

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

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Loot And Dash |

Chapter 667: Loot And Dash

Twenty minutes had passed since Lux and Eiko attacked the Animated Abyssal Creature a second time, and both of them were about to run out of steam.

The Monster's Unholy Aura was truly a pain as it prioritized defending against attacks that gave it the highest threat.

The Abyssal Creature was an all-rounder, equipped with both long and short-range attacks that allowed it to annihilate anything it hit.

Orion and Pazuzu had already died more than once in order to save Lux from deadly clashes that could potentially give him a fatal injury.

Even though Lux had the Corpse God to defend him, the two Tankers of his army didn't dare risk it and sacrificed their lives in order to save their Master.

Because of this, the Half-Elf was forced to distance himself and no longer tried to engage the Monster, whose fighting prowess had exceeded its former self.

"Eiko, are you fine?" Lux asked the Baby Slime who was panting on top of his head.

"Pa!"

"Take it easy, okay?"

"Pa!"

Truth be told, Lux and Eiko were both mentally exhausted. Although their Guild buffs regenerated their health, mana, and stamina, the mental stress they dealt with was piling up and taking its toll on their body.

It had only been twenty minutes, however, they managed to bring the Monster's health down by a tenth of its maximum health.

But, there was one other problem. The monster also had a regeneration ability, which slowly but surely allowed it to recover its health, making the battle of attrition move in its favor.

Even though Lux and Eiko had been summoning countless Undead to fight, the Monster was simply too powerful for them to handle right now.

ALL-MITE, whom Lux hoped would be able to turn the tide of battle was also unable to deal a decisive blow and was repeatedly forced to retreat by the Animated Octopath's relentless attacks.

'Maybe I should retreat for now,' Lux thought after seeing the hopeless situation he was in.

At that exact moment, a loud shriek spread in the surroundings, which came from behind the Half-Elf, who was busy fighting against the revived Octopath Monster.

"Sh*t!" Lux cursed as a black Four-Winged Giant Eagle with red eyes descended from the sky and unleashed countless black feathers in his direction.

The Half-Elf immediately flew to the side in order to evade the attacks. However, by doing so, he found himself sandwiched between the Octopath Monster, and the Four-Winged Giant Eagle, whose fierce gazes were locked onto his body.

With a deafening shriek, the Black Eagle dove down with the intention of crushing the Half-Elf with its beak.

Behind Lux, the Octopath extended four of its tentacles towards him, forcing the Half-Elf and the Baby Slime to work together in order to survive the attacks that were coming from the front and the back.

"Corpse God!" Lux roared.

"Corpse!" Eiko shouted.

With Eiko's mimicry ability, she copied her Papa's skill, summoning her own Corpse God.

Lux's and Eiko's skills fused together, creating a two-headed Corpse God with twelve arms, which immediately took a defensive position to protect their Masters.

However, just as Lux and Eiko were bracing for an attack, the four giant tentacles passed them, and wrapped around the body of the Four-Winged Black Eagle, pulling it down from the sky.

The Octopath then propelled itself to its prey, who was unable to break free due to the Animated Creature's firm grip on its body.

Lux watched with surprise as the Octopath's beak bit on the Giant Eagle's neck, holding it in place, and making the Eagle shriek in pain.

The Octopath's other tentacles bound the Eagle's body tightly, preventing it from escaping its death grip.

One of its tentacles was wrapped around the eagle's beak, clamping it shut and preventing the bird from pecking its body.

Both of the monsters were Deimos-Ranked Beasts, but the Octopath had the upper hand in the battle. Little by little, it was using its corrosion ability to fully incapacitate its prey, giving it no chance for a comeback.

Lux, who was watching all of this, was faced with two choices.

Continue to fight or flee.

His Named Creatures, who were standing not far from him, were also waiting for his orders. They would follow whatever their Master asked of them, even if it was to fight till the bitter end.

Lux took deep and steady breaths before summoning his Soul Book to pay attention to the Health Points of both monsters.

The Black Abyssal Four-Winged Giant Eagle's health was decreasing at a rapid pace as its very life was being squeezed out of its body by the Octopath,

who had suddenly changed its target from Lux to the Giant Eagle that targeted the Half-Elf.

Lux then gave out his orders, which his subordinates obeyed, executing the plan he had asked them to follow.

As the Giant Eagle was about to breathe its last, Diablo appeared in front of it and stabbed its sword into the monster's forehead, dealing the final blow.

This attack was carried out in great timing and precision, which was something that Diablo had only been able to pull off due to the experiences he gained in the many battles that he had fought.

A second later, the body of the Giant Eagle disappeared as Diablo stored its body inside his Bounty Ring, preventing the Necromancer who revived the Octopath from gaining a second minion.

With his mission done, Lux summoned Diablo back to his side as he and his other Named Creatures made a hasty retreat, carrying Gaap with them.

The old Halfling had the expression of someone who just got robbed, while Asmodeus chuckled beside him.

Clearly, the old man didn't expect Lux to loot and dash, taking the Giant Eagle's body and leaving the Octopath behind.

Of course, not all of Lux's subordinates had escaped.

Orion, alongside the surviving Liches and Skeleton Arcane Hunters, engaged the Abyssal Creature in order to buy time for their Master to escape.

The Capital City of the Kingdom of Zangrila was very big, so there were plenty of places to hide.

His fight against the Octopath took place near the outskirts of the city, close to its walls, so the Half-Elf took his subordinates toward the city's center in order to find a suitable place to hide.

A few minutes later, Lux and Gaap sat facing each other in the living room of one of the houses near the city's center.

"Seriously, Gramps, how are you able to survive in this place?" Lux asked as he and Eiko drank some water. "Are you not afraid to die?"

"When you reach my age, death can be considered a gift," Gaap replied.
"Although I don't actively seek death, I'm not afraid of it either. If it's my time to go then it's time to go. That is what I have believed for the past few years of my life."

Lux sighed after hearing Gaap's reply. There was a firmness in the old man's tone, so he decided to let the matter drop.

The Half-Elf then waved his hand, and Orion appeared beside him.

"How many times?" Lux asked

"Six," Orion replied.

"You want to continue?"

"Yes, Master."

"Okay, go," Lux ordered.

Orion then gave the Half-Elf a brief bow before leaving the house to fight the Octopath again.

Gaap frowned when he heard their exchange. He didn't understand why Lux kept on summoning the Jade Golem to fight the Octopath repeatedly despite the fact that the Jade Golem was outmatched by his opponent.

"A foolish act," Gaap stated. "Why are you doing such a wasteful thing?"

"Wasteful?" Lux tilted his head in confusion. "What wasteful?"

"You keep on summoning that Jade Golem and have him fight repeatedly with the Octopath. You and I both know that he has no chance of beating it, but you still send him to his death. How heartless can you be?"

"This is what Orion wants," Lux replied. "I'm just respecting his wishes."

Gaap shook his head in disappointment after hearing Lux's reply. He thought that the Half-Elf had learned a little from his fight against the Octopath that he had revived. However, it seemed that he had overestimated Lux's ability.

Twenty minutes later, Lux once summoned Orion, who had died in fighting the Octopath, once again.

Gaap no longer concerned himself with Lux's shenanigans and decided to ask the Half-Elf how he discovered Necromancy.

"You learned Necromancy from a Grimoire?" Gaap rubbed his chin. "Well, that is indeed one way of learning the Necromantic Arts. In the old days, Necromancers awakened their powers when they encountered a tragedy in their life that forced them to take the path of vengeance.

"Although rare, there are some exceptions like you who happen to stumble upon the artifacts or legacies left behind by the Necromancers of the past. That explains why you are inexperienced when it comes to handling your Undead Legion. You lack the knowledge of how to be a true Necromancer."

Lux wasn't able to refute Gaap's statement because he had never really seen a true Necromancer in action, with the exception of the black-robed man in the Wolfpine Barony.

On that day, he witnessed how the black-robed man showed a ruthlessness that Lux was unable to mimic. He ordered the Calamity Beast to annihilate the entire town before raising the residents to become his undead subordinates.

It was a chilling display of power.

It was also the day when Lux decided to not have any kind of relationship with the members of the Necromancer Guild that went by the name Memento Mori.

"Gramps, can I ask you something?" Lux eyed the old man with a solemn gaze.

"Hmm? Sure," Gaap replied. "What do you want to ask?"

Lux then rested his head on top of his intertwined hands as he held the old man's gaze.

"Are you the one that revived the Octopath earlier?" Lux asked. "Are you a Necromancer?"

Gaap laughed out loud. He had a very smug look on his face as he eyed the Half-Elf who was looking at him with a serious expression on his face.

"What if I am?" Gaap replied. "Do you want to become my Disciple?"

Instead of answering Gaap's question, Lux asked another question.

"Do you know Memento Mori?" Lux asked. "Are you one of their members?"

Gaap, who received Lux's question, stopped smiling. His face then became distorted as he looked at the Half-Elf with bloodshot eyes.

"What do you know about them?" Gaap asked in a cold tone filled with killing intent. "Are you perhaps one of their Disciples?"

Suddenly, Lux sensed someone standing behind his back. However, his body seemed to be frozen in place, unable to even turn his head.

"Answer my question, boy," Gaap's voice that reeked of death resounded inside the room. "Are you affiliated with Memento Mori?"

For some reason, something was telling Lux that if he gave the wrong answer, the old man who had been laughing a while ago would not hesitate to tear his head from his body, killing him then and there.

Chapter 668: Lux's And Gaap's Hidden Agendas

"Are you affiliated with Memento Mori?"

Lux held Gaap's gaze before giving his reply.

"No," Lux answered. "But I had seen one of their members destroy an entire city without a shred of remorse and revive the dead as if he was just out to buy cabbages in the market."

Gaap narrowed his eyes as if trying to discern whether Lux was lying to him or not. The tension lasted for half a minute before Lux was finally able to move again.

The first thing that the Half-Elf did was summon Orion.

Gaap thought that Lux had summoned the Jade Golem to attack him, but after being summoned, Orion left the residence to fight against the Octopath Monster, whom the old man had stationed at the outskirts of the Capital City of Zangrila, once more.

"... You're still at it?" Gaap didn't know whether he should applaud Lux for his tenacity or slap him for his stupidity.

The Half-Elf only shrugged before taking out a basket filled with sandwiches in order to feed Eiko, who had become hungry after all the fighting.

Gaap didn't know that Lux was letting Orion fight against the Octopath over and over again due to his Avenger's special ability. Every time Orion died, his stats would gain a boost each time he fought against the same creature that killed him.

According to the Elysium Compendium, Octopaths were very common in the Abyssal World, a place that could be found within the Void.

Although Lux had no intention of crossing over to that side, he wanted his Jade Golem to gain enough stat boosts against all Octopaths.

This way, if he ever had to face off against an Octopath in the future, Orion would be able to easily subdue his opponent due to the bonuses that he got from this opportunity that was presented to him.

"Gramps, you still haven't answered my question," Lux said as he fed Eiko a sandwich. "Are you a member of Memento Mori?"

Gaap snorted. "Who would want to become one of their members? That bunch of baboons can all go to hell for all I care."

The old Halfling then subconsciously held the necklace hanging on his neck.

After closer inspection, Lux noticed that it wasn't exactly a necklace. It was a silver chain that held a ring in place.

"Now I understand why you have been able to survive here, Gramps," Lux stated as he gave Eiko another sandwich to eat. "But what I don't understand is why you are here?"

"I already told you earlier that I am waiting for someone to give them a gift," Gaap replied. "Only when he receives my gift will I be able to leave this place."

"I hope you find that person soon." Lux picked up a sandwich and began to eat. "This place isn't exactly a good place to wait for someone."

Suddenly, loud rumbling sounds reverberated in the city. But, this time, Lux ignored it and continued eating.

He was sharing his senses with Orion, and he saw another Abyssal Creature appear in the city. However, this time, it was only a Rank 5 Abyssal Creature, which was instantly killed by the Octopath.

Naturally, Lux ordered Orion to get the remains of the Monster, especially its Beast Core. Even though it was a Rank 5 Monster, any kind of ingredient that could be used for his Animate Undead and Skeleton Generator Skills was precious material.

For some reason, Lux realized that Zangrila was a good place to grind for Abyssal Monster Parts because they respawned here on a regular basis.

'Maybe staying here for a bit is a good idea,' Lux thought. 'I can gather many resources and I can animate Abyssal Creatures as well. Maybe I will have my own Abyssal Legion within a few days.'

Abyssal Creatures were quite powerful because of their skills, giving them an advantage over normal Monsters in Elysium.

While the Half-Elf was considering building up his Abyssal Army, the old Halfling was having an internal battle in his mind. Finally, after a few minutes, Gaap decided to break the ice and talk to the Half-Elf who had also finished eating.

"Say, Lux, the way you fought earlier wasn't bad," Gaap said. "But, it wasn't good either. You lack knowledge about being a Necromancer. So, I was thinking that I would teach you a few things while you're here. What do you think?"

"Teach me about Necromancy?" Lux was quite interested in learning a thing or two about Necromancy, especially the Unholy Aura that shielded the Octopath from his most powerful attacks.

The Half-Elf believed that if all of his Named Creatures could gain that kind of Ability, their effectiveness in battle, especially his tanks, Pazuzu and Orion, would reach a breakthrough.

"What's the catch, Gramps?" Lux asked. "There's no free lunch in this world."

"I guess you're not stupid after all," Gaap smirked. "Indeed. There is no free lunch in this world. I want something in return for teaching you the ways of Necromancy."

"And that is?"

"A promise."

Gaap once again held the ring that hung on his neck as he held Lux's gaze.

"A promise that no matter what happens, you will not associate yourself with Memento Mori or become one of their members, even if they threaten your life," Gaap stated. "This is my condition. In return, I promise you this. I will train you to be one of the most powerful Necromancers in the world. Not a bad deal, right?"

Lux didn't have to think about whether he should accept or reject Gaap's offer. The answer was already decided the moment he confirmed that the old Halfling wasn't a member of Memento Mori.

"Deal," Lux replied. "However, if we are going to do this, I don't want to do this half-heartedly."

The Half-Elf stood up and pressed his right fist over his chest before giving Gaap a respectful bow.

"From now onwards, I will call you, Master," Lux declared. "Please teach me the proper way to become a Necromancer."

Gaap nodded with a smile. Although Lux was rough around the edges, he thought that he was a very good seedling that he could pass his wisdom to.

'It took a few years, Master, but I finally have a Disciple of my own.' Gaap closed his eyes as he firmly held the ring hanging around his neck. 'Don't worry. I will make sure that both of us carry on the legacy that you have left behind.'

While Gaap was reminiscing about his past, the Half-Elf thought of a brilliant idea.

If he could add his Master to his Guild, wouldn't that give him another strong fighter who could contend with Rankers, and possibly High-Rankers?

Although Gaap's rank was only at the initial stages of the Apostle Rank, Lux believed that there was a story behind it.

There was simply no way that an Apostle would be able to revive a Deimos-Ranked Alpha Monster without degrading its Rank. Instead, Gaap had even made it more powerful, giving Lux a hard time while he was fighting against it.

If the Half-Elf were to fight against a Deimos-Ranked World Boss, that monster would die after being attacked by his Undead Army after some time.

However, a single Octopath, who was only a Deimos-Ranked Alpha Monster, nearly made him give up due to how troublesome an opponent it had become.

The Old Man and the Half-Elf both had hidden agendas in their hearts, not knowing what the other was thinking.

However, regardless of their goals, their meeting had been made possible by a series of events and a stroke of luck that even the Gods didn't expect.

Many years from now, Lux would remember this meeting fondly as the day when he understood which type of Necromancer he wished to become.

Chapter 669.1: Hundred Arm Abomination [Part 1]

Above the skies of Zangrila, Lux's Plague Wing Gargoyles rained Stone Bullets on the Rank 5 Abyssal Bats that had appeared, while the Half-Elf was fighting against an Abyssal Deer-like Monster.

Three days had passed since Lux accepted Gaap's offer for discipleship, and he was now being trained on how to effectively use his Undead Army in battle.

"A Necromancer's advantage in battles is the number of minions that he can summon on the battlefield," Gaap stated. "However, numbers aren't always the basis for victory. When you find yourself at a great disadvantage, you are given two choices—run or fight.

"Running away isn't shameful. It saves your life, allowing you to fight another day. This is true not only for Necromancers but for anyone who values their

lives. Even lowlives who only know how to bully the weak and fear the strong understand this principle."

Gaap was currently sitting on top of a Bone Wyvern, advising Lux as he battled against the Deimos-Ranked Abyssal Deer that had spawned half an hour ago.

"But, since these monsters are something that you can handle, then you should stand your ground and fight," Gaap stated. "Your Skeleton Soldiers should flank the enemy, while the range attackers provide support. This is the basics of the basics.

"Um, I noticed that your Skeleton Gangbangers have a bad habit of attacking the rear of the enemy. This is a good thing. Always strike where it hurts the most, but pay close attention to the type of enemy you're fighting against.

"That is a deer. Aside from gouging its enemies with its horns, it also uses its hindlegs to kick. Your Skeleton Gangbangers are unable to mount their special attack because their opponent's attack pattern prevents them from screwing it from behind. When this happens, order them to attack from the sides."

Immediately, the Skeleton Gangbangers changed their tactics and attacked the Abyssal Deer on its left and right sides, forcing it to continuously move around.

"You've been so used to having your Named Creatures fight for you that you have completely forgotten that your army doesn't only revolve around them. Now that they are not around, you are forced to only use the army under your disposal."

Currently, Lux was only fighting with his Skeleton Gangbangers, Skeleton Arcane Archers, Liches, Steel Golems, Plague Wing Gargoyles, and Elite Spirit Protectors.

Eiko was also not allowed to fight the Abyssal Creature, which made the little battle junkie very upset.

Fortunately, the Abyssal Bats appeared, so she immediately hopped on top of Bomber and joined the Plague Wing Gargoyles in the dogfight high in the sky.

Revon and his Animated Undead Army were just watching from the side as spectators.

Gaap didn't allow them to join Lux in his battle and assigned them to only protect the Half-Elf if another Abyssal Creature suddenly appeared on the battlefield, just like the Rank 5 Abyssal Bats.

Gaap didn't need to teach Revon anything because he had felt that the Fallen Wargod was already an expert when it came to large-scale battles.

Lux may have fought large-scale battles before, but all he did was summon Monsters and let them duke it out with the enemy. Of course, there was nothing wrong with this, but Gaap wanted the Half-Elf to gain the ability to move his Undead Army as if they were part of his body.

Once the Half-Elf mastered this technique, it wouldn't matter whether he joined the battle in close quarters or not. A single thought was enough for his entire army to move as one.

In short, the old Halfling was teaching Lux how to properly multitask.

"Shield Bash!" Lux ordered his Elite Spirit Protectors to charge at the Abyssal Deer and bash their shields on its legs, breaking its momentum.

Lux's Undead Army may not have the Abyssal Touch passive skill, but they had the Decaying Touch [EX] skill.

This passive skill gave them a chance to inflict decay, disease, and weakness on their enemies, dealing damage over time.

This passive ability was similar to inflicting poison on their enemies, dealing True Damage every three seconds.

Lux's exclusive title, Lord of Death's Army, also gave his Undead Legion a buff in physical and magical attacks. It also increased their defense, making them more sturdy.

However, that was not enough to fight against the Deimos-Ranked Monster, who easily overpowered his Undead Soldiers.

Lux's Undead Army was only made up of Rank 4 Monsters. If he weren't using his clones, he could only summon up to 390 fighters at once.

Of course, those 390 fighters didn't include the zombies that the Liches could summon during times of war. Each Lich could revive up to 50 Undead Creatures, giving Lux an additional 2,500 fighters.

All in all, the number of fighters that Lux could command without his clones numbered nearly three thousand strong.

However, since all of the zombies under the Liches' commands had been destroyed in the Haca Dynasty, they could not bring out their overwhelming superiority in numbers, forcing Lux to only command the remaining 390 soldiers.

'This is like challenging a Raid Boss Monster,' Lux thought. 'I have forgotten this feeling.'

Usually, when dealing with Boss Monsters, especially Dungeon Boss Monsters, an entire guild would have to be mobilized in order to fight it.

Aina's Guild, Eternal, would usually tackle a Boss Monster with hundreds of their members. This greatly increased the survival rate of her members, preventing them from being killed by their opponents.

Lux didn't have this mindset because, for him, he could summon the Undead whenever they died.

Although he didn't want to admit it, he only thought of his minions as cannon fodder. Gaap was teaching him to change this mindset. There was nothing wrong with using the Undead as cannon fodders. But even if they had to become cannon fodders, they should be the type of cannon fodders who could make their enemies tremble in fear when they appeared on the battlefield.

At that exact moment, the Abyssal Deer raised its front legs and stomped them on the ground, creating a shockwave that obliterated all of Lux's Skeleton Gangbangers, leaving only the Elite Spirit Protectors and Steel Golems to contain it.

Chapter 670.2: Hundred Arm Abomination [Part 2]

"Rise!" Lux roared as he summoned all of his Skeleton Gangbangers en masse, all of which hurriedly re-engaged the enemy.

Unfortunately, the Abyssal Deer had learned its lesson, so it once again raised its front legs and stomped on the ground.

This time, not only were the Skeleton Gangbangers killed, but the Steel Golems and the Elite Shield Protectors also turned into particles of light.

With one angry bleat, the Abyssal Deer charged toward Lux's direction with the intention of killing the Half-Elf, who had put it through so much trouble.

Lux didn't stand idle and equipped his "Dragon Regalia," which bestowed upon him the power of lightning.

Using Lightning Steps, the Half-Elf distanced himself from the Deer as his mind shifted into overdrive, thinking about how he would be able to overcome the disparity in rank.

'If only the Skeleton Gangbangers and Steel Golems had more hands...' Lux thought.

Suddenly, a spark of inspiration appeared inside his head, which made Lux wonder if it was possible.

He had been too focused on commanding only his army that he had completely forgotten that he still had one more skill that he could freely experiment with.

