to teach my Master how to become a Necromancer," Asmodeus replied. "Besides. What's wrong with being a good Necromancer? It's a lot better than other Necromancers who raise the dead from cemeteries and use them as part of his Undead Army."

Gaap snorted as he pointed at the Skeleton Gang Bangers whose bodies shattered after being hit by one of the eight tentacles of the Octopath Abyssal Monster. "His Undead Army is very fragile. Just one hit and they break apart. A skeleton summoned by a Necromancer of the same Rank would take at least two hits before shattering completely."

"You're exaggerating," Asmodeus countered. "That is a Deimos-Ranked Creature. An Initiate-Rank Necromancer's skeleton would shatter if hit by an attack from that thing."

"Mine wouldn't," Gaap declared.

"I wasn't born yesterday, you know?" Asmodeus scoffed. "We both know that what you're saying is hogwash. So what if you are a Rank-A Apostle? You're just acting weak so that others won't see you as a threat."

Gaap no longer said anything and simply observed the battle from a distance. His calm gaze, which seemed to have weathered countless storms, locked itself on the Half-Elf, who was attacking the Octopath from the sky.

"Eiko, let's do this!"

"Pa!"

When Lux and Eiko went to the Ancestral Grounds of the Blackrock Clan, they received Pseudo-Transcendent Flames from the Twin Flames that strengthened the power of their Dragon Breaths.

Lux received the "Pseudo-Transcendent Primeval Black Flames" which was very effective against creatures without a physical body like Wraiths, Specters, and Ghosts. It was also very effective against Abyssal Creatures, and the best thing about it was that its effects stacked with Abyss Touch, making it incredibly deadly.

Eiko, on the other hand, received the "Pseudo-Transcendent Purple Primeval Flame" which could not burn anything, except the Mana in anything it hits. The

burnt Mana would combust, dealing damage equal to the amount of Mana burned by Eiko's attack.

This deadly combination was one of their Trump Cards, but since they are fighting against a very powerful opponent, Lux and Eiko summoned their clones and unleashed the strongest attack in their arsenal.

""Dragon's Breath!""

Black and Purple Dragon Breaths collided with the Octopath's body, making it scream and howl in pain. It then started to roll on the ground, imitating the death roll of a Crocodile, destroying the structures around it.

Lux's Undead Legion took this opportunity to bombard the Abyssal Creature with long-range attacks, giving it no time to breathe.

The battle lasted for nearly half an hour, with ALL-MITE dealing the final blow, smashing the head of the Octopath with his flaming fists.

But, before the Half-Elf could breathe easy, the dead Abyssal Creature's body suddenly twitched before lashing at ALL-MITE with one of its tentacles, sending the Four-Armed Hero smashing through dozens of houses.

No one had expected this sudden turn of events, especially the Half-Elf, who was looking at the revived Abyssal Monster in disbelief.

Gaap, who was looking at Lux's dumbfounded expression, smiled evilly. He wanted to show the Half-Elf what it was like to fight a real Undead Monster, and for that to happen, he used the body of the dead Abyssal Creature without a second thought.

Asmodeus, who was standing behind the old man, chuckled because he didn't know if he should laugh or cry at his Master's current situation.

Although he found Gaap's action quite distasteful, he was also very curious about what the old Necromancer was capable of doing.

## **Chapter 666.2: Why Are You So Salty? [Part 2]**

"What's going on?" Lux thought as he, and his clones, evaded the corrosive spray that the revived Octopath unleashed in his direction.

A black mist, which reeked of death and decay oozed out from the Octopath's body, making Lux realize something.

'It has been revived as an Undead,' Lux's expression became solemn after he understood the situation. 'Either someone revived it, or it just automatically revived due to the special feature of this territory. Maybe there's another reason, but that's not important right now.'

Lux and Eiko once again unleashed their Dragon Breaths in order to deal with the revived monster, but something unexpected happened.

The Black Mist that was oozing off the Monster's body formed a barrier to protect it, preventing their combined attack from breaking past its defenses.

The red-headed teenager then opened his Soul Book to try to see the monster's information, and what he saw made his face turn grim.

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< Animated Abyssal Octopath Monster >

– Animated Abyssal Creature

– Unholy Beast of Death

Health: 43,250,030 / 45,500,000

Mana: 4,830,000 / 5,200,000

Strength: 5,000

Intelligence: 2,000

Vitality: 4,000

Agility: 4,000

Dexterity: 4,000

Active Skills: Corrosion Spray, Tentacle Whip, Bind, Infestation.