It was none other than the skill, Skeleton Make [EX].

"Rise!" Lux then raised his hand to summon his Skeleton Gang Bangers, as well as his Steel Golems.

After summoning his forces once again, he smacked his fists together and placed his hands on the ground in front of him.

"Skeleton Make..." Lux declared as he materialized the thought inside his head.

"Hecatoncheires!"

Suddenly a notification sounded inside his head, confirming that the thing he envisioned was successfully created.

< Congratulations! You have unlocked a Transcendent Necromancer Skill called Summon Hecatoncheires! >

< The Skill Summon Hecatoncheires will automatically be upgraded to Summon Hecatoncheires [EX] >

< Hecatoncheires >

- Hundred Arm Abomination
- Fusion Monster
- Deimos Ranked Monster

Health: 35,980,060 / 36,000,000

Mana: 600,000 / 600,000

Strength: 6,000

Intelligence: 500

Vitality: 10,000

Agility: 500

Dexterity: 3,000

Active Skills: Hundred Arm Barrage, Grapple, Vice Grip, Berserk.

Passive Skills: Steel Body

Unique Ability: Unholy Fervor

< Steel Body >

- The Hecatoncheires' body is as hard as steel.

< Unholy Fervor >

- Each successful strike of this monster to its target regenerates its Maximum Health Points by 0.05%.
- The Hecatoncheires gain immunity to Petrification, Charm, Weakness, Blind, Paralysis, Poison, and Slow.
- Increases the Hecatoncheires Physical Damage by 20%
- Increases the Hecatoncheires Physical and Magical defense by 50%

A Giant Skeleton with hundreds of arms and dozens of heads and towering thirty meters tall stood in front of the Half-Elf.

Lux couldn't help but notice that some of the Monster's hands were made up of bones, while a few of them were made of steel.

The Skeleton Gangbangers, and the Steel Golems, merged with Lux's Skeleton Make [EX] ability, creating a Behemoth whose strength had reached the Deimos-Rank.

The heads of the Hecatoncheires then all roared in unison as the Giant Abomination charged at the Abyssal Deer with the intention of smacking it to oblivion.

ALL-MITE, who was spectating this battle, looked at his four arms before shifting his gaze at the Hundred-Armed Giant, who had thrown itself at his enemy with fearless abandon.

He was the strongest among Lux's Necromancer Covenant, and yet, he thought that the Hecatoncheires looked so cool with its countless arms, ready to smash its foe to oblivion.

"Not bad, but... he still lacks proper control," Gaap muttered as he looked at the Hecatoncheires, which was in a berserk state.

All of the Hecatoncheires eyes were glowing crimson red, making even Lux who summoned it, back away in fear of being attacked by his own creation.

With a hundred arms at its disposal, the Giant Abomination grappled the Abyssal Deer and pinned it on the ground.

The Hecatoncheires then began to pound the Abyssal Creature's body with its free hands, turning it into a one-sided beating.

The dozens of heads weren't being idle either, fiercely biting the Deer's body like a pack of Lions hunting its prey.

It was a very gruesome sight, and Lux wondered if summoning the Hecatoncheires would be effective in large-scale battles.

It was so big, and its movements were not that fast, which meant it could be targeted easily by long-ranged fighters

However, if it only had to fight against one opponent, its fighting ability was second to none.

Although its movement speed was slow, its attack rate was fast, allowing it to punch, slap, smash, and bite its opponent, using everything in its arsenal to the fullest.

Lux couldn't help but feel pity for the Abyssal Deer, who was now being bitten by dozens of heads and had its flesh torn from its body, dying the ground black with its blood.

He had seen how beasts devour each other, but the Hecatoncheires was in a league of its own.

Minutes passed, and only the Abyssal Deer's muffled cries and the Hecatoncheires' mad laughter could be heard in all of Zangrila as the battle neared its end.

After what seemed like forever, the Abyssal Monster finally took its last breath, as its Unholy Foe continued to feast on its body.

Not being able to stand the gruesome sight any longer, Lux canceled the summoning, disintegrating the Giant Monster into particles of light.

"You have a very interesting skill, Lux," Gaap said as his Bone Wyvern landed beside the Half-Elf.

"Thank you, Master," Lux replied as he continued to salvage whatever he could from the remains of the Abyssal Monster.

Fortunately, its Beast Core was still intact, allowing Lux to use it in the future.

Although the Deer's body was badly damaged, it could still be revived using the Animate Undead Skill.

The only downside was that it would become weaker, compared to its former glory. Even so, Lux was fine with that.

Due to Asmodeus' proposal, the Half-Elf decided to create an Abyssal Undead Legion that would devastate his enemies if they were to ever make their appearance on the battlefield.

Revon would be in charge of commanding the Animated Undead Soldiers, while Asmodeus would be in charge of the Animated Abyssal Legion.

Even the Liches that were under the Archlich's command had been ordered to prioritize the revival of the Undead Abyssal Monsters.

Their first minions were the Abyssal Bats that Eiko and the Plague Wing Gargoyles had just defeated.

Lux was even considering building a teleportation gate in Zangrila, allowing him to return there anytime, so he could replenish his Abyssal Legion.

"Let's stop for now," Gaap said after seeing the exhaustion on Lux's face. "We will start again in three hours. Your next goal is to fully control the Hecatoncheires and ensure that it won't go berserk."

"Although it is stronger in its Berserk State, a mindless Monster is still a mindless Monster. Its effectiveness in battle will be reduced because it will not be able to follow orders, nor can it differentiate between friend and foe. If you are unable to master your control over your new subordinate, it will just become a liability in the future."

Lux nodded his head in understanding before taking a deep breath. He didn't know how long he would be staying in Zangrila, but he hoped that Cai and the others were safe.

He didn't know what was going on in the Gate of Famine, and he also had no idea how his friends were faring.

The only thing he could do right now was finish his training as fast as possible so that he could reunite with his companions again and finish the messy business that he had started.

Chapter 671: Gaap's Gift

Somewhere in the city, rumbling sounds could be heard.

Orion was still stacking up his Revenger Ability by dying repeatedly from fighting against the Octopath Monster, who was under Gaap's control.

Lux's and Orion's goal was to reach a certain threshold where the Jade Golem could one-shot-kill any Octopath Monster that they faced in the future.

Gaap had mentioned to Lux that Octopaths were really strong Abyssal Monsters that could overpower even creatures that had ranks higher than theirs.

Now that the old Halfling was Lux's Master, the Half-Elf told him why he kept on sending his Jade Golem to his death.

Gaap couldn't suppress his surprise after finding out about Orion's peculiar ability. But once he knew about it, he finally understood why the Jade Golem was insistent on dying repeatedly at the tentacles of the Octopath Monster.

All of Lux's Named Creatures had a cooldown time of five minutes. However, the cooldown would automatically start the moment his Named Creatures were summoned.

This was the reason why Lux could summon them again immediately after his Named Creatures died the first time. Their cooldown timers would have already finished by the time they met their end on the battlefield.

While the Jade Golem and the Octopath were duking it out, the Half-Elf was busy trying to control Hecatoncheires, which he had summoned to fight a Rank 5 Abyssal Wolf that had appeared in Zangrila.

Currently, the Half-Elf was having trouble making his new summon obey his will. Since the Hecatoncheires was made by combining all of the Skeleton Gangbangers and the Steel Golems to form one entity, its power was able to reach the Deimos Rank.

'This is like Pokem*n,' Lux thought. 'Did I not get enough Gym Badges to control this thing? Is that the reason why it's not listening to me?'

The red-headed teenager didn't dare summon Hecatoncheires when there wasn't a monster around. He was afraid that the Berserk Hundred-Armed Giant would attack him if it couldn't see another creature in its immediate vicinity.

Also, there was one more thing that made the Half-Elf feel discomfort while he was fighting. He couldn't shake the feeling that he was being watched by countless eyes.

At first, he thought that this was only a figment of his imagination. But after spending three days in Zangrila, he had a feeling that there was more than what meets the eye behind the discomfort he was experiencing at the moment.

Gaap, who was watching the Half-Elf in the distance, was smoking, blowing white circles with his pipe.

"You still have a long way to go, Lux," Gaap muttered. "If you can't even control your own Summon, then you will become the laughingstock of all True Necromancers in the world."

Just thinking about the bastards who were part of Memento Mori looking down on his Disciple was enough to make Gaap's teeth itch.

'Still, there is one other thing that bothers me.' Gaap frowned. 'His senses as a Necromancer are still lacking. Although he can feel them, he's still unable to understand what he is feeling.'

Ten minutes later, the Half-Elf forcefully unsummoned Hecatoncheires after the Rank 5 Abyssal Wolf was defeated. He didn't dare let the Giant

Abomination linger even a second longer, fearing that it might start a rampage inside the already ruined Capital City.

"Rest for a bit," Gaap said as soon as Lux landed beside him. "We need to talk about something."

Lux nodded and sat beside his Master, who was still holding the pipe in his hands.

"Master, I have a question. You said that the passage of time here is different from the rest of Elysium," Lux stated. "Just what is the difference? You see, my friends are currently challenging a Dungeon, and they might need my help. If possible, I want to know if the time difference between this place and the Sacred Dungeon is the same or not."

"You don't have to worry about that," Gaap replied. "Zangrila is a special zone that borders the Void and Elysium. Because of this, time is distorted in this place. A week here is only a day in Elysium."

"Spending a few weeks here is not a problem. Besides, if my guess is right, clearing that Sacred Dungeon is not an easy thing. It is much better if you master the Necromantic Arts before you return."

Lux understood that what his Master said was right. But he still couldn't feel at ease knowing that he wasn't able to talk to Cai and the others through the Guild Chat.

Gaap had already mentioned that Zangrila was a special place and that it had its own set of laws, making it impossible for him to contact anyone in the outside world.

In order to change the topic and distract the red-headed teenager from thinking about his friends, the old Halfling pointed at a wall that stood a few meters away from them.

"Look at that wall, Lux," Gaap ordered. "What do you see?"

The Half-Elf glanced in the direction where his Master was looking and frowned. He was about to say that it was only a wall, but for some reason, his senses were vaguely picking up that there was something else there.

The Half-Elf narrowed his eyes and fixed them on a single spot. A moment later, the place he was looking at suddenly distorted. It was as if the air or space he was looking at trembled ever so slightly, making his eyes widen in surprise.

"Focus," Gaap stated. "Don't look at it with only your eyes. You are a Necromancer. Expand your senses to the fullest and see the other side of the world that cannot be seen by normal people."

Lux closed his eyes and took a few deep breaths. Once he had regained his calm, he opened his eyes and, this time, he extended his senses and finally saw what was causing the distortion.

A little boy, whom he estimated to be at least ten to eleven years old, was hugging a little girl, whom Lux assumed to be at least four to five years old.

The little girl was crying silently as her body trembled while holding onto the older boy, who was holding her in a protective embrace.

Just a glance was enough to tell Lux that the two shared a very close relationship, making him think that the two children were brother and sister.

"There is a saying among those that can see the spirits of the dead—that those who have been killed by Abyssal Creatures are unable to pass onto the next life," Gaap said softly. "After visiting many places in the world, I am inclined to believe that this saying is right."

Lux subconsciously swallowed his saliva after hearing his Master's words. Suddenly a realization came to his mind, which made his body shudder.

"Master, how long ago was this city destroyed by the Abyssal Creatures?" Lux asked.

"A few centuries," Gaap replied. "Maybe two to three hundred years."

"Master, are you saying that the two of them had been here for hundreds of years?"

"Yes. But you're not entirely right. They are not the only ones that have been here in the city for hundreds of years."

Just like the final piece of the puzzle falling into place, Lux finally understood where the countless gazes that were looking in his direction were coming from.

Although he couldn't see them, the countless ghosts of Zangrila were all watching him as he battled against Abyssal Monsters in the very city where they were born.

"I mentioned before that I was waiting for someone, right?" Gaap asked. "I was planning to give that person a gift, and that gift is none other than the souls that have been trapped in this ruined city for the past hundreds of years."

The old Half-Ling gave Lux a mischievous smile before emptying his pipe.

"Right now, there are millions of ghosts in this city," Gaap explained. "Just think of it. A million ghosts and specters that you can add to your Undead Army, making you a powerhouse at such a young age. Isn't this the best gift a Master can give to his Disciple?"

Gaap laughed heartily before looking at his Disciple, who was frozen in place.

However, instead of seeing happiness on Lux's face for the gift he had prepared for him, all Gaap saw was a pained expression that made the old Halfling wonder if his Disciple was suffering from a bad case of constipation.

Important Announcement:

To give you a bit of background to this story, this is like Harry Potter. A teenage boy accidentally rode the wrong train, and entered a Magic Academy where he can *ahem* learn Magic the "special way".

Chapter 672: Are You Enjoying Your New Life To The Fullest?

Originally, Lux thought that there wasn't a night and day cycle in Zangrila when he first arrived. But it didn't take long for this assumption of his to be corrected.

During the day, everything in the surroundings was void of any other color except for the color of red.

At night, everything became so dark that only the moonlight illuminated the surroundings. There were no stars in the sky, and the only thing that could be seen above was a white, full moon.

After finding out that there were countless ghosts in the city, the Half-Elf decided to take a stroll to clear his mind.

For some reason, the brother and sister ghosts followed behind him. They would always stay a dozen meters away from the Half-Elf as if following him was a fun thing to do.

Lux let them do what they wanted as he was busy thinking about a lot of things.

His friends who were in the Gate of Famine.

His inability to control Hecatoncheires.

The words of his Master, Gaap, and last but not the least, he was thinking about what a Necromancer really was.

Eiko, who could also feel her Papa's worries, decided to keep her silence. She understood that now was not the right time to distract Lux from his thoughts because he needed some time to ponder the things that he should prioritize.

Now that he understood where the countless gazes were coming from, he no longer cared about them and simply accepted the fact that there were countless ghosts that he was unable to see with his current abilities.

'I have been relying too much on my Soul Book to detect monsters around me,' Lux thought as he continued to walk aimlessly in the city. 'Since the ghosts are not hostile to me, the Mapping function of the Compendium ignored their presence.'

The Half-Elf didn't have any particular destination in mind, and just walked, and walked, and walked, hoping to find solutions to the problems he was currently facing.

He had already summoned his Named Creatures, as well as his Undead Legion, allowing them to have free reign in the city.

Their mission was to engage any hostile Abyssal Creature that spawned within Zangrila while scavenging for useful things in the ruined city.

The Abyssal Creatures had no need for gold, jewels, or other expensive things. Since the city was devoid of life, the Half-Elf didn't feel any guilt scavenging for treasures during his stay in Zangrila.

Lux had no doubt in his mind that if Cai and Fei Fei had come here with him, the pair would have already secured the most expensive things in the city before he, or any of his subordinates, could.

After a few hours of walking, Lux sat down and looked at the two ghosts, who had also sat a distance away from him.

The little girl was resting her head on her brother's shoulders, while the latter held her in place.

Although Lux's face looked calm on the surface, deep inside, a storm was stirring. It took him a while to regain his composure before he closed his eyes to rest.

He was really tired both physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Because of this, it didn't take long for him to fall asleep, allowing the clutches of a dream to pull him into dreamland.

"Rise and shine, sleepy head."

A familiar voice called out to Lux, which made the teenager stir from his slumber. A moment later, the Half-Elf half-opened his eyes to see who was disturbing his sleep.

However, after seeing a face that he hadn't seen since he had been born in Elysium, the drowsiness he was feeling melted away like an ice cube tossed into a hot desert.

"M-Max?" Lux asked. "Is that really you?"

"The one and only," the God of Gamblers, Max, replied. "Long time no see, Lux. Are you enjoying your new life to the fullest?"

Lux propped himself up in a sitting position and looked around his surroundings.

He was currently in a space devoid of any colors. The only thing that stood out in this weird place was the God who had asked him to save a dying world from destruction.

Max gave Lux an appraising gaze from head to foot before nodding his head in satisfaction.

"Although there have been many twists and turns, I'm glad that you are doing your best to survive in this world," Max stated. "Before anything else, I would like to apologize to you for the mishap that happened back in Heaven.

"If the cannon hadn't encountered any problems, you might have been born into more favorable conditions. Although it is a bit late, please, accept my apology."

Max gave Lux a brief bow before raising his head once more. "In order to compensate you for your trouble, you can ask me for one thing. As long as it doesn't hit my bottom line, I will see to it that you get what you wanted. So, do you have anything you want right now?"

Lux thought for a while before shaking his head.

"Your Excellency, what happened in the past should remain in the past," Lux stated. "Perhaps, the SIMP Cannon malfunctioning back then was a blessing in disguise. If not for that, I wouldn't have been blessed to have a wonderful and loving family who truly cares for me.

The red-headed teenager then bowed his head towards the Gods of Gamblers, whom Eriol said had risked his Divinity to ensure that his Soul wouldn't cease to exist.

"Thank you for giving me an opportunity to live again," Lux said firmly. "Also, I haven't forgotten the mission that you have given me. I will continue to find ways to help save Solais from destruction."

Max smiled after hearing Lux's heartfelt words. As a God, it was impossible for anyone to lie to him because he could see the truth behind every word.

Seeing that the Half-Elf was truly happy with his life, the God of Gamblers summoned a golden jar.

"I am happy that you feel that way," Max replied. "But, since I have already decided to give you something, I will see to it that it gets done. This jar in my hands is called the Jar of Fortune. If you place your hand inside it, you would gain something that will help you realize the thing you want most to happen.

"I am unable to stay long on this plane, so I urge you to hurry up and pick something from inside the jar. No matter what you get, I'm sure that it will lead to the thing that you want to happen the most."

Lux, who could sense the urgency in Max's voice, decided that no harm would come to him if he did what his Patron God asked of him.

"Well, here goes nothing," Lux muttered as he put his hand inside the jar.

He didn't know what he would be able to take from the Jar of Fortune.

However, deep inside, he hoped that whatever he got would help him accomplish the task that he had envisioned, allowing him to take the path that he had decided to take, regardless of the consequences of his action.

Chapter 673.1: The Necromancer I Want To Become [Part 1]

"Pa?"

Eiko, who had taken a nap alongside her Papa, was the first to wake up. The first thing she did was poke Lux's cheeks, in an attempt to wake him up.

It didn't take long before the Half-Elf opened his eyes.

'Was it all just a dream?' Lux thought as he lightly patted the Baby Slime's head.

It was at that moment that he saw the silver bracelet on his wrist with the emblem of a red phoenix at its center. This made him realize that what he experienced wasn't a dream and that he truly met the God of Gamblers, whom he hadn't seen for a long time.

"Pa?" Eiko looked at his Papa and wondered if he was still half-asleep.

"Sorry, I'm just thinking about a few things, Eiko," Lux replied as he placed the Baby Slime on top of his head.

He then looked at the two ghosts that were huddled in the corner and motioned for them to follow him.

Lux turned around, not even bothering to look back to see if the brother and sister ghosts were following him. He needed to find his Master and ask him something important, which would determine his next course of action.

A few minutes later, he found Gaap playing chess with Asmodeus near the plaza of the city.

The two seemed to be focused on their game, so Lux decided to let them finish before he talked to his Master.

In the distance, rumbling sounds could be heard as his Named Creatures fought against low-ranked Abyssal Creatures, which had spawned in Zangrila, as part of their training.

For Lux, this was a good thing because the more Abyssal Creatures he could get, the more powerful Asmodeus' Abyssal Legion would become.

Nearly half an hour later, Gaap groaned after Asmodeus placed his Queen chess piece beside the old man's King.

"Checkmate," Asmodeus said with a smile. "I admit, you got me in the first half. Comeback is real."

"Hmph! I shouldn't have made that move five rounds ago." Gaap grumbled.

The old Halfling then glanced in Lux's direction to see what he was doing. To his surprise, the Half-Elf was talking to the brother and sister ghost, asking them a few questions about Zangrila.

However, the ghosts weren't replying to him. They simply stared and hugged each other as if they had long lost the ability to talk.

The only feelings that remained after being earthbound for hundreds of years were their familial bonds, with the older brother protecting his sister even long before they had died.

"It's no use, Lux," Gaap said. "Those two have very little sentience left. They are simply moving based on their instincts because their self had eroded after a few centuries of staying in this forsaken place."

"Master, are all ghosts like this?" Lux asked. "Do they lose their sentience after staying in this world for a very long time?"

"Well, it really depends on how strong the willpower of that person is," Gaap replied. "For example, children don't have very strong willpower because they haven't fully developed physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. If they were only dead for a year or two, they might still retain their intelligence."

"But, as the years go by, their senses deteriorate until they revert to their most primal instincts. These two ghosts' strong feelings for each other are the only thing that has survived since the day this kingdom fell. However, there are always exceptions. Perhaps, out of the millions of ghosts in this city, you will find a few who still have their sentience intact. Those spirits are likely strong individuals who had high ranks when they were still alive."

Lux nodded in understanding before asking his Master the thing he wanted to ask when he came to look for him.

"Master, you said that you planned to give me the spirits in this city as a gift, right?" Lux inquired.

"Right," Gaap answered. "Since you are my Disciple, I plan to give all of them to you. Aren't I generous?"

"You're very generous, Master." Lux smiled. "Since they are now mine, does that mean that I can do anything I want to do with them?"

"Of course."

"No matter what happens, you won't get mad, right?"

Gaap laughed after hearing Lux's question. "Why are you even asking this question? I already said that they are yours. Whatever you want to do with them, I will not lift a foot, a finger, or open my lips to get in your way. Use them as you see fit."

Lux breathed a sigh of relief after hearing his Master's confirmation.

"Thank you, Master," Lux bowed his head respectfully. "I will go back to my training now."

"Mmm, you do that." Gaap nodded before shifting his gaze to the Archlich, who had finished arranging the chess pieces on the board. "Another round. This time, I will not show you any mercy."

"Hahaha. That's what losers always say," Asmodeus commented. "Come. Who's afraid of who?"

Lux left the plaza and flew towards the outskirts of the city, away from the city wall.

'Heaven's Bracelet will not be fully charged until tomorrow night,' Lux thought. 'I will set aside my main goal for the time being and deal with the things that I can do right now.'

He then summoned his Skeleton Gangbangers, as well as Steel Golems, and fused them together to summon the Hundred-Armed Abomination, Hecatoncheires.

As soon as the Giant made his appearance, Lux immediately unleashed a Dragon's Breath, targeting the monster's heads that numbered around fifty.

The Half-Elf felt that, no matter what he did, he wouldn't be able to make his latest Summon listen to his order, so he decided to just fight it and forcefully make it submit to him.

Seeing that her Papa planned to fight against Hecatoncheires, the Baby Slime became motivated and decided to unleash her own Dragon Breath that had the Mana Burn effect on the berserk Abomination that had locked its countless eyes in their direction.

Gaap glanced in the direction where Lux was fighting and shook his head helplessly.

"Your Master really loves to do unconventional things," Gaap said before moving his knight chess piece. "Well, I guess that is one way to make his subordinate listen to his orders."

Asmodeus chuckled before moving his pawn forward. "When Master does things, he does them in a grand way. Even I can't count how many times I've been surprised by his actions, which defy everything a Necromancer stands for. Tell me, Gaap. What kind of Necromancer do you want my Master to become?"

"I want him to become a True Necromancer, but he is not ruthless enough. I'm afraid that if I force him to do something really vile, like desecrating a graveyard, he will resist it with every fiber of his being. What a troublesome child."

"Ah. I can easily imagine that happening."

The Archlich once again chuckled before moving his Queen chess piece to the side of the board.

'Sometimes, the less obvious things make the most impact in the world,' Asmodeus thought. 'Regardless of what Lux chooses, we will all support him with everything we got. Even if that meant facing the entire world.'

The Archlich might not know what the Half-Elf intended to do with Gaap's gift...

However, there was one thing he did know and that was, whatever Lux planned to do, it would certainly be different from the one the old Necromancer had in mind.

Chapter 674.2: The Necromancer I Want To Become [Part 2]

"Skeleton Make!" Lux shouted as he punched forward. "United Nation... Smash!"

A Giant Skeleton fist materialized in front of him and smashed against the Hecatoncheires, sending the Giant Abomination skidding backward.

"Smash!" Eiko shouted as she imitated what her Papa just did.

Before the Hundred-Armed Giant could even recover from Lux's attack, Eiko's Giant Skeleton fist smashed against its body, making the Giant fall on its back.

ALL-MITE, who was watching the battle from a distance, gave Lux and Eiko four thumbs up.

"Good Smash," ALL-MITE shouted, which made Lux and Eiko glance in his direction before they replied to him with a thumbs up.

"Okay, let's do an experiment," Lux said excitedly as he summoned his clones.

The two clones understood what the red-headed teenager was thinking, so they immediately summoned their own Skeleton Gangbangers and Steel Golems.

""Summon Hecatoncheires!""

Immediately, two more Giant Abominations appeared on the battlefield, making Lux draw in a cold breath.

"I knew it," Lux muttered. "This new skill is completely broken."

The three Berserked Abominations then began to fight against each other in a free for all, making the entire surroundings tremble as they rampaged to their heart's content.

Eiko, who found this situation funny, also summoned her clones and had them summon their own Skeleton Gangbangers and Steel Golems.

At first, Lux thought that Eiko and her clones wouldn't be able to do it, but he was proven wrong.

Half a minute later, six Hundred-Armed Giants were bashing each other with wanton abandonment, like pro wrestlers in a deathmatch.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a Deimos-Ranked Abyssal Black Tiger appeared beside the Six Giants, issuing a defiant roar.

For a brief moment, the six Hecatoncheires stopped fighting and glanced at each other. Half a minute later, all six of them ganged up on the pitiful Black Tiger, who roared out of pain and frustration as six behemoths grabbed hold of its body, preventing it from escaping.

A one-sided beating took place, which made Lux and Eiko feel sorry for the Abyssal Creature who had spawned at the worst possible place in Zangrila.

'Since Eiko is able to do it, I'm sure Asmodeus can do it as well,' Lux thought. 'So that means I can summon nine Hecatoncheires at the same time.'

Although the nine Deimos-Ranked Monsters were truly powerful, they still had their disadvantages. For one, they were simply too big, making them easy targets for long-range spells and attacks.

Second, High-Rankers would be able to neutralize them because they were only on the Deimos-Rank.

Bigger didn't necessarily mean better. The Skeleton Gangbangers were Rank 4 Monsters, making them very strong individually. They could decimate Human armies in their wake, and their teamwork with the Steel Golems had been tried and tested over time.

But, that didn't change the fact that if used at the right time and situation, the Hecatoncheires would be able to deal massive damage to anyone and anything within its striking range.

For the time being, Lux labeled the Hundred-Armed Giants as Anti-Boss and Anti-Giant Summons.

Basically, anything above five meters was fair game to the Hecatoncheires.

It didn't take long for the Black Tiger to croak, leading the Giant Abominations to toss its corpse to the side.

After the pitiful Abyssal Creature was dealt with, they once again grappled and fought each other, and Lux sneakily retrieved the Abyssal Corpse that was left behind.

In the end, Lux and Eiko unsummoned the Giant Monsters because their battles were getting out of hand.

The Half-Elf's goal was to make the monster submit to him, but he was unable to do it at this time.

The next day, the Half-Elf tried again to make the Hundred-Armed Giant obey him, but he still didn't succeed.

Fortunately, the span of time in Zangrila was very different from Elysium, so he had plenty of time to find the right method to subdue his latest Summon.

'Finally, it's time,' Lux looked at the full moon in the sky with a complicated look on his face.

It was already night, and only the moonlight illuminated the ruined city which was a stark contrast to its once glorious past.

Lux hovered above the City Plaza with his eyes closed, preparing himself for the grand undertaking he was planning to do.

The moment he opened his eyes, the space around the plaza rippled, similar to that of a stone dropping in a still lake.

A moment later, the Ghosts in his surroundings materialized, looking at him with both fear and anticipation of what he was about to do.

"Come." Lux made a gesture to the brother and sister pair that had been following him for the past few days.

The two reacted to his voice and slowly floated toward him, only stopping when they were a meter away from him.

The little girl was holding onto her brother, burrowing her head into his chest. The older boy wrapped his arms around her body and looked at the Half-Elf with apprehension.

"You did well protecting your sister for the past hundreds of years,' Lux said softly as he patted the boy's head. "It's time for the two of you to finally rest."

The silver bracelet on Lux's hand glowed faintly, giving the Half-Elf the power that he desired.

The boy's blank gaze slowly regained its clarity. The same thing happened to his little sister, making both of them look at each other before bursting into tears.

"It's fine," Lux stated as he hugged the two children who had suffered for hundreds of years. "It's time for the two of you to start your new journey. Don't worry. In your next life, both of you will still be brother and sister. I wish both of you the happiness you deserve."

The two children, who had been crying earlier, turned into two white butterflies that circled the Half-Elf, fluttering their beautiful wings.

"Thank you very much," the voice of the older boy said. "We can finally leave this place."

"Big Brother, thank you," the little girl's voice also reached Lux's ears. "I'm not scared anymore."

The two butterflies then flew upwards, heading to the moon where a new life was waiting for them.

Those who were killed by Abyssal Creatures found themselves unable to move through the Cycle of Reincarnation and were forced to spend their eternity wandering in Elysium.

Lux had decided that he would be the one to free these wandering souls from the shackles that bound them, allowing them to start over again, just as how he had been given that same chance by the God of Gamblers, who was currently watching his action from the Heavens.

"Looks like tonight is going to be a busy night for the caretaker of the Cycle of Reincarnation," Eriol commented as he looked at the two butterflies that were flying toward the moon. "I'm guessing that...hey, are you crying?"

The God of Games looked in surprise at the God of Gamblers, whose tears were streaming down the sides of his face.

"Eriol, I'm glad that I chose Lux," Max wiped the tears in his eyes. "It is the best decision I have made in my life."

"... It is your helper, Himea, that chose him, and not you."

"Himea is my assistant! Her choice is my choice!"

While the two Gods were arguing in the Heavens, the souls of the dead, who had been trapped in Zangrila for hundreds of years, flew toward the Half-Elf as if they had found their salvation.

Lux raised his hand, releasing a soft and gentle light toward the souls that had come to him for redemption.

One by one, these souls turned into white butterflies that danced in the night, as if celebrating the moment they finally regained their freedom to pass into the afterlife.

"Thank you."

"Bless you."

"If we meet again in the future, I promise to return this favor."

"I will finally be reunited with my family."

"Mom, Dad, let's all go together."

"Yes. We'll all go together."

Soon, the skies were filled with white butterflies that were all flying toward the moon, creating a picturesque scenery within one of the most dangerous places in the world.

"... You foolish boy," Gaap sighed as he looked at the countless white butterflies that were now headed to the Cycle of Reincarnation. "Now I understand why you asked me that question. What am I to do with you?"

Asmodeus stood beside the old Half-Ling with his arms crossed over his chest. The glowing embers, serving as his eyes, glowed brightly as a feeling of warmth spread inside his already dead heart.

"Gaap, do you understand now?" Asmodeus asked as a faint smile appeared on his bony face. "This is the kind of Necromancer my Master wants to be. I hope you can respect his decision."

The old Halfling snorted, but he didn't say anything to contradict Asmodeus' words.

Gaap's right hand gently held the ring that hung on his neck and rubbed its surface with his thumb.

Although he didn't want to admit it, the scene in front of him made him remember the memories that he had locked up deep inside his heart.

"All the good people die early," Gaap muttered in a voice that even Asmodeus was barely able to hear. "It is the bad ones that live long in this world. Of all the Necromancers I could have found, why am I stuck with someone like your Master?"

A single tear streamed down the side of Gaap's face as he recalled the distant past, a time when he was still happy.

A time when his Master taught him the joys of becoming a Necromancer.

A joy that had long disappeared in his life.

Important Announcement!

I will be publishing two stories this month of May. For now, I have published the first story and its title is "Kingdom Building Done Right".

I have also created a Patreon Page for it, so you guys can read its advance for a very, very, cheap price that will not put a hole on your pockets and wallets.

The Patreon page can be found on the synopsis of the novel, but do take note that no chapters are uploaded in it at the moment. I will work on it after three days, so you guys can read without too much hassle.

The two new stories will also be having a Webtoon Adaptation, so I will be very happy if you guys donate to make it happen. That is all folks. Enjoy the new story.

P.S Don't worry, this announcement will not make you pay additional coins. I made sure that it will not add to the word count to make you pay extra, so don't get mad at me, okay?

Chapter 675: Fight For Home And Country!

Countless white butterflies circled around the city, illuminating the darkness that had taken hold of the area for hundreds of years.

Lux hovered at the center of it all. The souls longing to regain their freedom all flew toward him, hoping to end their misery.

Gaap and all of Lux's Named Creatures watched this scene in silence. None of them dared to disturb this sacred ceremony that the Half-Elf had decided to initiate by himself.

Unfortunately, not everyone shared their sentiments.

A crack appeared a hundred meters away from the Half-Elf, revealing the figure of an Argonaut-Ranked Abyssal Black Dragon.

Without giving anyone time to react, the Black Dragon unleashed an Abyssal Dragon Breath at the Half-Elf, who was too focused on what he was doing to notice.

"No!" Gaap shouted as he hurriedly summoned his own Named Creature. But he was simply too far away, and his Summon couldn't move fast enough to save his Disciple, who was attacked in his blind spot.

Lux's other subordinates were also late to react, including Zagan, who was the fastest among the members of his Covenant.

Just as the Abyssal Dragon Breath was only a dozen meters away from the Half-Elf's body, a blue comet appeared out of nowhere, clashing against the Dragon's Breath and making it completely disperse.

When the light receded, a blue Wraith, wearing a crown, stood between the Argonaut-Ranked Dragon and the Half-Elf.

"Filthy creature, how dare you?" A cold voice filled with killing intent left the Wraith's lips.

It flew toward the Black Abyssal Dragon and kicked the monster away, sending it crashing toward the city.

From behind the blue Wraith, blue comets surfaced and flew past him, attacking the Black Dragon with a vengeance.

Wraiths, who were wearing knightly clothes, hacked, slashed, smashed, stabbed, and punched the Abyssal Creature, preventing it from taking flight.

However, the Black Dragon was still an Argonaut-Ranked Creature, so it was able to resist the combined attacks of the twelve Wraith Knights that tried to contain it.

The Abyssal Dragon let out a mighty roar, calling for reinforcements. Soon, dozens of Abyssal Wyverns descended from the sky in order to answer their Master's call.

The Wraith King, who had stayed behind to protect Lux from any danger sneered as he raised his hand.

"Rise, Warriors of Zangrila!" the Wraith King commanded. "Fight for our home and country! Fight for our freedom! Fight for our people! Send these foul beasts back to the Abyss!"

As soon as the Wraith King gave his order, something stirred within the ruined city that had remained dormant for hundreds of years.

From under the rubble, Wraith Soldiers arose, holding spears, swords, and arrows.

They were the soldiers of Zangrila that had fought until the bitter end back when the Abyssal King descended upon Elysium alongside his countless Abyssal Legion.

After dying, their spirits had mostly been broken, unable to even manifest. However, after hearing their King's summons, these broken and pitiful souls rose up from their slumber and regained a bit of their sanity.

It took them a moment to register what was happening around them.

When they saw the Black Dragon and the Black Wyverns trying to stop their people from entering the Cycle of Reincarnation, the fire of anger and hatred burned in their hearts.

Countless roars and warcries soon reverberated within the city as countless Wraith Soldiers flew toward the sky and engaged the Abyssal Creatures in a fight to the death.

Although they were only around Rank 3 to Rank 4 Wraith Monsters, none of them backed away. They were like a swarm of killer bees, ready to defend their nest till the last man.

Soon, an epic battle had taken place in the sky as the Abyssal Wyverns found themselves covered from head to foot by bloodthirsty Wraiths, whose weapons stabbed into their bodies repeatedly.

"Continue what you are doing," the Wraith King told Lux as he protected the Half-Elf's back. "I swear upon the honor of Zangrila that no harm will come to you."

Hundreds...

Thousands...

Hundreds of thousands...

More Wraith Soldiers emerged from the city, fulfilling their oath to their King and their Kingdom to protect everyone they held sacred in their lives.

"Don't let anyone touch our Master!" Asmomdeus roared as he revived one of the Abyssal Wyverns that had just died to become his mount. "Morpheus! Kill!"

The Death Tyrant gave an otherworldly chuckle as it unleashed Death Rays and Petrification Rays from its floating eyes.

Zagan, who was also protecting his Master, unleashed a barrage of black lightning bolts, targeting the closest Wyverns, making them howl in pain.

Diablo rode on his Nightmare Horse, which had gained the ability to fly in the sky, leaving flaming trails behind its back.

As Lux's First Born, he would not allow anyone to harm his Master, and this determination made his blazing eyes burn even brighter.

ALL-MITE, who was the strongest member of Lux's Covenant, smashed one Wyvern after the other, making them fall from the sky.

Ishtar, Pazuzu, Orion, Lazarus, and Revon all played their part to ensure that none of the Abyssal Monsters could even come near their Master.

"Bastard! How dare you!" Gaap, who had almost lost his Disciple, cursed out loud as he ordered the Octopath to wrap itself around the Abyssal Black Dragon, preventing it from going back to the sky.

While the Octopus Monster was pinning the Black Dragon down, two of the twelve Wraith Knights stabbed the eyes of the Abyssal Dragon, blinding it completely.

Roars of pain and anger spread in the surroundings as the Dragon called for more reinforcements.

This time, four Deimos-Ranked Gryphons appeared and immediately took part in the battle.

However, what awaited them was a Black Knight holding a black sword in his hand that reeked of death.

Beside the Black Knight was a lady wearing a red dress, floating harmlessly in the air with a red rose in her hand.

"Can you leave these little birds to me?" the Lady in Red asked. "It has been a while since Master summoned me, and I feel like playing for a bit."

"As long as they don't go anywhere near Master's disciple, you can have as much fun as you like," the Black Knight replied.

The Lady in Red giggled before brandishing the red rose toward the Abyssal Gryphons.

Immediately afterward, the four Deimos-Ranked Gryphons found themselves caught in a petal storm that sliced through their bodies like razors.

Black blood rained from the sky as the four Abyssal Creatures cried out in pain from having their entire bodies shredded by the beautiful red petals that showed no mercy.

Chapter 676: Title Will Be At The Bottom Of This To Avoid Spoiler

A maniacal laughter echoed within Zangrila as the Lady in Red slowly tortured the Gryphons until they breathed their last.

"More! I want more!" the Lady in Red shouted. "Give me more!"

As if waiting for that cue, hundreds of Gryphons appeared. However, these newcomers were only Rank 5 Monsters. They were the subordinates of the four Deimos-Ranked Gryphons that the Lady in Red had killed.

"Bunch of small fries!" The Lady in Red laughed maniacally as she trapped the new batch of Gryphons in a storm of red petals, preventing them from going anywhere.

Although Zangrila was already ruined, it was still located between the border of the Void and Elysium. Because of this, the Abyssal Creatures felt the powerful fluctuation of Divine magic, which compelled the Argonaut-Ranked Dragon to investigate.

Never did the Abyssal Monster expect that what was waiting for him on the other side of the Void was an all-out battle of epic proportions.

As if a dam had been broken, more Abyssal Creatures emerged from the Abyss, ranging from Rank 3 Monsters up to the Argonaut Rank.

However, as if venting out their hatred that had lasted for hundreds of years, the Wraith Soldiers didn't back down and engaged in a brutal war so intense that the Ruined Capital trembled.

The sneer on Gaap's face didn't fade as he summoned his Undead Creatures to fend off the Argonaut-Ranked Monsters that appeared.

Although he was only of the Apostle Rank, his Named Summons were strong enough to make even Emphyrean-Ranked Monsters like Barca shudder in fear.

The Capital City of Zangrila had once again become a battleground after a Hundred-Year silence.

The spark of this great battle, on the other hand, was busy purifying the souls of the dead, allowing them to enter the Cycle of Reincarnation.

True to his word, the Wraith King didn't allow a single Abyssal Creature near the Half-Elf, ensuring his safety.

An hour passed, and the battle was still in full swing.

Fortunately, Lux's Protectors were all Undead, which meant that they didn't have to worry about exhaustion.

When the last non-combat-resident of Zangrila had turned into a butterfly, the Half-Elf was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief.

A moment later, Lux felt extremely lethargic, unable to even keep himself afloat.

At that moment, Asmodeus flew to his Master's side and caught him, preventing the Half-Elf from falling in the sky.

The Archlich then immediately ordered his Abyssal Wyvern to fly towards Gaap, who was the strongest person in Zangrila.

Asmodeus knew that as long as Lux was by his side, no other harm would come to him.

The Wraith King escorted the Wyvern until it safely landed beside the old Halfling. The King of Zangrila then gave the nearly-unconscious Half-Elf a glance before flying to the sky in order to join his countrymen in battle.

Half an hour later, the city was littered with the countless bodies of Abyssal Monsters.

The Wraith Soldiers who died in the battle had turned into white dust, coating the entire city like a blanket of snow.

When the battle ended, Lux's subordinates began collecting the Dead Bodies of Deimos-Ranked Monsters and above, leaving the low-ranking ones to be revived by the Liches and integrated into their Abyssal Legion.

Lux, who did his best to stay awake for as long as he could, finally closed his eyes to rest.

However, just before his vision blacked out, he heard a notification sound inside his head.

The red-headed teenager no longer had the strength to read the rows of text that had appeared in front of him and finally succumbed to sleep's embrace.

Eiko also yawned and closed her eyes to rest. She had also fought hard in order to protect her Papa and was very tired as well.

If Lux was only awake to see the information that had appeared in front of him, he would definitely doubt whether the notification was playing a prank on him or not.

< Congratulations! You have unlocked a Sacred Class! >

< Sacred Class Unlocked: Heaven's Necromancer >

< Heaven's Necromancer >

"I seek the Monsters you fear the most."

Profession Rating: Progenitor

– When Darkness knocks on Heaven's Doors, the chosen one shall rise in the darkened skies. Light and Dark both intertwine, thus are the makings of the Divine.

– As someone who Lords over the Undead, you don't care who you help, whether they be the living or the dead. Your actions allowed you to create a new path that is different from the norm, paving a way for a different kind of Necromancer to be born.

< Sacred Class Bonuses >

– All of your Summons will be immune to Divine, Light, and Life Magic even if they are Undead. Spells imbued with Divine, Light, or Life Magic, will now heal your subordinates, giving them a boost in strength.

– All of your attacks, including your Beast Companions, Named Creatures, Covenant Members, and Summons, will be imbued with Divine Magic, allowing you and them to deal great damage to both the living and the dead.

– The Divine Magic will stack up with other Elemental Affinities that you have, adding another layer of damage to your attacks. For example, your Abyssal Touch [EX] will now change to Divine Abyssal Touch [EX].

- Your subordinates' Affinities will also change. For example, Diablo's Ethereal Affinity will now become Divine Ethereal Affinity, ignoring armor, as well as any kind of magical resistance.
- All of your Named Creatures, and Beast Companions, with the exception of your Covenant, will now have the same Rank as you. Together, all of you will share the path that you have unlocked due to your strong will and resolve.
- You will now be able to summon an additional 200 Skeleton Gangbangers (Total: 320)
- You will now be able to summon an additional 200 Skeleton Arcane Archers (Total: 320)
- You will now be able to summon an additional 100 Elite Spirit Protectors (Total: 150)
- You will now be able to summon an additional 40 Steel Golem (Total: 60)
- You will now be able to summon an additional 50 Liches (Total: 100)
- You will now be able to summon an additional 50 Plague-Wing Gargoyles (Total: 80)

< Additional Sacred Class Bonus >

- You can now summon a Battle Angel to fight for you.
- Summon Battle Angel will automatically be upgraded to Summon Battle Angel [SSR]
- All of your Summons will obey you without fail, including any Monster created through your Skeleton Generator Skill, as well as any Monster that you will obtain in the future. This is the Privilege of the Progenitor Class that you unlocked.