## Passive Skills: Unholy Aura [EX]

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### < Unholy Aura >

- Grants the Unholy Power of the Dead, greatly raising the monster's physical, and magical attacks, as well as its defenses by 300%
- Allows the black mist to automatically block physical and magical attacks at the cost of Mana.
- The Monster can also freely control the barrier if it wishes. Prioritizing attacks that threaten it the most.

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'What a pain,' Lux cursed internally. 'Wait... isn't this an Undead? Maybe I can tame it!'

Lux hadn't tried taming a strong Undead Monster before, so he decided to give it a try. After giving mental orders to his Undead Army, the Half-Elf flew to the Octopath's blindspot in order to get in range for his Tame Undead [EX] skill.

"Tame Undead!" Lux shouted as he pointed his finger at the back of the revived Octopath Monster.

A moment later, several rows of text appeared in front of him, which confirmed the Half-Elf's earlier suspicion.

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< Tame Undead [EX] has failed! >

< This Monster has been revived by someone stronger than the Host. Overwriting their contract is impossible! >

-----

"Sh\*t!" Lux muttered before flying away in order to gain a safe distance from the monster, who had started to use its long tentacles to lash out at the Skeleton Gangbangers, who had tried to use swarm tactics on its body.

"Pazuzu!" Lux ordered. "Do it!"

The Fortress Defender, as well as the other Elite Shield Protectors, formed a defensive formation, placing their shields in front of them.

"Duel [EX]!" Pazuzu pointed at the rampaging monster, forcing the Animated Octopath to head in their direction.

The Octopath then extended one of its long tentacles to smash the Fortress Defender, who had tried to taunt it from a distance.

"Shield Wall!" Pazuzu roared, and a giant blue tower shield appeared in front of him.

The other Elite Shield Protectors also used their Shield Wall ability, creating a wall of blue Tower Shields in front of them.

Lux's and Eiko's clones had positioned themselves in the Monster's blindspot and once again unleashed their Dragon Breaths in an attempt to catch the monster by surprise.

Zagan, Lazarus, Ishtar, the Skeleton Arcane Hunters, and the Liches had also unleashed their long-ranged attacks, targeting different parts of the monster.

However, to their dismay, the black mist once again covered the monster's body, focusing only on the parts targeted by their Dragon Flames.

This was the first time that Lux had witnessed such an incredible feat, so it caught him by surprise.

The only silver lining was that the mist had focused on his and Eiko's attacks, which allowed every other attack to land on its body.

However, due to its high Health Points, the attacks that hit its body only did minimal damage.

'It knows which attacks threaten it the most,' Lux thought. 'It seems that I have no choice but to fight it in a battle of attrition. This is going to take a while. I just hope that no other Abyssal Creatures spawn at that time.'

While Lux and his army were doing their best to fight against the Animated Abyssal Creature, Gaap and Asmodeus were busy chatting with each other.

"This Unholy Aura is good," Asmodeus commented. "If all of his Undead Monsters were to have it, their survivability would also increase."

"Any decent Necromancer will be able to utilize this if they embrace the true ways of our arts," Gaap stated. "For that to happen, he needs to be a little ruthless and not stick to morality and all that goody-two-shoes mentality. Just looking at his Undead makes me feel as if one of my teeth is about to fall out. You spoiled him too much."

Asmodeus shook his head and argued with the old man, telling him that there should be other ways to develop a similar ability to the Unholy Aura without changing one's principles.

"Are you perhaps living in a rose-colored-dream?" Gaap asked in a teasing tone. "Do you think that this world will allow someone to live happily ever after? Those only happen in fairy tales."

"Are you talking from experience?" Asmodeus asked. "Why are you so salty? Nothing is black and white. Even though I think that my Master is too nice to be a Necromancer, his growth is phenomenal."

"Do you know? He only started going to Elysium a year ago and he is now a Peak Initiate. He even overtook his peers who started earlier than him. My Master is the real deal, you know?"

Gaap scoffed after hearing Asmodeus' words. He didn't believe a single word that the Archlich said.

He had met several Foreigners in the past and understood that it would take them a few years in order to reach the Initiate Rank. Of course, there were other methods like forcefully absorbing Beast Cores in order to raise one's stats.

However, this method was frowned upon by the Power Houses because even if someone brute-forced their way to reach a certain Rank, they would be inherently weaker than those who had achieved it through the proper channels.

Gaap might not feel impressed by Lux's performance, but that didn't mean that he thought that he was bad either.

A blank canvas was a good thing because it meant that it could be used to draw a beautiful painting, and for Gaap, Lux was that blank canvas.

If he were able to teach him how to perform the proper strokes, then without a doubt, the Half-Elf would gain a power that he never thought was possible in the past.