< Transcendent Heaven's Necromancer Skills >

– All of these skills will be unlocked once you have become a Ranker, and received the world's blessings.

– Transcendent Summon (Locked)

– Transcendent Spells (Locked)

– Transcendent Curses (Locked)

The rows of text in front of the sleeping Half-Elf slowly disappeared one by one. Even if they lingered, the Half-Elf wouldn't be able to see it because he was out like a light.

Unknown to him, the countless Warriors of Zangrila all bowed their heads respectfully in his direction.

Thanking him for allowing their people to find peace after being bound in a cycle of despair that lasted for centuries.

Chapter Title: Heaven's Necromancer

End of Volume 3: I Seek The Monster's You Fear The Most

Chapter 677: Don't Make Promises You Can't Keep

When Lux opened his eyes, he found himself surrounded by darkness.

It was pitch black, completely devoid of any color. Even as a Half-Elf, who had the ability to see in the dark, Lux found himself unable to see anything.

He couldn't see his hands. He couldn't see his body. He couldn't see whether there was anything in front of him. When he tried to shout, no sound came out of his lips.

It was at that moment that the ear-numbing sound of silence started to make his ears start ringing.

He covered his ears, but the ringing didn't stop.

No matter how much he shouted with everything he had, his voice seemed to have ceased to exist.

For the first time after being reborn, Lux felt truly and utterly helpless. It was as if he had fallen into a bottomless pit, doomed to stay there for eternity.

Suddenly, he felt something touch the side of his face. His first reaction was to scream in fear and ask for help, but since he could not let out any sound, all he could do was shudder as if all his strength left his body.

His breathing grew ragged, and he was starting to undergo a panic attack.

However, just as Lux was about to fall completely into despair, he heard a soft and soothing voice enter his ears.

"Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you."

A pair of delicate hands were wrapped around his body, pulling him close until he felt his face touching something soft and warm.

He then felt a hand lightly pat his head, as if assuring him that there was nothing to be afraid of.

"I don't know how you ended up here," the voice said softly. "But I'm here. You are not alone."

The words of comfort and assurance made Lux regain his composure as he allowed himself to be embraced by someone, who was slowly and surely starting to materialize in front of him.

"Do you feel better now?" the voice asked.

Within that dark place, a young lady with long, pink hair and green eyes smiled at him. She was wearing what seemed to be a ceremonial priestess dress, similar to what Cai wore, except her dress was more revealing, showing a lot of skin and highlighting her seductive and innocent charm.

A moment later, Lux noticed the chains that bound her wrists and legs, allowing her to only move within a certain distance.

"Can you tell me your name?" Although the young lady had noticed Lux's staring at her chains, she pretended not to notice and simply asked his name.

"Lux," Lux answered. "My name is Lux."

Lux paused after saying his name because he had finally regained the voice he thought he had already lost.

"Lux...", the pink-haired lady muttered. "While I'm not completely sure, I believe that this name means Light."

Lux nodded his head to agree with the young lady's words. His name did mean Light, and he wondered how that young lady knew it.

"How ironic," the young lady said sadly. "In this dark place where I am imprisoned, the first person I've seen in several years is a person whose name means Light. Are the Gods perhaps playing a prank on me?"

Lux looked at the beautiful lady, who seemed to be around his age, as she muttered something while looking in the distance.

"I'm sorry, it has been a while since I had guests, so I forgot my manners." the pink-haired young lady smiled. "My name is Aurora, and it means dawn. Do you know what dawn is? It's hard to know when dawn is coming because we are deep into the earth. According to my mother, dawn is the time before the first rays of the sun appear on the horizon.

"I don't know what a sun is, but I believe that it can be found on the surface world. According to the books I read, it is very bright and lights up the entire world. Perhaps my mother named me Aurora so that I would be able to see that light..."

Aurora paused before closing her eyes.

"Aurora also has a different meaning," Lux said as he looked at Aurora's sad smile. "In my world, Aurora also means colorful lights that dance in the night sky. It is very beautiful to behold, and from what I can see, you are just as beautiful as those colorful dancing lights in the sky."

The pink-haired girl raised her head to look at Lux in surprise. However, that surprise didn't last long, and a bitter smile appeared on her face.

"My name also means light?"

"In a way, yes."

Aurora then closed her eyes before lowering her head.

"I guess it's time for you to go, Lux," Aurora said in a tone that reeked of sadness.

The Half-Elf didn't understand what the pink-haired beauty was talking about, but it didn't take long for him to notice that his body had started to glow faintly.

"I don't know if this is just a dream or if I am having one of those fantasies, but I'm glad that I met you, Lux," Aurora stated as she reached out to hold Lux's hand. "But even if all of this disappears when I wake up, to have been able to talk to someone after many years is a blessing.

"Lux, I have a favor to ask. Can you think of me from time to time? That way at least, someone will know that I existed. This place... is very lonely, you see. But I will keep our meeting in my memory."

Lux's body was slowly becoming transparent, as he felt a strong force pulling him toward another place. However, he fought it with every fiber of his being, wanting to stay a little longer and know more about the sad girl, bound by chains and all alone in the darkness.

"Where is this place?" Lux asked as he resisted the strong pull that was tugging at his body. "I will come find you!"

Aurora laughed bitterly as he looked at the desperate Half-Elf whose body had almost completely become transparent.

"You will come for me?" Aurora asked. "Even if you do, you can't free me from this place. The only thing I will bring you is misfortune."

"I don't care," Lux replied. "I will make no promises, but just tell me where you are. If there is an opportunity, I will come to find you."

"Lux, please, don't make promises you can't keep. Don't give me false hope."

"Just answer my question. Please!"

Aurora slowly reached out to wrap her arms around the disappearing Half-Elf before whispering something in his ear.

"Agartha," Aurora whispered. "Goodbye, Lux. I wish that you will live your life to the fullest."

Just as she finished saying those words, the Half-Elf completely disappeared, leaving her all alone once again in a place surrounded by complete and utter darkness.

"Aurora!"

"Aurora? Who's that? Your lover?"

"Pa!"

Gaap and Eiko looked at the Half-Elf, who was lying on the bed with his right hand raised upwards as if trying to reach out for something.

Lux immediately propped himself up from the bed and looked at his surroundings.

He was no longer in that dark and lonely place, but his heart felt heavy as if he had left it behind with the pink-haired lady, whose tears were streaming down the side of her face before he disappeared.

Seeing that Lux seemed to be confused, Gaap decided to give him a glass of water, so that he could regain his calm.

"You've been sleeping for three days straight," Gaap explained. "How do you feel?"

"My body feels as heavy as lead," Lux replied before drinking the cup of water given to him by his Master.

Gaap then asked Lux a few more questions, and the Half-Elf answered them absentmindedly. He could still feel Aurora's warmth in his body and wondered if everything that he saw was just a dream.

'There's only one way to find out,' Lux thought as he stared at the empty cup of water in his hands. 'Agartha... the answer lies in Agartha.'

Lux still had many things to do, but he vowed in his heart that after he had tied up all the loose ends that needed to be taken care of, he would travel to the Kingdom of Agartha, which was located thousands of meters under the ground, near the core of Elysium.

If that sad and pitiful girl was really trapped somewhere in that dark place, he would free her from the chains that shackled her and let her see the dawn, which represented the meaning of her name.

Chapter 678.1: The Wraith King Of Zangrila [Part 1]

After eating his first meal after three days, Lux asked his Master, Gaap, about all the things that had happened right after he lost consciousness.

The old Halfling didn't mince his words, and narrated the blow-by-blow account of what transpired, without omitting a single detail.

The Half-Elf listened with a serious expression on his face because he truly wanted to know what happened afterwards.

Twenty minutes later, Gaap finished his tale, and the Half-Elf lowered his head in order to digest everything that he had heard from his Master.

After a few minutes of silence, Lux thanked his Master and slowly stood. He then left the house where he and Gaap were currently staying to get some fresh air.

The moment he stepped outside, he noticed that it was nighttime, with the full moon illuminating the ruined city as it did for hundreds of years.

Lux also felt something very different, and that was the subtle fluctuations in his surroundings. He hadn't felt anything like this in the past, but for some reason, he instinctively understood what it meant.

The Half-Elf then equipped his Favonius Legacy and slowly floated upwards. The entire city was covered in what seemed to be white ash.

These were the remains of the brave Wraith Soldiers, who had perished in the battle against the Abyssal Legion that had tried to attack Lux during his purification ceremony. Without their help, the people of Zangrila wouldn't have been able to pass on to the next life.

The silver bracelet on Lux's wrist faintly glowed as if answering the Half-Elf's determination.

Lux pressed his palms together and closed his eyes as if he was praying, making his entire body glow in silver light.

"Brave Soldiers of Zangrila,

Selfless Protectors of heart and home.

Lift your voices up in prayer,

Sing it all across Elysium.

May love and laughter light your days,

and warm your heart and hearth.

May good and faithful friends be yours,

Wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world

With joy that long endures.

Now it's time for all of you to set off on a new journey,

A place where happiness awaits.

Blessed is your kingdom, since days of yore,

Its Legacy will remain forevermore.

From within the ash-covered city, something once again stirred.

Countless small translucent white lights slowly rose towards the sky, like small fireflies in the night.

These were the remnants of the shattered souls of the Wraith Soldiers who had died protecting their home.

They no longer possess any sentience, and what remained of their identity slowly flew towards the Half-Elf en masse.

These souls could no longer pass through the Cycle of Reincarnation because their essence was too weak and would simply fade away long before they could reach their final destination.

Lux then raised his right hand high up in the air, forming a giant ring of light that expanded for hundreds of meters above his head.

He then pushed the ring of light upwards, making it hover high in the sky.

The small white lights were all sucked up at the center of the ring of light and passed through it.

Suddenly, all of these fragmented souls regained their radiance and transformed into white cocoons that hung in the sky, making Gaap, who was watching Lux in the distance, gasp in shock.

"T-This is... resurrection magic?" Gaap's eyes widened like saucers as he appraised what the Half-Elf was doing. "No... not resurrection magic. But it's something similar. Just what in the world is happeni..."

Suddenly, the old Halfling's body subconsciously shuddered as he remembered a distant memory.

"Master, why are you doing this?" a younger version of Gaap asked. "This is not the way of a Necromancer."

"That's because I don't want to become an ordinary Necromancer, Gaap," a beautiful woman replied in a teasing tone. "What I want to be is a Necromancer that is able to move both Heaven and Earth. A one-of-a-kind, never seen before Necromancer that does not only revive the dead but also someone that can wield the power of the Divine."

"Master, have you eaten? I think you're suffering from delusion."

"How harsh! My own Disciple is telling me that I'm delusional."

"Just speaking facts, Master. There's no way a Necromancer can do what you're talking about."

"Hehehe. Maybe not now, but I believe that there will come a time when a Necromancer, who shares the same ideals as me, will one day realize my dream."

"Heaven's... Necromancer," Gaap muttered. "Master, is this what you were talking about?"

As if waiting for that cue, the countless white cocoons that hung in the sky all cracked at the same time.

A moment later, white butterflies emerged from them, and slowly but surely, they spread their wings.

Suddenly, one of these butterflies took flight and flew around the Half-Elf, who was hovering not far from them.

"Safe journey," Lux said softly as the butterfly hovered in front of him for a few seconds before it finally flew towards the moon.

The other butterflies also circled around the Half-Elf before flying upwards to join the others who had gone before them.

Now that their souls were complete once more, they finally had the strength to enter the Cycle of Reincarnation and be reborn again.

While Lux was bidding his farewell to the countless souls that had embarked on their new journey, a blue comet flew to his side.

This comet then transformed into the Wraith King, who had earlier protected the Half-Elf and ordered the Warriors of Zangrila to fight for the last time.

"I am forever in your debt, Lux Von Kaizer," the Wraith King bowed his head respectfully towards the Half-Elf who had helped his people time and time again.

When he was still alive, the Wraith King didn't bow to anyone. But, right now, he was moved by Lux's deed, that he lowered his pride and bowed to the person to whom he owed a debt of gratitude.

"I know that you're still weak and tired from doing the ceremony a few days ago, but can I ask you a favor?" the Wraith King asked. "My other soldiers, I want them to also pass to the afterlife. In return, I will serve you until you breathe your last, pledging my loyalty and allegiance to your cause."

"Please, raise your head, Your Majesty," Lux replied. "I don't mind helping your soldiers to pass through the Cycle of Reincarnation. But they will have to wait for a few days. I am really at my limit and unable to accommodate your request at this point in time."

"Don't worry. They have already waited hundreds of years. A few more days would certainly be nothing for them."

"Thank you."

"No. It is I who should be thanking you, Lux."

The Wraith King then pressed his right fist over his chest before kneeling like a Knight in front of the red-headed teenager, whom he had decided to serve with his life until his oath was fulfilled.

"I am Leoric Von Haile," Leoric declared. "The last King of Zangrila before it fell to the Abyssal Legion. My Kingdom is no more, but as long as I remain, Zangrila's Legacy will never fade. I hope that you can accept me as a member of your Covenant."

A notification sound then sounded inside Lux's mind at the same time as rows of texts appeared in front of him.

< Leoric had pledged his fealty to you. Will you accept him as a member of your Covenant? >

< Yes / No >

Chapter 679.2: The Wraith King Of Zangrila [Part 2]

Lux chose yes because he could tell that Leoric was serious about repaying his debt to him even if he said no.

Immediately, rows of text appeared in front of him, showing the newest member of his Covenant.

< Leoric the Wraith King >

"You've never known War unless you've warred with a Wraith King!

– Wraith King

– Rating: SSR++

– Rank: Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss

Health: 480,000,000 / 480,000,000

Mana: 40,000,000 / 40,000,000

Strength: 200,000

Intelligence: 50,000

Vitality: 150,000

Agility: 100,000

Dexterity: 100,000

Unique Skill: Wraith King Devil Form [EX]

Active Skill: Wraith Fire Blast [EX], Summon Wraith Soldiers [EX], Cursed Blade [EX], Hell Fire Annihilation Slash [EX], King's Gambit [EX], Summon Ethereal Spears [EX], Comet Rush [EX],

Passive Skill: Life Steal [EX], Mana Steal [EX], Revival [EX], Critical Strike [EX], Wraith Absorption [EX], Spectral Form [EX], Abyss Touch [EX].

Title: Last King of Zangrila

'Sh*t...' Lux's eyes were glued on Leoric's information because the Wraith King's stats had gone past the Half-Elf's expectation.

He already had a feeling that the newest member of his Covenant was quite strong, seeing that he managed to disperse the Abyssal Dragon's Breath Attack when the latter protected him.

But he thought that he was only an Argonaut-Ranked Wraith King. He didn't expect that Leoric's Rank was actually a Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss.

The Health Points of the newest member of his Covenant was unreal, which made him understand why more powerful monsters could only be fought by people of the same Rank as them.

This also made him remember why Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters could easily demolish entire cities if no High-Rankers were present to defend them.

If he were to fight the Wraith King with his current strength, he would just be like a two-year-old trying to fight an adult with a toy hammer.

But, there was one more shocking revelation that the Wraith King shared with his new Master that almost blew his mind.

Leoric was actually a Saint in his past life!

The reason why his rank degraded so much was due to the fact that he used almost all of his strength to forcefully send his family members, as well as their retainers, to a place far away from Zangrila.

He had done this when he deemed that his kingdom could no longer be saved. At the time, he decided that it would be best to send his family far away from the conflict, allowing them to live on and continue their bloodline, despite losing their kingdom.

This massive undertaking drained him of his power, so when he died, his Rank degenerated to such an extent.

"Your Majesty, allow us to follow you as well."

The Twelve Royal Knights that served directly under King Leoric begged their King to allow them to fight by his side.

"Thank you, but none of you need to do this," Leoric replied. "I alone am enough. All of you have suffered enough and should enter the Cycle of Reincarnation to start your new lives."

"Your Majesty, we have sworn to protect you with our lives," one of the Knights stated. "We will break our oath of fealty if we pass on, leaving you behind."

"He's right, Your Majesty," another knight commented. "Since you decided to repay his Excellency, Sir Lux, we will also follow you until the end."

All the knights pleaded with Leoric to allow them to stay with him. While this was happening, Lux subtly used his Appraisal Ability to check how strong the knights were.

'Deimos-Ranked Wraith Knights!' Lux gasped internally after seeing how strong the Royal Wraith Knights were.

Truth be told, he wasn't expecting anything in return when he tried to help the residents of Zangrila to cross over to the next life.

Gaap also thought that Lux's move was quite wasteful because he turned down the opportunity of commanding millions of ghosts to fight for him.

Never did he think that the former King of Zangrila would pledge fealty to him, who was already a very strong World-Boss Monster.

In the end, Leoric reluctantly agreed to let his knights stay with him and repay Lux for everything he had done for their kingdom.

One Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss and twelve Deimos-Ranked Wraith Knights.

This group was enough to conquer Wildgarde Stronghold, where Lux had grown up since he was a child.

Of course, he had no intention of doing so. But, it clearly showed that he now had a fighting force that could make him a true Overlord of a territory if he wished for it.

Some of the Wraith Soldiers that had survived the battle also asked Leoric to allow them to stay. However, the Wraith King firmly rejected their proposal.

The other Wraiths were only Rank 3 to Rank 4 Monsters and, if they joined him, the chances of them dying for real were high.

Although Lux could help them undergo rebirth, Leoric no longer wanted his countrymen to suffer, which was another reason why he decided to swear his loyalty to the red-headed teenager.

Two days later, Lux presided over the purification ceremony, allowing all of the remaining souls in Zangrila to break the shackles that bound them to the mortal world.

Leoric and his twelve knights had stayed close to Lux during the entire ceremony, just in case an Abyssal Monster suddenly appeared to try and mess things up.

Fortunately, no Abyssal Creatures appeared, allowing the ceremony to be conducted successfully.

Lux rested for another two days, and on the third day, he finally remembered the notification he received before he fell unconscious the first time.

'Heaven's Necromancer?' Lux thought as he read the information inside his Soul Book. 'Is there such a thing?'

The Half-Elf even had a cheeky grin plastered on his face as he started to read the information about his new profession.

But not long later, the grin on his face disappeared and was replaced with a gaping mouth out of shock and disbelief.

The more he read about his new profession, the more he realized that he had actually pioneered a new path for all Necromancers, which would soon show its might and take the world by storm.

Chapter 680: What Is Your Profession?

After reading all the information about his Sacred Class Upgrade twice, Lux finally had a better understanding of his new Profession.

The first thing he did after checking his Soul Book was summon all of his Skeleton Gangbangers, and Steel Golems.

"Come forth! Hecatoncheires!" Lux ordered

Immediately, all of his Skeleton Gangbangers and Steel Golems merged together.

However, something different happened.

Instead of only one, two Hundred-Armed Giants, who were thirty-five meters tall, appeared in front of the Half-Elf.

Not only did the number of Hecatoncheires increase, they had become taller as well.

Also, unlike before, these Giant Abominations were no longer in a berserk state. Both of them knelt to show their respect to their Master, waiting for his orders.

Lux gave the two Giants a brief nod before raising his right hand.

A second later, a bone cocoon materialized in front of him. This was the cocoon where he had sealed the powerful Monster that he had created through his Skeleton Generator Skill.

This monster was so strong that it was impossible for Lux to control it unless he had become a C-Ranker.

Fortunately, after unlocking his Sacred Class, any Monsters he had created would obey his order without fail.

Cracks appeared in the surface of the bone cocoon, as the Monster that had been sealed inside struggled to break free.

Lux crossed his arms over his chest and waited for this savage monster to appear. Deep inside, he was very curious about what kind of Monster it was because its presence was incredibly strong, even though it was in its sealed state.

Suddenly, a mighty roar reverberated in the surroundings and the bone cocoon exploded, sending bone fragments flying in every direction.

It was at that moment when the creature finally revealed itself to the world.

A spindly black humanoid creature with four bat-like-wings, a long spiked tail, two curved horns, and a blank face, that was straight out of a horror story, flapped its wings menacingly before shifting its head towards Lux.

Since it had no face, it didn't show any expression whatsoever. However, the malice that was oozing out of its body was the real deal.

Lux then summoned his Soul Book to look at the information of his new subordinate, whose malicious presence caused Lux's Named Creatures to rally to his side, ready to smack the newcomer if it did anything stupid to their Master.

If the Half-Elf had summoned this sealed monster before he had unlocked his Sacred Class, the first one to die by the fiend's hand would have been none other than him.

But, since he no longer had to worry about getting attacked by any creature he had created, the red-headed teenager took his time to read the information of the Argonaut-Ranked Alpha Monster, who was now under his control.

< Before you access this creature's information, bestow it a name first, or it will break free from your control >

< Time remaining to give the creature a name: 00:05:34 >

The Half-Elf glanced at the alien-looking creature in front of him, and was tempted to call it Batm*n.

However, since he had a feeling that Copyright Gods existed, he decided to think of another name for it.

"Shax," Lux declared. "From now on, your name will be Shax."

< Shax >

"I do not need a thousand souls. I only need one, which is my Master's."

– Nightgaunt

– Dream Eater

– Creature Rating: SS+

Health: 42,000,000 / 42,000,000

Mana: 7,000,000 / 7,000,000

Strength: 35,000

Intelligence: 10,000

Vitality: 30,000

Agility: 50,000

Dexterity: 25,000

Unique Skill: Dream Walker [EX], Dream Eater [EX], Soundless Scream [EX], Dark Bullets Barrage [EX], Tickle [EX], Doppelganger [EX].

Active Skill: Tail Lash, Sky High Dive, Razor Wings, Night Slash, Hunter's Mark,

Passive: Echo Location [EX], Baneful Presence [EX], Air Strider [EX].

Title: No Face Hunter

'He is a stronger version of Zagan,' Lux thought after reading Shax's information.

With a high agility stat, the Half-Elf was certain that the Nightgaunt would be able to travel at great speeds, attacking his enemies before they could even see what hit them.

Lux was surprised to see that Shax also had the Doppelganger [EX] skill, allowing him to create two clones that were just as deadly as him.

The Nightgaunt was at least three meters tall, casting an intimidating presence to those that could see its visage. Its faceless appearance also made it more horrifying because no one would ever be able to tell what it was thinking.

Shax was the second highest ranking member of Lux's army, second only to Leoric, who was a Dreadnaught World Boss monster.

With this powerful new subordinate, Lux was feeling a little more confident when it came to facing stronger opponents in the future.

'I don't know how I ended up in this place, but I'm glad I did,' Lux mused.

He believed that if he had stayed inside the Gate of Famine, he would have never set foot in Zangrila, not met Gaap, as well as became Leoric's benefactor.

If only the Abyssal Duke, who was sealed in the Gate of the Apocalypse, could see Lux now, he would have definitely cursed the Half-Elf for having so many fortuitous encounters after his failed attempt to send the red-headed teenager to the Void, where he would certainly meet his end.

"Lux, we need to talk."

The Half-Elf turned to look behind him to see Gaap sitting on top of an Undead Abyssal Wyvern.

Lux nodded his head in understanding and landed in the plaza with the old Half-Ling, so that they could talk properly.

"Tell me, what is your profession?" Gaap asked.

"Spar— I mean, a Necromancer," Lux replied.

Gaap snorted. "Just a Necromancer? What you did isn't something that an ordinary Necromancer can do. Tell me, have you upgraded your Profession to something more powerful?"

Lux purposely didn't tell his Master what his Profession was because he was afraid that the latter wouldn't believe him. However, since Gaap seemed to know that he was no longer an ordinary Necromancer, the Half-Elf no longer hesitated and told his Master the truth.

"Master, my profession had an upgrade and I became a Heaven's Necromancer," Lux replied. "Sounds cool, right?"

Gaap's face immediately became solemn because Lux's words confirmed his suspicions. He had originally planned to make the Half-Elf walk the thorny and lonely path of a true Necromancer.

But now, he changed his mind.

"Heaven's Necromancer," Gaap said softly. "So it really exists..."

The old Half-Ling once again remembered his Master, who had also tried to take the path of righteousness. However, her circumstances didn't allow her to succeed.

Instead of becoming one, she met her end, being hunted down by the Champions of the Hellion Knight Templars, whose role was to eradicate anyone, whom they judged to be a heretic that threatened the peace and stability of the world.

Chapter 681: Laugh Now While You Still Can

Gaap managed to survive because his Master had given him her life saving artifact, allowing the Half-Ling to escape their hunters.

"Lux, there is a place that we need to go," Gaap stated. "It is the Sacred Grounds of all Necromancers. It is where we receive the World's Blessing and breakthrough to become a Ranker."

"Master, can we delay this trip for the time being?" Lux asked. "I already mentioned that my friends and I were supposed to conquer a dungeon together. But, for some reason, I was transported here. I need to go back and help them. The Domain of the Fallen prevents any Rankers from stepping foot inside it."

Gaap frowned before reluctantly nodding his head. Although he wanted his Disciple to become a Ranker already, he also respected his will.

Because of this, he decided to wait until the Half-Elf had finished whatever he was supposed to do before they made a pilgrimage to the Sacred Lands of the Necromancers.

"Master, do you know how to leave this place?" Lux asked.

"Of course I know," Gaap replied. "How do you think I got here?"

Lux breathed a sigh of relief because he thought that Gaap had been teleported to this place against his will.

If the old Half Ling didn't know how to leave the Kingdom of Zangrila then it would take a longer time for him to get back and meet with Cai, and the others, inside the Domain of the Fallen.

"Master before anything else, please join my Guild," Lux said. "You becoming one of our members will definitely make the Guild stronger."

"You little rascal, you really know how to take advantage of people," Gaap sneered. "Why would I join a kiddy guild like yours? You want me to join your Guild so that you can brag to your members that your Master is strong? Very well, I will humor you this once. You should be glad that you have a Master like me."

"Thank you, Master. You're the best."

"Hmph! Flattery will get you nowhere."

Gaap was feeling a bit smug because he knew what Lux was thinking. Having a strong person like him to enter a guild would definitely boost the morale of its members.

However, the smugness on his face instantly vanished when he received Lux's Guild invitation.

"... Heaven's Gate?" Gaap blinked in confusion. "Your Guild's name is Heaven's Gate?"

"Yes, Master." Lux smirked because he was doing his best to not laugh after seeing his Master's priceless reaction when the old Half-Ling discovered his Guild's Name.

"Are you playing a prank on me?" Gaap asked.

"No?" Lux replied.

"This is real?"

"It is real."

Gaap once again looked at the rows of text in front of him, which signified Lux's invitation.

Although he had stayed inside Zangrila for many years, that didn't mean that he hadn't heard the announcement that reverberated across the entire world.

The Old Half-Ling was still half in doubt, but knew that he would find out the truth once he accepted Lux's invitation.

A second later, the old Half-Ling suddenly felt a surge of strength inside his body as the Guild Buffs came into effect.

He had been in a guild before and knew that they didn't have this kind of function, which erased all the doubts he had earlier.

'By the Gods, the Mythical Guild is real!' Gaap exclaimed internally after finally accepting the fact that the red-headed teenager whom he had made his Disciple, was actually the Guild Master of the Guild whose name resounded in the worlds of Solais and Elysium.

"Master, let's leave this place," Lux stated. "My friends are still waiting for me."

Gaap forcefully calmed his widely beating heart before nodding his head. He then drew a magic circle in the air while uttering ancient words of magic that Lux didn't understand.

After a few minutes, a red portal materialized in front of them.

"Enter the portal," Gaap ordered. "It will take us out of Zangrila."

Lux nodded and entered the portal as he was told.

The Wraith King, Leoric, and his Knights, gave the Kingdom of Zangrila one last glance before they too, entered the portal to follow their new Lord, whom they had pledged their allegiance to.

Gaap was the last to enter the portal, but before he did, he glanced in the direction of the crack in the sky of Zangrila.

He had sensed a presence watching them from that gap in the void, and its power was just as strong as a Saint.

Gaap snorted as if the powerful presence that had been observing them for quite some time wasn't a big deal.

Although the Old Half-Ling was truly only an Apostle, he wasn't afraid, even if a Saint were to appear and fight him to the death.

But, that was not happening.

The laws that bound Zangrila forbade any Saint, or any Calamity Class Creatures from the Void, and Elysium, to enter the border that divided the two worlds.

"Thanks for the Monster Parts and Beast Cores," Gaap said in a teasing tone. "I'm sure that my Disciple will use them well."

The Old Half-Ling then entered the portal in a good mood, leaving behind the ruined city, whose people had all been given a second chance at life.

A minute later, a loud roar similar to that of a booming thunder, spread in the surroundings making the sky and earth tremble.

"Lowly mortal!" a voice filled with anger growled. "The next time I see you, I'll make you regret stepping into this place! Laugh now while you still can because soon, the Abyssals will once again trample your world, and make you wish that you were never born!"

The loud roar of anger continued for a few more minutes before fading completely.

Once again, the ruined city of Zangrila fell into a deathly silence.

Having lost the living and the dead, it had truly become a forsaken place, but not for long.

Soon, it would once again bear witness to the second invasion of the Abyssal Monsters, whose goal was to drag the world of Elysium within the void, just like the other worlds that they had conquered in the past.

Important Announcement:

To give you a bit of background to this story, this is like Harry Potter. A teenage boy accidentally rode the wrong train, and entered a Magic Academy where he can *ahem* learn Magic the "special way".

Chapter 682: Have You Guys Forgotten What He Can Do?"

After leaving the Kingdom of Zangrila, Lux took Gaap with him to his Guild Headquarters, located in the Dragon Kingdom of Karshvar Draconis.

"... This is the Outer Reaches?" Gaap asked as he looked at his surroundings. "Yes. Although it has been a while, I am certain that the floating island over there is where the City of Pygmalion is located."

"Oh? You know about this place, Master?" Lux looked at the Old Halfling in surprise. "Have you been here before?"

"My Master brought me here in the past," Gaap replied. "She made friends with... one of the High-Ranking Dragons of this place. I never thought that your Guild Headquarters would actually be located in Karshvar Draconis. But, I'm more surprised that the current Dragon King allowed you to stay here. That guy likes to go fishing with people he doesn't like."

Just as Lux was about to reply, some people came out of their Guild Headquarters to meet with them.

One is the Half-Orc, Flamma, who was currently wearing a very annoyed expression on his face.

The other one was Garret, whom Lux had made his Steward and assigned to watch over the Guild Headquarters.

"How long must you keep me waiting, Lux?!" Flamma asked. "You said that you would summon me as soon as you enter the Sacred Dungeon! It has already been two days since you left. Did you already conquer the Dungeon without me?!"

"Flamma, calm down for a bit," Lux answered in an awkward manner. "Something happened while I was entering the Dungeon, and I was teleported somewhere else. I just got back, and I'm planning to get back to the Dungeon right away. I'm just here to drop my Master off here at our Guild Headquarters before I go."

"Master? Isn't your Master that Dwarf, Randolph?"

"Hmm? You have another Master, Lux? Why didn't I hear anything about this?"

Gaap looked at his Disciple with squinted eyes, which made the Half-Elf laugh nervously.

"Master, I have become a Disciple to a Dwarf Blacksmith to learn the art of Smithing," Lux replied. "He taught me a lot, and although I still haven't fully put his teachings to practice, I still consider him as my first Master."

Gaap scoffed. "A Necromancer doing Smithing? What a waste of time. Still, since he is your Master, then I guess I'll try to get along with him for your sake. Is he here?"

Lux shook his head. "Right now, Master is with the Orc Blacksmiths of the Blackrock Clan to help him recreate a powerful weapon that we managed to take during a great war. You should have seen it, Master. It turned six million soldiers into crystal statues."

"Oh? That is indeed amazing." Gaap became interested after hearing about such a powerful weapon, and decided to ask more.

Garret, who was the Great General that commanded those six million soldiers, cleared his throat, stopping Lux from saying anything else.

Although he was now Lux's subordinate, he was still the Great General who had once commanded those six million soldiers. Hearing this topic hit his sore spot.

"Lux, it will be best if you go and see Cai and the others in the Sacred Dungeon," Garret said with a serious expression on his face. "It seems that they've encountered some trouble and were unable to proceed with the conquest of the Gate of Famine."

The Half-Elf frowned after hearing Garret's report. He then immediately opened his Guild Chat and contacted Cai, and the others to ask them of what was happening in the Gate of Famine.

Cai: Lux! You're finally back! Where have you been?!

Lux: I was teleported to a different place when I entered the Gate of Famine. There was also something that prevented me from making contact with the outside world, so I was unable to tell you guys about my situation. What happened to the Gate of Famine? Garret said that you and the others are having trouble?

Gerhart: Having trouble is an understatement. The conquest of the Gate of Famine has failed. All of us were expelled from the Dungeon after we died and immediately brought back to the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen.

The adults are now brainstorming on how to deal with the situation. However, no matter how hard they thought about it, unless a miracle happens, succeeding in the conquest of the Gate of Famine is near impossible.

Cethus: Although I hate to admit it, even if you were here, the outcome would have still been the same. We are simply outmatched. This is not a battle that Initiates can fight—we were faced with a Monster Outbreak spearheaded by a Dreadnaught Rank World Boss.

Cethus: There are Argonaut and Deimos-Ranked Monsters as well. Even when we all worked together with the Crystal Palace, we were simply

overwhelmed by the disparity in numbers and rank. It was a one-sided massacre.

Keane: I have a feeling that the expedition will be called off because this was already beyond what Initiates can handle. Going to the entrance of the Sacred Dungeon without you will endanger the lives of the candidates. Also, even if we are able to return to the Gate of Famine, the outcome will still be the same.

"I'll come to you as fast as I can," Lux stated. "I don't care what the other Factions are thinking, but send word to Henrietta, Xander, Einar, and Val to wait for me. We will clear that dungeon ourselves."

"Hahaha! That's more like it!" Flamma, who was itching for a fight, commented on the Guild Chat as well. "Don't worry. With Lux here, we can beat that Dungeon easily, or have you guys forgotten what he can do?"

Gerhart and Cethus, who had accompanied Lux to the Wanid Kingdom, immediately realized what the Half-Orc was thinking.

They had completely forgotten that their Guild Master had a cheat-like ability that could turn the tide of battle in their favor.

Gate of the Domain of the Fallen...

The atmosphere inside the cavern was very gloomy after their failed attempt to conquer the Gate of Famine.

Even the members of the Crystal Palace couldn't help but feel frustrated at the unfairness of the situation.

At that moment, a burst of loud laughter spread in the surroundings, catching everyone's attention.

Cethus, who was feeling just as gloomy as everyone, was now in good spirits and wasn't able to stop himself from laughing out loud.

"Now that I've finally seen what the Gate of Famine is like, I realized that it is easier to conquer than I thought," Cethus said as he crossed his arms over his

chest. "I only used a quarter of my power earlier to gauge the waters. Now that I know what I'm dealing with, conquering it this time will be a breeze."

Cai, Gerhart, and Keane looked at the smug-faced Dragon Born in disdain. However, they didn't stop the Dragon Born from spouting his nonsense and went to talk to their allies to tell them that they were going to enter the Gate of Famine a second time.

At first, Xander, Henrietta, Einar, and Val, thought that Cai and the others were still in denial about their current situation.

However, when they mentioned that Lux, who had gone missing, was on his way to lead them to conquer the Gate of Famine, something stirred inside their chests, rekindling the hope that they had lost.

Although they were still half in doubt whether Lux's arrival would change anything, at least, they felt that it was worth giving it a shot.

After all, every time the Half-Elf was with them, they were able to overcome even the most dangerous situations.

Chapter 683: So, Are You Guys Ready For Round Two?

From Karshvar Draconis, Lux returned to Wildgarde Stronghold in Solais.

After that, he asked Gerald, the Commander of the Stronghold, to allow him to use the Teleportation Gate to go to Elysium.

Just like everyone else, Gerald was surprised to see Lux in the stronghold because he thought that the Half-Elf was with the others in conquering the Gate of Famine alongside the other members of the young generation.

After explaining how he had been teleported to a remote location after entering the Gate of Famine, Gerald decided to personally escort Lux to the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen.

Doing so would save time because he had the authority to use any of the Teleportation Gates of the Xynnar War Pact, cutting the traveling time by a good margin.

Finally, an hour later, Lux arrived at the Cavern where everyone was gathered.

Looks of doubt, disappointment, and disdain were cast in his direction, coming from the envoys and High-Rankers of the different Factions.

They thought that the Half-Elf had decided to leave the Gate of Famine in order to save himself from the embarrassment of being unable to conquer the Dungeon, crushing everyone's expectations of him.

However, Lux didn't give a hoot about whatever they were thinking and simply walked towards his companions, who had been waiting patiently for his return.

"So, are you guys ready for Round Two?" Lux asked with a grin. "I heard that you guys got beaten up pretty badly when I wasn't around."

Einar snorted, but he then raised his fist towards the Half-Elf.

Lux imitated the gesture and the two fist-bumped each other, which meant the Barbarian had decided to join his team.

"Can we win?" Val asked with his arms crossed over his chest. "We're dealing with Dreadnaughts out there. It is not something that we Initiates can beat even if we all worked together."

He held Lux's gaze, trying to see if what the red-headed teenager was saying was just false bravado, or if he really had the ability to back it up.

"We can win," Lux said with confidence. "So, are you in?"

Val didn't answer right away. Instead, he smiled and said something that almost made Cai charge at the Spider Boy and gouge him with her tusks.

"If we are able to clear this dungeon, I will introduce you to my little sister," Val said in a teasing tone. "Actually, my family is watching me right now through this artifact. They have heard many things about you and have been wanting to know if there is some truth to it."

Val patted the emblem on his lightweight armor, which was the coat of arms of their family.

"I'll pass," Lux replied in a heartbeat after seeing that Cai was scraping the ground with her right hoof as if she was preparing to attack Val from behind. "Tell your sister to find someone else."

"It's your loss, man. My sister is a beauty."

"Hahaha."

Lux then glanced at Henrietta, and Xander, asking the two with his eyes if they were going with him.

The two didn't hesitate and nodded their heads in unison.

"Okay, let's go," Lux said as he walked towards the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen.

Cai and the others followed closely behind him, not caring what the adults were thinking.

"Wait!"

The Black Dragon Born, whom Cethus called Uncle Piccoro, called out to the Half-Elf and stopped him in his tracks.

"Yes?" Lux asked as he glanced in the direction of the Saint from the Crystal Palace.

"I overheard your discussion earlier and couldn't help but find this act of yours a futile endeavor," Piccoro said. "If I were you, I would stop this nonsense at once. Also, Cethus, do not think that I didn't know that you were just spouting nonsense about not using your full power a while ago. Do you think I'm blind? You had a constipated look on your face before that Dreadnaught Monster slapped you to oblivion."

Cethus didn't get angry at his Uncle's words and simply smiled back at him.

Although the Saint had brought up his embarrassing moments before he died, Cethus had always been very good at hiding his shortcomings and forgetting about them when it was convenient for him.

"Uncle, whether I am spouting nonsense or not is something for you to see later," Cethus replied calmly. "Also, we are not you and don't think like you. If

you were in our place, you would not dare to challenge the Dungeon again because you know that you don't have a chance of winning."

The smile on Cethus' face widened because although he wasn't confident in his ability to conquer the Dungeon, he was confident that Lux could do it.

After all, the Half-Elf could summon Barca and the others, who were Empyrean and Argonaut-Ranked Monsters.

So what if the enemy was a Dreadnaught?

An Empyrean-Ranked Half-Orc would smash its face silly!

Piccoro frowned because Cethus' words and actions were filled with confidence. As a Saint, it was fairly easy for him to tell whether someone was lying or not. However, he couldn't detect any falsehood in Cethus' words, making him wonder if the troublemaker Dragon Born didn't really use his full powers earlier.

"Very well," Piccoro stated as he tossed a small token towards the black-scaled Dragon Born. "Allow me to watch this farce through your eyes. I'm sure that your grandma and I will find your attempt quite entertaining."

Cethus looked at the token in his hand before placing it on his chest. The token then embedded itself in the Dragon Born's armor, allowing Piccoro and Cethus' "other" Grandma, who was currently safeguarding the Crystal Palace, to see what was happening around him.

"I'll do my best to entertain the both of you then," Cethus commented. "Well then, let's go, Lux. lead the way."

Lux didn't mind Cethus acting as his superior because he didn't want to deal with the nonsense of a Saint right now.

For him, it was more favorable to be looked down upon by others, so they wouldn't tag along. They could just watch as he conquered the Gate of Famine with the people who believed in him.

Safe Zone of the Domain of the Fallen...

"Um, what are you guys doing here?" Cai asked Enlil, as well as Jasper, who had also entered the Domain of the Fallen, bringing the other representatives of the Six Kingdoms, and the Xynnar War Pact with them.

"I have been given strict orders by my Father to follow him," Enlil replied in annoyance. "I don't want to hear any complaints from the Elven Council when I return to my Kingdom for not following orders. Let's just go in there and die already, so we can go back home."

"I share the same sentiments as Prince Enlil," Jasper commented. "We're here under orders. Whether we succeed or not doesn't matter."

Jasper also felt like challenging the dungeon again was pure nonsense. However, orders were orders, and he would see to them through until the end.

Gilmore Faisal, who was also one of the former Four Kings and a very skilled swordsman, was also there to accompany the others on the expedition.

After losing to Keane in the tournament, he had trained a lot and had improved by leaps and bounds. He had come with Enlil and Jasper because, for some reason, he could sense that something had changed in the Half-Elf since he last saw him two days ago.

As a warrior, he trusted his sixth sense very much, and his sixth sense was telling him to follow the Half-Elf, who looked confident enough to challenge the Dungeon despite knowing what he was up against.

"Since all of you are here, I want to make one thing clear," Lux announced. "You will have to follow my orders without fail, regardless of how dangerous or how silly it seems. In return, I promise to not treat any of you as cannon fodder. If you can't agree to this condition of mine, please leave. I am not here to babysit extra baggage."

The teenager was somewhat offended by Lux's high-handed words. However, the ones who insisted on coming with him were them, so they had no choice but to nod their heads in agreement.

"Good," Lux said after seeing everyone nod their heads. "Since that is settled, let's go to the Sacred Dungeon."

This time, Lux didn't take any detours and walked straight towards the location of the Sacred Dungeon, which baffled the members of the Xynnar War Pact and the Six Kingdoms.

What they didn't know was that the Half-Elf no longer needed to avoid any Monsters because all of them had already been dealt with by the two shameless Saints, who were still inside the Domain of the Fallen, investigating an ancient ruin that they had come across by accident.

Chapter 684: Everyone, Duck!

Those who belonged to the Factions of the Crystal Palace and Skystead Alliance didn't join Lux's group in reattempting the Gate of the Domain of the Fallen.

In their eyes, this was simply a wasted effort. However, they also wanted to see the suffering of the fools who decided to follow the Half-Elf, who had gone missing after they all entered the Dungeon the first time.

Although they knew that Lux was a Necromancer and could summon the Undead, they believed that his Undead Army would only get crushed under the might of the Overlord that was in command of the Monster Outbreak inside the Gate of Famine.

However, just as everyone was getting ready to watch a good show, Malcolm walked towards Aron and appealed to him, asking for permission to enter the Domain of the Fallen and join the Half-Elf in his quest to clear the Gate of Famine.

"You what?" Aron asked in a displeased tone.

"I want to challenge the Gate of Famine a second time," Malcolm replied.

Although there was a bit of anxiety in his voice, there was mostly firmness in it that made the High-Ranker of the Vahan Empire arch his eyebrow.

"Do you want to embarrass our Empire in front of these people?" Aron's voice sounded calm, but there was an underlying sharpness in it that made Malcolm start to sweat buckets.

"Your Excellency, I have been inside the Gate of Famine just like the other representatives here," Malcolm replied. "I personally experienced what it was like to be crushed helplessly by a monster that far surpassed my Rank.

"However, I've also been part of Lux's group in the past. Even though I know that this mission seems impossible, I would still like to give it a try. Your Excellency, please give me your permission to challenge the Gate of Famine a second time!"

Piccoro snorted after hearing Malcolm's words.

"It seems that this boy has been infected by that Half-Elf's stupidity," Piccoro stated. "But it will be entertaining to watch him struggle. How about you give him permission to go? Maybe he will understand that making the same mistake over and over again is called madness."

The arrogant and teasing tone of the Dragon Born made Malcolm's heart grow cold. However, his gut instinct was telling him that he should at least follow the Half-Elf on this expedition. Regardless of whether he succeeded or not, he would have nothing to regret because he followed what his heart was telling him to do.

"Your Excellency, if you don't mind, I'll keep watch over Malcolm and make sure that he doesn't do anything that will tarnish the Vahan Empire's reputation," Nero, who had been keeping silent the entire time, spoke up, which surprised Aron.

"You plan to babysit this fool?" Aron crossed his arms over his chest. The High Ranker then glanced at Prince Cyrus, who was looking at Malcolm in a weird manner.

Clearly, the Prince of the Vahan Empire thought that what the son of their Great General was planning to do was pure folly.

"How about you, Your Highness?" Aron asked. "Do you want to join them as well?"

"Me?" Prince Cyrus pointed at himself.

Aron nodded. "Yes. Your Highness. Do you want to go as well?"

Prince Cyrus pondered for a bit before nodding his head.

"Yes," Prince Cyrus replied. "Although dying inside the Sacred Dungeon feels terrible, I would like to personally laugh at that Half-Elf in his last moments. Count me in."

Aron then shifted his gaze back to Malcolm, who was now looking a bit more hopeful.

"Nero, look after these two and make sure they don't die an embarrassing death," Aron ordered. "Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes, Your Excellency," Nero pressed his closed fist over his chest and bowed his head.

Aron then waved his hand with impatience.

"Go and follow that Half-Elf," Aron ordered. "If you don't hurry and catch up to him, you might die at the hands of some random monster before you can even get to the Sacred Dungeon."

"Yes, Sir!" Malcolm said and bowed his head respectfully.

After paying his respects, he briskly walked towards the Gate of the Fallen, followed by Nero and Prince Cyrus, who wore an amused expression on his face.

The members of the Crystal Palace, with the exception of Aur, mocked the three teenage boys in their hearts.

Just like Piccoro said, they thought that Malcolm had gone crazy after dying inside the Gate of Famine.

Aur watched them go with a calm expression on his face. He had heard many impressive things about Lux, but just like everyone else, he didn't believe that the Half-Elf would be able to change the outcome.

The only difference between him and his subordinates was that he didn't openly mock Lux and Malcolm, simply crossing his arms over his chest.

His gaze then landed on the projections on the wall of the cavern, which were being taken by the artifacts that were in the possession of the members of the Xynnar War Pact and Six Kingdoms.

Piccoro glanced at Aur before looking at the projections as well. He was looking forward to watching an entertaining farce that the Humans were planning to make.

Domain of the Fallen....

Malcolm, Nero, and Prince Cyrus hastened their movements until they caught up to Lux's group.

The members of the Skystead Alliance and Six Kingdoms looked at these three people with suspicion and wondered why they decided to join their expedition as well.

"Before any of you get the wrong idea, I just want to say that I came here to watch your embarrassing defeat firsthand," Prince Cyrus declared. "Just watching the projections is not enough, so I came here to witness it personally."

Lux, who was walking at the very front of the formation, didn't even bother to turn around to see who the newcomers were.

He had somehow expected that Malcolm would catch up, but he never thought that Nero and Prince Cyrus would join them as well.

Truth be told, he didn't mind if anyone else tagged along with him on this expedition.

Whether they were there or not wouldn't make a difference. But, he intended to follow his father's advice to look at the bigger picture. What he planned to do was to make the other Factions indebted to him, especially the Six Kingdoms and the Xynnar War Pact.

As for the Skystead Alliance? As long as they didn't look to him for trouble, Lux would not do anything to antagonize them.

"Is it just me, or do you guys also not sense the presence of any Monsters anywhere?" Enlil, who was using the power of Wind to check for any potential danger in their surroundings, asked.

"You're not the only one who feels that way," Jasper replied. "I am also quite surprised by the lack of tension in the surroundings."

Although they didn't encounter any Monsters when they were following Lux on their previous attempt at the Gate of Famine, they could vaguely sense some tension that hung in the air due to the Monsters' powerful presences.

However, right now, they didn't feel anything. It was as if the entire Forest had gone quiet, and all the Beasts had gone into hibernation.

Cai, Keane, Gerhart, and Cethus were also wondering what was going on.

Lux didn't tell them about the secret operation that the two Saints were conducting inside the Domain of the Fallen to ensure that there wouldn't be any leaks.

However, the four of them couldn't shake the feeling that the red-headed teenager, who was leading them, had something to do with the disappearance of the Monsters in their surroundings.

"Don't let your guard down and always be alert in your surroundings," Lux warned. "The fact that we aren't sensing any Monsters means that there might be a hidden danger that we are not aware of. Stick to the formation and keep your weapons at the ready. There might be a Monster similar to that Chameleon we faced a few days ago that could hide its presence."

After Lux's reminder, everyone became vigilant and prepared to fight at any given time. The Chameleon that Aur had dealt with had caught everyone by surprise, so they no longer asked questions and followed behind the Half-Elf.

In order to keep them on edge, the Half-Elf decided to take a detour, fooling others into thinking that he had sensed the presence of a strong Monster up ahead.

'Father, can you send one Monster in our direction?' Lux asked Alexander directly through the special messaging feature of his Guild Chat. 'Everyone is starting to wonder why they are not sensing any beasts in our surroundings.'

'I thought you were already in the dungeon?' Alexander's response came seconds after Lux messaged him. 'Did the expedition fail?'

Lux briefly explained what happened after he entered the Gate of Famine to Alexander, which caught the latter by surprise.

'Let's talk more about it later,' Alexander commented after Lux finished his explanation. 'How many and how strong do you want the Monsters to be?'

'At least three,' Lux replied. 'If you can make one of them an Argonaut, the better.'

'Okay. Where are you guys at?'

'We are currently at the...'

Lux and Alexander discussed the intricacies of the "play" that they planned in order to scare the teenagers that were following behind the Half-Elf.

A few minutes later, the entire forest of the Domain of the Fallen trembled, and the roars of countless monsters erupted at the same time.

Suddenly, a giant Argonaut-Ranked Orangutan appeared, swinging from tree to tree, making the teenagers freeze in their tracks.

"Everyone, duck!" Lux ordered.

Following his orders, the teenagers crouched on the grasses, hiding their presence from the Argonaut Ranked Monster that could easily turn them into pancakes.

While everyone was doing their best to erase their presence from the incoming threat, Cai, who still hadn't crouched down, confusedly looked at the Orangutan first then at Lux second.

"Um, that's not a duck," Cai said. "That's an Orangutan. Ducks are different from monkeys, you know?"

""#\$Y*U@#@#&*@!""

All the teenagers wanted to hack the stupid Boar to pieces so badly because she would be the death of them.

Even Lux didn't know if he should laugh or cry at his fiance's choice of words.

He knew that Cai's IQ would revert to that of a five-year-old when she was in her Boar Form, so he didn't take her words to heart.

Instead, he just pulled her down, pinned her to the ground, and covered her snout with his hand.

"Cai, behave, and just don't say anything, okay?" Lux said in a low volume that was enough for everyone that was near him to hear. "If you're good, I'll give you some Beast Cores later."

Cai nodded her head like an obedient child, making all the teenagers sigh in relief.

After that incident, everyone followed Lux's every order, as they tried to navigate around the forest, avoiding the Monsters that had been purposely placed in strategic locations to create the illusion that they were always in danger.

All of them also avoided Cai like the plague, with the exception of Lux's inner circle, thinking that the Boar was a bringer of bad luck.

The Boar on the other hand, simply ignored them while walking beside the red-headed teenager.

Since no one was paying attention to her, they didn't see that there was a twinkle in Cai's eyes, and the corner of her lips was raised upwards.

Although she was in her Boar Form, she could instinctively sense that the Orangutan that was headed in their direction wasn't hostile.

In fact, she could even vaguely guess that it was an ally, so she decided to play a prank on everyone, scaring them silly.

As someone that was loved by Spirits, Cai was sensitive to these things.

Everything she did might be silly in the eyes of others, but she had taken a calculated risk, making all the Factions more reliant on Lux, and making everyone avoid her like a plague.

Chapter 685: Are You Not Entertained?

Finally, three hours later, Lux and company arrived at the Sacred Dungeon's safe zone.

He then asked everyone to rest for an hour to recover their strength, while he talked to his father, Alexander, about the things that happened in the Kingdom of Zangrila.

Lux didn't hide anything, including the new profession that he had upgraded to, as well as becoming the disciple of a Necromancer who was only of the Apostle Rank but able to control Undead Deimos and above Ranked Monsters as if it was nothing.

Alexander listened to the Half-Elf's story with great interest, especially when the red-headed teenager mentioned that he had been to Zangrila.

As a Saint, Alexander liked reading history books in his spare time to get a better understanding of the world.

In one of those ancient tomes, he had read about the Kingdom of Zangrila. According to the book, it was the Kingdom where the first Abyssal Invasion took place, making it a very popular topic among scholars.

Although the distance between the Xynnar War Pact and the Kingdom of Zangrila spanned countless miles, the God of Games, Eriol, made sure that every Temple of the God in Elysium had records of the Abyssal Invasion.

As the God of Elysium, it was his duty to inform his people about the external danger that had come from the Void.

Because of this, the Kingdom of Zangrila became a warning to everyone about what would happen to their own Domains if they didn't take the threat of the Abyssal Race seriously.

"Thank you for telling me this information," Alexander replied. "However, Lux, make sure not to share this with others. Even with Iris and Cai. Although I'm sure that they will keep this secret of yours safe, the fewer people who know of this, the better. "

"I understand." Lux agreed. "Right now, only you and Master Gaap know about my new profession. I will not tell anyone else about it."

"Good," Alexander commented. "Maximilian and I are almost finished with our operation here. We're just examining the ruin we discovered. If our guess is right, this is the reason why the Domain of the Fallen was created in the first place. Let's talk about it more when you finish clearing the Gate of Famine."

"Okay," Lux replied.

After their connection was cut, the Half-Elf glanced at the teenagers who seemed to have recovered their stamina and wits. He decided that it was time to enter the Gate of Famine and see for himself the Monster Outbreak that had annihilated all the members of the expedition on their first attempt.

"Is everyone ready to go?" Lux asked. "If everyone has rested, we will now enter the Gate of Famine."

Prince Cyrus stood up and stretched a bit before voicing his thoughts out loud.

"This time, don't run away again, Half-Elf," Prince Cyrus stated.

Lux ignored Prince Cyrus' taunts because, for him, the Prince of the Vahan Empire was just a second-rate mob character that authors used as cannon fodder in their novels.

"Okay, follow me," Lux declared before moving towards the Gate of Famine. "I already know what we are facing, so let me tell all of you this. Whatever happens, don't die, okay?"

The teenagers looked at the Half-Elf as if what he said was a joke.

Of course, none of them wanted to die, but they were going to face Monsters whose Ranks exceeded their own several times.

How could they possibly survive a fight against them?

Lux, who had no idea what they were thinking, placed his palm over the Gate of Famine and turned into particles of light.

Cai quickly moved and was second to enter because she was afraid that Lux would disappear again if she didn't follow him right away.

One by one, the teenagers all entered the Gate of Famine to follow the Half-Elf who seemed to be confident of his chances at victory.

Those left at the Gate of the Fallen, who were watching the projections, also paid close attention to what was waiting for the teenagers on the other side of the Gate of Famine.

The first thing that Lux saw after entering the Gate of Famine was a ruined city. Black smoke was rising in several places, telling the Half-Elf that it hadn't been long since it was attacked.

However, something caught Lux's eyes that made the Half-Elf's expression turn solemn.

On the part of the City Walls that had survived the destruction, a single tattered flag fluttered in the breeze.

Lux was quite familiar with this flag because he had fought under its banner a few times in the past, so it had a special connection to him.

Cai, who had followed the Half-Elf's gaze, also noticed the flag and cried out in alarm.

Keane, Xander, Henrietta, Einar, Val, Malcolm, Nero, and the other teenagers who joined the previous expeditions noticed it as well, making them frown.

"This is not where we first appeared when we entered the Gate of Famine," Henrietta said.

"That's right. We were in the Western Regions of the Zephyr Kingdom when we challenged the Gate for the first time, Jasper commented. "Why are we here?"

No one knew the answer to Jasper's question because they were just as surprised as he was.

Suddenly, a loud shriek reverberated in the sky, making the teenagers look behind them to see what it was.

There, they saw a fifteen-meter-long flying serpent with rainbow-colored wings, accompanied by a dozen Wyverns, who were all of the Deimos Rank.

The Flying Serpent was a Peak-Deimos Ranked World Boss, and the Wyverns were all Deimos-Ranked Alpha Monsters.

If they were only dealing with the Flying Serpent, the teenagers might have stood a chance against it.

However, since it wasn't alone, the first thought that came into their mind was to flee.

The Ambassadors, the Rankers of the Crystal Palace, and the Skystead Alliance watched this scene with amused expressions on their faces.

All of them wanted to see the despair of the teenagers who thought too highly of themselves.

"Who wants to make a bet with me?" one of the Rankers of the Vahan Empire said. "I say that they will all die in ten minutes. Any takers?"

"I'll bet with you," one of the Rankers of the Skystead Alliance replied. "They will last for fifteen minutes."

"Mine is five minutes."

"Twenty minutes tops."

The representatives of the Xynnar War Pact and the Six Kingdoms kept their silence. For them, this wasn't a laughing matter as it directly involved the members of their young generation.

Suddenly, Xander's father, Hector, stepped forward and joined the bet.

"I'll join this betting," Hector declared. "My bet is that they will all survive for fifty million gold coins. Who wants to bet with me?"

"Hahaha! You're throwing away your money just like that?" the Ranker that started the betting game sneered. "Very well, this Daddy will take you on. I won't refuse free gold."

The other members of the Skystead Alliance all cheered and even chipped in to help raise the stakes to fifty million.

Aron laughed at Hector's attempt to boost the morale of their faction in his heart. For him, this was already a done deal, and all that was waiting for the teenagers was a very painful death that would send them back to the entrance of the Gate of the Fallen.

Right after the coins were gathered, they were passed to Piccoro for safekeeping.

The Flying Serpent screeched once again, ordering the Wyverns to attack the teenagers, who had all taken a defensive stance.

Even though they wanted to flee, the Half-Elf, who was their leader, didn't give them any orders.

Lux's gaze locked on the Flying Serpent, disregarding the other monsters escorting it.

"Rise!" Lux ordered as he summoned his Skeleton Gangbangers and Steel Golems.

At first, the members of the different factions thought that Lux would summon strong Monsters to fight against the incoming threat.

But after seeing that the red-headed teenager only summoned hundreds of Rank 4 Monsters, all of their hopes evaporated into thin air.

Eiko, who was perched on top of her Papa's head, also imitated Lux's summons. She already knew what was going to happen next and was very excited about what was about to come.

"Come forth, Hecatoncheires!" Lux ordered, and the hundreds of Skeleton Gangbangers and Steel Golems merged together.

A moment later, four giant Abominations with hundreds of hands and dozens of faces towered above the teenagers, making all of them gasp in shock.

"D-Deimos Ranked summons?!" Prince Cyrus gasped in shock after seeing the giant abominations that appeared out of nowhere.

The Wyverns, whose bloody gazes had locked onto the teenagers earlier, suddenly found themselves being swatted by hundreds of hands, giving them no time to react.

Pained cries spread in the surroundings as some of the Wyverns were smashed into the ground by the merciless strikes that hit them.

The other Wyverns weren't that lucky, because the two Hecatoncheires that belonged to Eiko grabbed these flying monsters from the sky, preventing them from flying away.

The two Hecatoncheires were able to grab three Wyverns each and immediately proceeded to punch and bite them until blood sprayed from their bodies.

Lux shook his head helplessly upon seeing that Eiko had gotten carried away, ordering her Summons to tear their enemies apart.

However, he didn't make any move to stop the Baby Slime. There were still six other Wyverns, so he was fine with letting Eiko have some fun.

The Rankers, who were watching this from outside of the Gate of Fallen, looked at the battle in disbelief.

However, Lux wasn't finished yet.

"Come, Shax," Lux commanded. "I have a job for you."

At that exact moment, a malicious creature suddenly appeared above Lux's head, making the teenagers feel as if their breath had been taken out of their chests.

"Kill the Flying Serpent as cleanly as you can," Lux commanded. "I like how colorful it is. It will be a good addition to my army."

The Nightgaunt, who didn't have a face, flapped its bat-like wings and nodded its head.

A moment later, it disappeared from where it hovered, making the teenagers wonder if what they had seen and felt was just a hallucination.

Suddenly, the Winged Serpent, who had deemed that its subordinates were unable to deal with the four Giant Abominations, descended from the sky to back them up

But before it could even help the Wyverns, the Nightgaunt appeared in front of it with its arms crossed over its chest.

Turning its body to the side, its long spiked tail smashed against the Flying Serpent's head, making the latter cry loudly in pain as it fell from the sky.

The Rankers who were watching the battle through the projections were flabbergasted by the unexpected turn of events, making them wonder if there was something wrong with the projections.

However, this thought didn't last long because all of the projections were showing the exact same thing, proving that what they were seeing was real.

Perhaps the teenagers of the different factions were all thinking of the same thing, so their gazes landed on the Half-Elf's back, making Lux appear on all the projections in the cavern.

As if everything was done deliberately, the Half-Elf slowly turned around and gave the teenagers a devilish smile.

This smile was caught by the artifacts that allowed those outside of the Dungeon to see everything happening in the Gate of Famine in real-time.

"Are you not entertained?" Lux asked in a teasing tone, which made the teenagers and the Rankers who wanted to see him fail shudder subconsciously. "Don't worry. There's more to come."

He had ignored the mocking gazes from the Crystal Palace and the Skystead Alliance when he led the factions of the Six Kingdoms and the Xynnar War Pact inside the Gate of Famine.

They were not aware that in the span of two days, the Half-Elf had gained an Army that was enough to make him an Overlord of a vast swath of territory if he wished for it.

Now that he was inside the Gate of Famine, he no longer felt the need to hold himself back.

He wanted to show the fools who dared to laugh and mock him earlier that they weren't the ones who would decide who would have the last laugh.

No.

Lux would make them understand that the one who would have the last laugh was none other than him.

Chapter 686.1: Clash Of Titans [Part 1]

While Lux was dealing with the Monsters that came to attack them, an uproar was happening in the cavern where the representatives of the different factions watched the battle through the projections in front of them.

All of them thought that the Half-Elf, as well as the other teenagers, would suffer a painful defeat against the Winged Serpent and the Wyverns.

None of them anticipated that the situation would be the opposite of what they were looking forward to seeing.

They gaped at the Half-Elf single-handedly dealing with the situation with ease. A moment later, one of the Initiates of the Crystal Palace snorted.

"So what if he defeated an Argonaut-Ranked Monster?" the Initiate stated. "Our Master dealt with dozens of them. In the end, when he is faced with the Dreadnaught World Boss, he will realize just how short-lived his victory is."

"That's right!" another Initiate from the Crystal Palace seconded. "If he can't even handle this much then what was the point of going back into the Dungeon? Something like this isn't a big deal."

Soon, more voices of agreement came from the youngsters of the Crystal Palace, making the place lively.

"Silence!" Piccoro growled, and immediately, all the youngsters shut their lips tightly, not daring to offend the Saint, who was known for having a bad temper.

Piccoro then flicked a storage ring towards Hector that contained the 100 Million Gold Coin bet between him and the Rankers of the Skystead Alliance.

There was no need to wait until Lux finished dealing with the monster before the outcome of the match was decided. The moment the Winged Serpent fell from the sky, everyone knew that the battle was over.

It was at that moment when Aur took a step forward and confronted the Saint, who was one of his bodyguards.

"Piccoro, I am going," Aur suddenly declared, which made the Dragon Born Saint frown.

"Are you sure about this?" Piccoro asked. "Although he managed to defeat an Argonaut Monster, the two Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses are still a threat. Let's say that he will be able to deal with one of them, but both of them at the same time? That's impossible."

Aur smiled as he walked towards the Gate of the Fallen.

"Don't forget why we are here, Piccoro," Aur stated. "This is not about Pride. This is for the glory of the Crystal Palace."

Piccoro sighed before giving Aur a respectful bow. "It is as you say. Please forgive my short-sightedness. May fortune be in your favor, Your Highness."

The three other Saints also bowed their heads as their acknowledgement of Aur's determination.

"All of you, protect his Highness," Piccoro ordered the Initiates whom they had brought to escort Aur to the Domain of the Fallen.

""""Yes, Your Excellency!""""

Aron, who was struggling internally, also sighed and glanced at teenagers that represented the Skystead Alliance.

"All of you go as well," Aron ordered. "Make sure to protect Prince Cyrus, and follow his orders."

""""Yes! Sir!""""

Soon, the representatives of the Crystal Palace and the Skystead Alliance entered the Gate of Fallen.

Their goal was to join up with Lux's group and do their best to survive until the Dungeon had been cleared.

Inside the Gate of Famine...

"You want me to tame this beast?" Lux asked Shax, who was stepping on the head of the Argonaut-Ranked Winged Serpent that it had successfully subdued.

The Nightgaunt nodded. The Winged Serpent had pleaded for its life, and Shax decided that there was no merit in killing it.

Lux rubbed his chin as he cast a glance at the Argonaut-Ranked Monster who didn't show any signs of aggression towards him.

Out of the twelve Wyverns, four had died at the hands of the Hecatoncheires that belonged to Eiko.

The remaining eight had been pinned down by Lux's four Giant Abominations, giving them no chance to escape.

After giving it some thought, Lux glanced at Cai who was standing next to him.

"Do you want this Winged Serpent to be your pet?" Lux asked.

Cai thought a bit before asking for another opinion.

"Hmm... what do you think, Fei Fei?" Cai asked the golden slime perched on top of her head. "Should we tame this Winged Serpent?"

"Wei~"

"I guess you're right. Fine, I'll take this Winged Serpent. I like how colorful its wings are."

Lux nodded and motioned for Shax to look after Cai and ensure that the Winged Serpent wouldn't do anything silly, while the taming process was happening.

Basically, anyone could tame a Beast to make it their Beast Companion as long as the Beast approved of it.

Since the Winged Serpent didn't want to die in the hands of the faceless Creature that was pinning it down, it didn't resist Cai's Beast Contract, allowing it to become her Beast Companion and mount.

"How about you, Keane, Gerhart, Xander, and Cethus?" Lux asked. "Do all of you want a Wyvern each?"

"Can I have that bronze-scaled Wyvern?" Keane asked as he pointed at one of the Wyverns that was being held by one of the two Hecatoncheires.

"Sure," Lux replied. "It's yours."

"I'll take the green-scaled one," Gerhart commented.

Lux nodded "Okay."

"Mine will be the gray one," Xander stated.

"I'll take the black one," Cethus declared.

"Go." Lux made a gesture, letting the four of them tame the Wyverns. "How about you, Henrietta? Do you want one?"

The Half-Elf glanced at the Guildmaster of Serenity, who was part of his Father's faction.

"... Lux, Deimos-Ranked Wyverns are not cabbages that you can easily give away as if they are bought on sale," Henrietta said in a disapproving tone.

"So you don't want one?" Lux arched an eyebrow.

"I'll take the White one, please."

"Okay. It's yours."

The other three members of Serenity, who had come with Henrietta to clear the dungeon, were all left speechless.

They didn't expect that their proud and steadfast Guildmaster would fold after a Deimos-Ranked Alpha Wyvern was offered to her as a Beast Companion.

Truth be told, they would have done the same in her shoes. Having such a strong Creature as a companion would give them enough bragging rights when they returned to the Academy.

"Einar, Val, you want one too?" Lux asked his two steadfast companions who were loyal to him when it came to conquering the Sacred Dungeon.

"Since you offered, then why not?" Einar grinned as he walked towards the Hundred-Armed Giant to choose one of the Wyverns that were left.

"Thanks." Val gave Lux a brief nod, before he, too, followed behind Einar.

Val could transform into a Giant Spider, but he couldn't fly in the sky. Because of this, he decided to not hesitate and accept Lux's offer.

There was still one Wyvern left unclaimed, and Lux thought that it would be a waste to kill such a fine beast.

Even if he killed the Wyvern and revived it, he would only get a Rank 5 Alpha Monster because its rank would degrade after it had died.

It was not cost-effective, so he decided to let it live.

Besides, after the battle in the Kingdom of Zangrila, he had no shortage of flying Abyssal Monster corpses, which were all stored inside his Bounty Rings.

"Malcolm, are you interested?" Lux asked as he looked in the direction of the blonde-haired boy, who had been his subordinate in their previous dungeon expedition.

"Are you sure?" Malcolm didn't expect Lux to extend some goodwill in his direction, allowing him to own a Deimos-Ranked Wyvern for free.

Malcolm's father, who was a Great General, was one of the handful of people that had a Wyvern Mount in the entirety of the Vahan Empire.

Having a strong monster as his Beast Companion would drastically increase his prestige among the members of the nobility, making his effort to go with Lux into the Gate of Famine worth it.

Chapter 687.2: Clash Of Titans [Part 2]

"I'm sure," Lux replied. "Take one for old time's sake."

Malcolm understood what Lux was trying to say, so he no longer hesitated and chose the last remaining Wyvern, which had brown-scales covering his entire body.

The teenagers from the Xynnar War Pact, and the Six Kingdoms were feeling envious of the gifts that the Half-Elf had given to his friends and acquaintances.

What they didn't know was that this was Lux's plan to make all of them loyal to him.

If they could see him as a leader who was willing to share his spoils of war, he would be able to gain a good image in their eyes, as well as the people that were watching them from outside the Domain of the Fallen.

While the Half-Elf was feeling satisfied with how things turned out, the Dragon Token stirred, and Keoza's voice sounded inside his mind.

'I am sensing two Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses to the North of this place,' Keoza stated. 'One of them feels familiar. Do you remember that Devil that tried to kidnap Cai in the Gate of Conquest? I believe that it's him again. You should be careful. Even if you call for me, I won't appear, do you understand?'

"Does this have something to do with the Crystal Palace?"

"..."

Keoza sighed, but he didn't reply. Even so, his sigh had confirmed many things, which connected some pieces of the puzzle together.

"Be careful, and goodluck."

Those were the last words that Keoza said before the Dragon Token returned to being dormant once more.

Lux felt conflicted about the Crystal Dragon's current attitude, but since Keoza had helped him a lot in the past, he decided to just let things be.

Just as everyone had finished taming the Wyverns, Lux received a message from Alexander, informing him that several teenagers had entered the Domain of the Fallen.

As a Saint, he didn't want to dirty his hands with killing mere Initiates because that would be beneath him.

'Let them be, father,' Lux replied. 'Their arrival will not make any difference.'

'Good,' Alexander stated. 'It's good to see that you also prioritize the bigger picture. Just don't let them order you around, okay?'

'Understood,' Lux answered.

Lux knew full well how prideful Dragons and Dragon Borns were after being around Cethus for a while.

Even so, he admitted that he found Aur's sudden move quite surprising, which made him realize that he had underestimated the handsome Dragonoid, who seemed to be determined to accomplish the goal that he had set out to do.

'Well, as long as they don't get in my way, I'll let them tag along,' Lux thought. 'But, I need to find Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson first. According to Keoza, two Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters are located in the North. If I'm not mistaken that is the direction of the Ammarian Kingdom. I'll avoid them for a while, and head South.'

After finalizing his decision, the Half-Elf was about to order everyone to follow him when suddenly, he heard a notification sound inside his head, followed by rows of texts appearing in front of him.

Cethus, and Gerhart, glanced at each other after receiving the same notification sound and grinned. They already knew what this meant, and checked the information in front of them with serious expressions on their faces.

Cai, Keane, Xander, Henrietta, Einar, Val, as well as their other members, also received the notification sounds as well.

The Barbarians, the members of Val's Guild, as well as the Guild Members of the Barbatos Academy were all part of Lux's personal party.

He didn't invite Jasper's group, nor the three people from the Skystead Alliance because the Half-Elf only cared about his people.

Malcolm, who had once been part of Lux's party in the past, realized what just happened because the teenagers that had just tamed their Wyverns were all looking at the blank space in front of them, as if reading something.

'C-Could it be?' Malcolm's heart skipped a beat because his gut instinct was telling him that his guess was right.

Seeing that others managed to receive a quest, made him feel bitter. However, this bitterness instantly disappeared when a row of text appeared in front of him.

< Do you wish to Join Lux Von Kaizer's Party? >

< Yes / No >

Malcolm didn't even bat an eye and hurriedly accepted the invitation, as if he was afraid that it would disappear in front of him if he delayed his decision.

As soon as he chose the yes option, several rows of text appeared in front of him, allowing him to finally see the mission that the others had received as well.

< Clash of Titans >

Mission Rating: SS+

– A Monster Outbreak led by three Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses has descended upon the land. Their goal is to wipe out the entire Human population, leaving nothing but corpses in their wake.

< Quest Objectives >

[Main Quest]

– Prevent the complete destruction of the Yelan and Ammarian Kingdoms

[Sub Quest]

– Defeat at least two of the three Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses and put an end to their tyranny.

– Quest will automatically fail when 80% of the territories of both the Yelan and Ammarian Kingdoms are destroyed by the Monster Army.

< Quest Rewards >

– Quest rewards will be calculated after you complete the mission. The more you contributed to it as a whole, the greater the rewards you will get!

A breath of cold air escaped Malcolm's lips after reading the information of the quest.

Although he knew that Lux could fight against Argonaut Monsters, the two Dreadnaught World Bosses were still a great threat that they had to face.

Naturally, the red-headed teenager didn't share his worries because he had several aces under his sleeve.

"Everyone, follow me," Lux ordered as he summoned his Thunder Warg King, Jed. "We're all heading South."

Right now, he wanted to know if the Yelan Kingdom was still standing.

If there was a chance to save his old comrades, he would definitely not stand by and allow the Kingdom that Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson had protected with their lives end up in ruins.

Chapter 688: Death God Of The Battlefield

A few hours later, Lux and his comrades arrived at another city with its gates shut tight.

Several archers were manning the ramparts, but fortunately, none of them opened fire because Lux made sure that they wouldn't be attacked by his former comrades.

Before he left the Gate of Conquest, he had asked Great General Sherlock to give him several banners of the Yelan Kingdom.

The Half-Elf had thought of the possibility that they might meet the two Great Generals again if they challenged the Gate of Famine.

Because of this, he wanted to have their banners just in case they would be forced to march onto a battlefield where the Yelan Kingdom was fighting against their mortal enemy, the Ammarian Kingdom.

Since Lux's entourage had the banners, the defenders of the city didn't attack them, but didn't let them enter the city either. Clearly, they were still wary of a bunch of teenagers carrying the banner of their Kingdom, especially in these troubled times.

"My name is Lux Von Kaizer," Lux shouted. "I serve under Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson. Please, let me talk to your commanding officer. We just came upon a ruined city earlier that was attacked by monsters. I have every reason to believe that your city might be their next target."

The Guard Captain who defended the city narrowed his eyes as he looked at the red-headed teenager that declared himself a subordinate of Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson.

Currently, the two Great Generals were away, leading their army to fend off a Monster Outbreak in the Eastern Region of their Kingdom. The place was a good distance away from where they were, so it was impossible to confirm whether or not the teenage boy was telling the truth.

"Let them in," a voice that was filled with authority said, making the Guard Captain turn his head to look at the General who had been stationed to defend their city.

"General Fahad, you know him?" the Guard Captain asked.

"Of course we know him," General Fahad's second son, Leo, replied. "Have you forgotten the name of one of the War Heroes of the previous campaign? That Half-Elf down there is the one responsible for helping us win. So, what are you waiting for? Let him in!"

Currently, Leo was acting as his Father's second in command, which gave him the authority to order the soldiers guarding the city.

Because of this, the Guard Captain hurriedly told his men to open the gates.

Now that he had been reminded of who the Half-Elf was, the Guard Captain found it quite silly for him to forget the name of the person responsible for helping them win the previous war against the Ammarian Kingdom.

Lux was very famous among the members of the militaries of the Yelan and Ammarian Kingdoms, and they even gave him the nickname of Death God of the Battlefield.

Ever since then, the Ammarian Kingdom had not launched any campaigns against the smaller Kingdom, which they had long wanted to annex, in fear that their next attempt would also end in failure.

When the gates opened, Lux and his entourage were immediately greeted with cheers from the soldiers, as well as the populace.

Clearly, the Half-Elf was being treated as a War Hero, making the latter have a hard time keeping a straight face due to embarrassment.

"It's nice to see you again, Lux," General Fahad said as soon as the Half-Elf and his entourage had all entered the city. "Seeing you here makes me a little more confident about defending this city."

"General Fahad." Lux smiled as he reached out his hand for a handshake. "It's good to see that you are doing well. Can you tell me about the current situation of the Yelan Kingdom?"

"Of course, please follow me," General Fahad led Lux and his entourage to the make-shift barracks inside the city.

Due to the threat of the Monster Outbreak, all able-bodied men had been conscripted to defend their Kingdom.

Currently, they were being trained in the barracks in order to help the veteran soldiers fight off the Monsters that threatened to destroy their homes.

Since the number of people that Lux brought with him didn't surpass fifty, all of them were taken to the conference room to be briefed of the current situation.

"It started around two weeks ago," General Fahad said as he pointed at the map that was plastered on the wall. "The border guards sighted several powerful Monsters that were Argonaut-Ranked and below, leading countless low-ranking Monsters, heading deeper within the Ammarian Kingdom.

"Back then, we were quite happy with this development because we thought those bastards would finally receive the retribution they deserved. Just like we

expected, the Monster Army destroyed several cities before they clashed against the Ammarian Army.

"The battle was fierce, and even though they sacrificed countless lives, they were able to repel the Monsters. However, something unexpected happened, which made their victory short-lived."

A grim expression appeared on General Fahad's face, which made the Half-Elf frown.

"A day after the battle ended, three Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses made their appearance, and all of them were leading Monster Armies that were at least ten times larger than the Monster Army that the Ammarian Kingdom defeated.

"Seeing that there was no chance of victory, the General ordered a full retreat, ordering their soldiers to go all the way back to their Capital City, preparing for a last stand. However, these Monsters didn't head directly to the Ammarian Capital City.

"The three Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses split their forces. Two of them remained in the territory of the Ammarian Kingdom, taking their sweet time to destroy the outer cities, leaving nothing behind but destruction. It was as if they didn't plan on letting even a single village, town, city, or person live, going for a full extermination, leaving the Capital City for last."

The Yelan General sighed. He didn't ever think that there would come a time when he would pity their enemies.

But, their current situation was indeed truly pitiful that even though the Yelan General hated them, he wished that the innocents were spared from such tragedy.

Chapter 689: I Want Some Good News Right Now

After regaining his calm, General Fahad continued his explanation as he pointed at the Eastern Region of the Yelan Kingdom.

"I already said earlier that the three Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters split their forces," General Fahad stated. "While two of them remained in the Ammarian Kingdom, one of them headed to our Kingdom. The city you saw earlier was one of the outer cities that was destroyed just a day ago."

"The Monster Army headed East, destroying any city they came across. I have a feeling that after they destroy a few more cities, they will turn back and deal with us next. For some reason, the Dreadnaught Monster seemed to be avoiding the main army. But, if my assumptions are correct, I believe that it is simply toying with us and purposefully making us feel helpless."

Lux was deep in thought as he listened to General Fahad's explanation. However, someone seemed to not be able to read the mood and decided to ask the Yelan General a question.

"General, do you know about the Zephyr Kingdom?" Cai asked.

"The Zephyr Kingdom? Of course, I know them," General Fahad replied. "That is the kingdom located near the borders of the Ammarian Kingdom. Just like us, they were able to repel the Ammarian Kingdom's invasion, keeping their sovereignty."

"Their army is also quite powerful. Perhaps, even more powerful than ours. Have you been there before?"

Cai and the other teenager's expressions became solemn after hearing General Fahad's reply.

Before all of them were killed a few days ago and were ejected from the Gate of Famine, they were fighting alongside the Zephyr Kingdom's Army against the three Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters that had attacked their Capital City.

The last one to die in that struggle was Cai, but before she did, she had witnessed the destruction of the entire Capital City of the Zephyr Kingdom, which was nearly two weeks ago.

(A/N: The timeline of the Sacred Dungeon and the world inside the Gate of Famine was similar to Zangrila. A week inside the Gate of Famine was equivalent to a day in the outside world).

"General, I have another question," Cai said with a seriousness that was very rare for her to show. "Is the Dreadnaught Monster attacking the Yelan

Kingdom a silver-haired devil? You know—a humanoid with two horns, silver hair, and bat-like wings?"

General Fahad shook his head.

"The Monster leading the Monster Outbreak in our Kingdom is not the devil you spoke of," General Fahad replied. "It is a Giant Earth Turtle. Even our Kingdom's most powerful magical cannons are unable to even leave a dent in that Monster's body.

"It was still a Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss a few days ago. But after destroying several cities, its Rank suddenly jumped to the peak of the Dreadnaught Rank, making it a Pseudo-Empyrean Ranked World Boss. I don't want to sound pessimistic, but I'm doubting if we will be able to survive this calamity."

General Fahad was a very brave General and didn't back away even when he faced the Ammarian Army, which had greater numbers than his own.

For him to acknowledge that the chances of winning were nearly non-existent proved just how dire their current situation was.

Lux, who had been listening all this time, opened his Soul Book and enlarged the map of the Yelan Kingdom.

Dozens of miles away from them, countless blinking red dots appeared on the map, which were scattered in different places.

It seemed that the Giant Earth Turtle was using the divide and conquer strategy, attacking as many towns as possible in the shortest amount of time possible.

'That explains why we were attacked by the Winged Serpent and the Wyverns,' Lux thought. 'We were not their real target but this city that General Fahad was guarding. We just happened to be in their way, so they decided to attack us first.'

Now that the pieces were finally falling in place, Lux understood the current situation.

"General, I have some good news and bad news for you," Lux said as he observed the map on his Soul Book. "Which one do you want to hear first?"

"The good news," General Fahad replied. "I want some good news right now."

Lux nodded. "The good news is that the Monsters that were supposed to attack this town have already been dealt with by us. Meaning, that in the next four days, no Monsters will be attacking this city."

"That is indeed good news," General Fahad commented. "But what do you mean when you said that we wouldn't be attacked in the next four days? Do you mean that we will be attacked on the fifth day?"

Lux sighed before nodding his head.

"It seems that the Earth Turtle has realized that one of its raiding parties had failed their mission," Lux stated. "So it has ordered half of its army to head here, while the other half will continue to head East, facing off against the Main Army of the Yelan Kingdom."

General Fahad, as well as the teenagers that belonged to Lux's entourage, were shocked by the Half-Elf's revelation.

They had no idea why Lux sounded so confident when he made his declaration, but all of them knew that he wasn't joking one bit.

General Fahad remained silent for a full minute before asking Lux a question through gritted teeth.

"What do you think we should do?" General Fahad asked.

After fighting alongside Lux in the previous war, he treated the Half-Elf's words very seriously.

"Evacuate the citizens and tell them to head to the Capital City," Lux replied. "Have the new recruits, and a few of your officers escort them. If my estimate is right, this city will most likely be destroyed when the Monster Army arrives. If you don't want to have innocent victims, then the only thing that you can do is order an evacuation, and it must be done... right now."

Lux's voice held a finality that General Fahad wasn't able to ignore.

An hour later, the General made an announcement and all of his messengers passed through everyone in the city.

The Monsters were coming, and the only way for them to live was to evacuate before it was too late.

Lux was confident that he would be able to protect himself, but he couldn't say the same for the people in the city.

The Monster Army that was headed in their direction numbered in the tens of thousands and, based on what he had seen, there were several Argonaut Ranked and Deimos Ranked Monsters mixed in it.

One thing that grabbed his attention was a red dot that was significantly bigger than the others.

Although he didn't want to overthink things, he had a feeling that the leader of the Monster Army headed in their direction was a Monster that had just evolved into the Dreadnaught Rank.

Chapter 690: Forewarned Was Better Than Forearmed

"Father, I don't want to go," Leo stated. "I want to stay with you and fight!"

"That's General Fahad to you, soldier," General Fahad snapped at his son, who refused to obey his order. "Have you forgotten the promise you made to me when I agreed to bring you along on this campaign? You swore to obey my every order. Is this what your promise amounts to? Insubordination?"

Leo lowered his head, unable to come up with words to refute his father. The only reason he was allowed to accompany the General on all of his campaigns was because he promised to always obey his order.

However, after knowing that his father and the rest of the Veteran Soldiers would be staying to fight against the approaching Monster Army, Leo felt that he needed to be with him more than ever.

The conscripted men of the city had all been assigned to protect the residents as they evacuated towards the Capital City of the Yelan Kingdom.

They had only trained for a few days, so General Fahad knew well that they were not ready to fight against a Monster Army of such magnitude.

To avoid mishaps, he also assigned a dozen of his trusted subordinates to lead the new conscripts, as well as the evacuees to safety. One of the people he wanted to oversee this mission was his son, Leo,

But the latter refused to obey him, giving him a headache.

"Father. Please, let me stay," Leo begged. "I promise that I will obey every order you give me, but you must let me stay and fight with you."

General Fahad snorted as he looked down at his son, who insisted on staying to fight with him.

"What good is your promise if you can't even keep it?" General Fahad sneered. "You still say that you promise to obey my orders when you've refused my order to lead the people to safety? I've had enough of your farce. From now on, you are stripped of your military authority and hereby delegated as a civilian!"

General Fahad tore the badge on Leo's uniform, making the teenage boy's eyes widen in shock. He never thought that his father would go as far as to strip him of his rank to prevent him from staying.

"Guards! Take this boy out of here now!" General Fahad ordered. "Tie him in chains if you have to, and take him to the Capital along with the other evacuees!"

""Yes, Sir!""

As if waiting for that cue, two Guards immediately entered the command room and grabbed hold of Leo, preventing him from doing anything.

"Don't do this, Father!" Leo pleaded. "I just want to fight with you to the bitter end! Let me go! I want to stay here!"

However, no matter how much he begged, the two soldiers took him away without mercy.

Only when he could no longer hear his son's shouts did General Fahad heave a long and depressing sigh.

"You did the right thing," General Fahad's second in command, Benjamin, said as he entered the room. "This is no place for him to die."

"What's this? Do you also think that we will not survive this one?" General Fahad asked in a wry tone.

"To be perfectly honest, no," Benjamin replied. "The scouts that we have deployed just sent us a message that the Monster Army is composed of dozens of Deimos-Ranked Monsters, a handful of Argonaut Monsters, and one Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster at its Initial Stages.

"There is also the countless number of Rank 5 and below Monsters, plus their army is at least around a hundred thousand strong. Even if we can match their number, the High-Ranking combatants have such a large disparity that it is impossible to win.

"Perhaps both of us can take on one Argonaut-Ranked Monster each, and a few of our Elites can handle the Deimos-Ranked Monsters. But the moment that Dreadnaught makes its move, we're done for."

General Fahad walked towards the window and gazed at the city below him.

Currently, many people flooded the streets as the mass evacuation was in full swing. According to Lux, the Monster Army would arrive in three more days if they kept their current pace.

If the Dreadnaught Monster decided to hasten their movements, the Monsters might come knocking on their city walls before the sun rose the next day.

Because of this, General Fahad ordered that the evacuation must be carried out as soon as possible, giving the people only half a day to pack everything they could before leaving the city.

"Lux told me that he has a way to deal with the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster," General Fahad said after several minutes passed. "He said that we should prioritize dealing with the small fries, and he will handle the rest."

"Oh? That's quite reassuring then." Benjamin chuckled, thinking that it was a joke.

But his chuckle only lasted for a short while before his expression became solemn. "... Is he serious?"

"Very serious."

"I know that this might sound weird coming from me, but for some reason, I now feel that we might be able to survive this one."

The Generals of the Yelan Kingdom had treated Lux as a War Hero in their hearts after the many accomplishments the Half-Elf had made during their previous campaigns.

Each and every time, the red-headed teenager was able to pull off something new, giving them an opportunity to turn the tides of battle in their favor.

"Actually, I came here to ask you a favor. I wanted to ask you to pass a letter to my wife to let her know that I might not be able to make it." Benjamin scratched his head. "But now, I guess I'll keep it for the time being."

"You do that." General Fahad nodded. "I also don't have any intention of dying here."

The two High-Ranking officers exchanged a knowing gaze before returning to their duties.

Since the Monster Army would arrive in the next three days, they couldn't possibly not give them a warm welcome that would send them all directly to kingdom come.

"Boom Boom!"

"Boom!"

Eiko and Fei Fei were busy making one Blast Bomb after the other. They wanted to make as many bombs as they could to help prepare for the war, and partly because the two Baby Slimes had grown fond of making things go Boom!

Accompanying them in this task was none other than Boomer, Eiko's Crimson Monkey Kong Skeleton Bombardier.

Of course, Eiko made sure to summon her clones as well to speed up the Blast Bomb Production.

Not far from them, the Archlich, Asmodeus, was discussing plans with Lux about how to better deal with the upcoming Monster Invasion.

Of course, they weren't doing this with just the two of them.

Cai, Keane, Xander, Gerhart, Cethus, Einar, Val, Henrietta, Enlil, Jasper, Gilmore (the swordsman who Keane fought in the tournament), Malcolm, and Prince Cyrus were present as well.

They were the individuals representing the different factions and had accompanied Lux in the Gate of Famine, so the Half-Elf gathered them as well.

"I sent a scout to check on the Monster Army yesterday and found out the composition of their army," Lux stated. "There are dozens of Deimos-Ranked Monsters, a handful of Argonaut-Ranked Monsters, and one Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster. Not only that, there are at least tens of thousands of Rank 5 and below monsters that serve as the bulk of their army."

The teenagers all listened to the Half-Elf with serious expressions on their faces. The composition of the Monster Army was already a force that Initiates couldn't possibly contend with.

Only Rankers and above would be able to deal with this kind of situation. But after seeing what Lux was capable of, they felt more hopeful that the Half-Elf had found a way to overcome the situation they were about to face.

"None of you have to worry about the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster. I have a way to deal with it," Lux stated. "Cai, General Fahad, and the High-Ranking combatants of the Yelan Army will deal with the Argonaut-Ranked Monsters. This leaves you with only the Deimos-Ranked Monsters to deal with."

Lux didn't know whether he should mention this or not to the others, but for some reason, a good number of Rank 5 Monsters within the approaching Monster Army were about to evolve as Deimos-Ranked Monsters.

At the very least, Zagan estimated that they would face at least a hundred of these about-to-evolve monsters when they arrive at their destination.

After careful deliberation, the Half-Elf decided that it would be best to just spill the beans to give his team more time to adjust to their current situation.

Forewarned was better than forearmed.

In a battle of this magnitude, Lux understood that their chances of survival would increase only when his team and allies truly knew what they were about to face.

Important Announcement:

To give you a bit of background to this story, this is like Harry Potter. A teenage boy accidentally rode the wrong train, and entered a Magic Academy where he can *ahem* learn Magic the "special way".

Chapter 691: Just Watch At The Side And Do Your Best To Not Die

"According to a rough estimate, there will be at least a hundred Deimos-Rank Monsters within the Monster Army," Lux explained before shifting his gaze to the Boar beside him. "We are short-handed, so I will be assigning everyone their task for this battle. Cai and Xander, both of you will team up to deal with one Deimos-Ranked Monster."

"Okay," Cai replied.

Xander also nodded in agreement. His duty was to protect Cai in the first place, so he was fine with this setup.

"Keane, you will take on a Deimos-Ranked Monster on your own," Lux stated as he glanced at his trusted companion with a smile.

"Okay," Keane replied.

The not-so-skinny swordsman had been very eager to fight after seeing Lux's awesome performance in the last battle. Since he considered the Half-Elf his rival, Keane would not hesitate to fight an opponent that was stronger than him in order to challenge his limits.

Lux wasn't too worried about Keane since he had given the swordsman a Deimos-Ranked Wyvern that would assist him in battle.

"Gerhart, Cethus, you two deal with one Deimos Ranked Monster each as well."

"Got it," Gerhart replied.

"Only one?" Cethus complained. "I can deal with three of them with my arms crossed."

"Shut up, Cethus." Gerhart scoffed at the arrogant Dragon Born. "I can already see that you will be the first to die in this battle. Just where is this confidence of yours coming from? Your Grandma is not here to save you, you know?"

"Shut up, Low Lander." Cethus glared. "How about we make a bet on how many Deimos Monsters we can kill? The loser will follow the victor's orders for a day."

"Sounds fun. I'm in."

"I can't wait to order you to lick my foot, you scum."

Lux sighed as he ignored the two hot-heads who were once again competing with each other.

"Einar and Val, you will deal with one Deimos-Ranked Monster each," Lux stated. "Don't hold back, okay? I know that the two of you have become stronger since the last time we met."

Einar smirked. This was the first time that Lux acknowledged his ability, so he was feeling quite happy inside.

Val was feeling the same, so he nodded his head and promised to follow the Half-Elf's orders.

"Henrietta, you and your Guild Members will fight against one Deimos Monster as well." Lux crossed his arms over his chest. "Can you do it?"

"Consider it done," Henrietta replied in a heartbeat.

If it had been in the past, she definitely would not have been able to answer as confidently as she did now. But now that Lux had given her a Deimos-Ranked Wyvern as a Beast Companion, she felt like dealing with another one was doable.

"Jasper, you and your team will handle one Deimos-Ranked Monster. You four Barbarians will team up against one as well."

Lux then shifted his gaze to the Elven Prince, Enlil, as well as Gilmore, who had just been listening quietly to the side.

"Enlil and Gilmore, you and your men team up to defeat one Deimos Ranked Monster," Lux said after careful consideration.

"Very well," Enlil replied.

"Understood," Gilmore commented.

Both of them were proud teenagers, but since they had been ordered by their Kings to follow Lux's orders, they would do as they were told.

"That's all." Lux then stood up and was about to leave when Prince Cyrus called out to him.

"Hey, what about us?" Prince Cyrus asked. "What are we going to do?"

Lux glanced at the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire with a frown.

"You... just don't get in the way," Lux answered. "Better yet, just don't do anything. Just watch from the side and do your best to not die."

"You bastard!" Prince Cyrus growled, but this action of his made Lux chuckle.

"I was just joking," Lux said in a teasing tone. "You, Malcolm, and Nero will also fight against one Deimos-Ranked Monster. Remember this, if any of you manage to defeat your opponents, team up with other people to defeat the enemy they are fighting against. Don't let your pride cloud your vision."

"We are up against a Monster Army that Initiates have no hope of defeating unless a miracle happens. Pride won't do you any good in this battle. What you need is to cooperate with others in order to survive."

"I don't want to see any of you dying, so if you think you are unable to continue fighting, retreat as fast as you can. We can only conquer this Dungeon if we are alive. All of you remember that well."

Prince Cyrus clenched his fist before storming away. Nero followed behind him, while Malcolm gave Lux an apologetic nod before rejoining his Prince, who looked very displeased at how Lux treated him.

Even so, the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire was starting to realize that he was in a situation that he had never been in the past.

Because of his position, he was always heavily guarded and no one dared to harm him, in fear of receiving his father's wrath.

Now that he had lost these powerful guards, he understood that he couldn't always depend on others for his safety.

In the face of Monsters that didn't care about his position as Prince of a Kingdom, Prince Cyrus had no one to rely on but himself.

Outside of the Gate of Famine, Aur and the members of the Crystal Palace arrived safely at the entrance of the Sacred Dungeon.

They didn't encounter any Monsters along the way, which sped their journey considerably.

The representatives of the Skystead Alliance also joined them, which Aur agreed with since they were temporary allies inside the Domain of the Fallen.

"Your Highness, are we really going to team up with that Half-Elf?" One of Aur's close Aides asked.

"We have one goal and one goal only," Aur replied as he gazed at the Gate of Famine. "It doesn't matter if we join hands with others in order to accomplish it. Our ultimate goal is always for the benefit of the Crystal Palace."

"Understood, Your Highness," the Aide respectfully bowed his head and took a step back.

Without another word, Aur pressed his palm over the Gate of Famine in order to challenge it for a second time.

At the same time that Aur and the others had entered the Gate of Famine, the silver-haired devil opened his eyes and looked towards the South.

He was currently sitting on the throne of the Ammarian Royal Palace, using the trembling King, who was on all fours, as his footstool.

"I don't know how you managed to escape my grasp, Half-Elf," the silver-haired devil said in a calm manner. "But it doesn't matter. My preparation is almost done. Soon, I will finally be able to leave this place. But for that to happen, I still need a suitable host."

The silver-haired devil narrowed his eyes as his vision locked onto Nero, whom he had decided to use as a vessel in the past. However, since he no longer possessed the Heart of the Abyss, the silver-haired devil's interest in him had waned as well.

"I found a much better vessel," the Abyssal Duke smirked as his gaze locked on the Dragon Humanoid, who had just entered the Gate of Famine.

He had waited many years for the day that he would be able to break free from his prison.

Now that the Fourth Gate of the Apocalypse had been opened, it was only a matter of time before his reign of terror would finally start in full.

Chapter 692: What Will Come Will Come

Heaven's Gate Guild Headquarters in the Outer Reaches...

"What are you doing here, Halfling?"

"What are you doing here, Dragon King? Did your wife kick you out of the room or something?"

The King of all Dragons looked down on the Halfling, who was casually smoking his pipe while watching the projection in front of him.

Garret and Flamma, who were also watching Lux's battle, didn't dare to say a word since the one standing in front of them was a Supreme.

An entity that could split the sea and divide the land if he so wished for it.

"Did you break the condition I gave you back when I agreed to spare your life?" The Dragon King asked in an irritated tone. "I told you to guard the Kingdom of Zangrila and prevent the Abyssal Monsters from pouring into the

Elysium in great numbers. Are you testing my patience? Or are you already tired of living?"

The Halfling blew some white circles before looking at the Dragon King with annoyance.

"Have you forgotten the conditions that you set?" Gaap replied. "According to our contract, I would be freed from my task if I take on a Disciple while guarding Zangrila."

"Yes," the Dragon King commented. "I remember that part of the contract. So, did someone randomly appear in Zangrila and asked you to be their Master?"

The Dragon King shifted his gaze to Garret as if asking the Human the question "Is it you?"

Naturally, Garret firmly shook his head, telling the Dragon King that he wasn't Gaap's disciple.

Seeing the Human denying his connection with Gaap, the Dragon King then glanced at the Half-Orc, whose body immediately froze due to the immense pressure that washed over him.

"Are you a kid?" Gaap snapped at the Dragon King. "These two are not my Disciples. I'm sure you already know who it is. Are you going to continue to act like the dumb Dragon that you are?"

Garret and Flamma wanted to beg Gaap to stop badmouthing the Dragon King. If the latter really got annoyed, the Halfling would not be the only one to be erased from existence.

The floating island that they were currently at would simply disintegrate, leaving nothing behind but dust.

The Dragon King snorted before turning around to look at the projection behind his back.

There, Lux could be seen ordering the soldiers of the Yelan Kingdom to reinforce the city walls with Earth Magic.

'It's him again,' the Dragon King frowned.

At first, he paid attention to the Half-Elf because Keoza had chosen him to receive his Dragon Token.

That was fine in itself, but recently, he felt that keeping the Half-Elf alive would endanger his beloved daughter, Valerie.

Because of this, he planned to invite Lux to go on a fishing trip, the kind where the Half-Elf might 'accidentally' get swallowed by an Empyrean Ranked Fish.

The only reason why he was forced to postpone this plan was due to his wife, Saphira, who told him to not make things difficult for the red-headed teenager who had done nothing wrong.

"Don't leave just yet," Gaap stated as he continued to puff smoke from his pipe. "Stay a while and watch. The people from Crystal Palace have made contact with Lux, and they are in the same Dungeon as him."

"What?!" The Dragon King's eyes widened in shock after hearing Gaap's words.

Although Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace had signed a peace treaty lasting for a hundred years, the deadline of the contract would end in a month.

Both sides had done their best to rein in their subordinates, preventing a full-blown conflict from happening and creating a civil war among the Dragon Race.

Now that the expiration of the deal was about to come, the fragile peace that had been enforced for the past hundred years was starting to show cracks.

The Dragon King had already sent an envoy to the Crystal Palace with the proposal to extend the peace treaty, but the Steward, who was also Cethus' second Grandmother, didn't agree to it.

When asked why she didn't want to sign the peace treaty, the only reply she gave was that she no longer had the right to decide whether the peace treaty would be extended or not.

She added that only the Prince of the Crystal Palace could decide this important matter and refused to entertain any other envoys that the Dragon King had sent to persuade her.

Of course, the Dragon King knew that the Crystal Palace indeed had a Prince. However, he felt that the sly Steward was purposely avoiding any talks of continued peace because they were planning a coup d'etat.

"Are you sure about this?" the Dragon King asked. "I'm not here to play games with you, Halfling. Don't forget that you are only alive because of the grace given to you by the previous Dragon King."

Gaap shrugged as he emptied the pipe in his hand.

"The only reason why I'm telling you this is because my previous Master and you were good friends," Gaap replied. "If not for her, I wouldn't even bother looking at you."

The Dragon King quieted down after remembering Gaap's Master, whom he found to be quite unique even among Humans.

In the end, the Dragon King decided to summon a chair and sat down to watch the projection as well.

He didn't know why the Half-Elf kept on attracting troublesome people into his life, making him wonder if he really should take the red-headed teenager to go fishing and be done with it.

City of Peyton within the Yelan Kingdom...

All the teenagers were gearing up for the upcoming battle that they were about to face.

In the first time they encountered the Monster Army, all of them were massacred without even having the chance to retaliate.

None of the Rankers and High-Rankers who watched the battle outside the Gate of the Fallen blamed them for what happened.

They knew that it was impossible for Initiates to win against such a force and just blamed the expedition's failure on bad luck.

However, right now, they were actually feeling more hopeful that they wouldn't die so helplessly like the last time.

Now that Lux had assured them that he had a way to deal with the Dreadnaught Monster, General Fahad declared that he and his men would take care of the Argonaut-Ranked Monsters, leaving only the Deimos Monsters behind.

While it was still difficult to fight these Monsters, compared to fighting against Argonaut and Dreadnaught Ranked Beasts, it was a lot more manageable.

Even Prince Cyrus was showing a determination that was rarely seen, making Malcolm, who had known the arrogant prince for a long time, feel that something had changed in the Prince's attitude after Lux treated him like an excess baggage.

"They're finally leaving," Henrietta commented as he looked at the long procession of people that had just exited the South Gate of the city and were heading towards the Capital City of the Yelan Kingdom.

Lux nodded and watched the people go, who all had anxious expressions on their faces.

It reminded him of the time when he and his comrades escorted the people of Abingdon Town across the perilous Shaufell Plains where a great battle against Insect-Type Monsters was fought.

Although it was a good distance away, he spotted Leo, who was wearing a civilian clothing, tied up to a pole in one of the wagons.

Clearly, General Fahad intended to make his son leave this dangerous place, which Lux found to be a normal thing to do for a father who cared for the safety of his family members.

For a brief moment, Lux's and Leo's gazes intersected.

The two stared at each other for half a minute before the wagon started to move towards the exit of the city.

The Half-Elf had seen the unwillingness in Leo's eyes, which proved that he didn't want to leave his father behind, especially when the General was about to face a battle of such magnitude.

Lux could have freed Leo then and there, but he refrained himself from doing so.

Doing such a thing would disrespect General Fahad's decision, and the Half-Elf didn't want to meddle in the General's family matters.

Two hours later, the procession could no longer be seen from the City of Peyton.

All that was left were the soldiers of the Yelan Kingdom, as well as teenagers, who planned to stop the Monster's advance, permanently.

Lux, who was keeping in close contact with Zagan, whom he ordered to monitor the Monster Army, looked towards the East with a calm expression on his face.

The Monster Army had sped up in their advance and, according to his estimate, the Monsters would arrive at the city they were guarding tomorrow afternoon.

Although Lux was confident that he could face off against the biggest threat that was approaching the city, he couldn't help but have a nagging feeling at the back of his mind.

He didn't know if this feeling was coming from the enemy that they would be facing tomorrow, or due to something different.

'There's no use in thinking of things outside of my control,' Lux thought as he watched the sun set in the distance. 'What will come will come.'

The Half-Elf then stared towards the North, where the two Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses were located.

His mission was not to only save the Yelan Kingdom, but the Ammarian Kingdom as well.

Because of this, Lux was certain that sooner or later, he would have to go North, bringing everyone with him in a battle that would make those that were watching him, including the Dragon King, feel as if their very blood was boiling inside their bodies.

Chapter 693: General, You Should Stop Raising Death Flags

That night, the City of Peyton was nearly dead silent.

General Fahad ordered all the soldiers to rest properly in preparation for the great battle the next day.

There was no need for anyone to serve as the Night Watch because Lux volunteered to have the Undead play that role.

Lux thought that the soldiers would be too anxious to sleep because of the enemy that was approaching their location. However, to his surprise, the Yelan Soldiers slept like logs, with some of them snoring so loudly that they could wake up the dead.

"They haven't had a good sleep these past few days, so they are all really exhausted," General Fahad said as he passed Lux a mug of mead.

The two of them were on the ramparts of the city wall, unable to sleep.

"Tomorrow, many of them will die," Lux replied as he held the mug of mead in his hands. "Will you allow me to revive them, so that they can continue to fight?"

"I'll ask them tomorrow," General Fahad replied. "Although I am not a hundred percent sure, I think most of them will give their consent... as long as you don't make their bodies explode."

"I will not do that," Lux commented before taking a sip from his mug. "The Yelan Kingdom is my friend. I will not desecrate their dead."

General Fahad nodded. "Lux, if I ever die in battle. I give you permission to revive me. You did the same to Second, right? If I remember correctly... His name is Zagan now."

"That's right." Lux confirmed.

"I've been meaning to ask, do the people you revive still have memories of their past life?" General Fahad was genuinely curious about this part.

"If they are revived not long after they die, yes," Lux replied. "They need to be revived at least two to three days after their death for that to happen."

"They were your enemies in the past, right?" General Fahad inquired. "Is it because you are their Master that they obey you, regardless of what they were like in their past lives?"

Lux paused for a bit before shaking his head.

"I removed their identity when I revived them, and only left their experience," Lux stated. "It's like giving them a permanent amnesia, allowing them to retain their skills of the past, erasing their grudge against me the moment they were reborn. Even now, if someone told them that I was their enemy in their past life, they would not think much about it, and continue to serve me with utmost loyalty."

"... I see." General Fahad drank half of the mead in his cup before looking at the moon in the sky. "If I die, can you let me keep my memory? I don't want to forget my Family."

"You will not die, General," Lux replied. "You will live a long life protecting your people."

"I'm just saying 'IF' I die." General Fahad smiled. "Trust me, I don't have any intention of dying. However, having some insurance will put my mind at ease."

"... General, you should stop raising Death Flags," Lux stated. "But, I will do as you say. So, fight with everything you've got. I have your back."

General Fahad nodded and emptied the mug in his hand before standing up to leave.

"I'll go and rest," General Fahad said. "You also make sure that you are properly rested. I am counting on you to help me hold up the sky when it falls tomorrow."

"Okay." Lux promised as he raised his cup as if toasting the General of the Yelan Kingdom. "I'll just finish this then go to sleep as well."

General Fahad nodded and walked away with firm steps. Now that he had gained Lux's promise to be revived from the dead, he would fight until he could no longer do so.

Lux watched the General's retreating back until he disappeared from his sight.

Ten minutes later, Lux also left and headed to his room. Tomorrow's battle was an important one, so he had every intention of resting properly.

But, there was one problem.

The moment he entered his room, he instantly noticed that he wasn't alone.

A young lady wearing a night dress was seated on the bed, waiting for him.

"Are they already asleep?" Lux asked Cai, who was wearing a black, silk nightdress that wasn't able to hide the curves of her body.

"Yes," Cai replied. "Eiko and Fei Fei are already asleep in my room."

Lux nodded and walked to the bed, removing his upper clothes.

Cai moved to help him remove his shoes, and pants, leaving only the Half-Elf's underwear intact.

She then guided Lux to lay down on the bed, where the two of them cuddled together in each other's embrace.

"Tomorrow, don't force yourself too much, and don't go too deep behind enemy lines," Lux stated. "Stick to Xander, and allow Coatl to handle the strong enemies."

(A/N: Coatl is the name that Cai gave to the Winged Serpent that she tamed.)

"Okay," Cai replied as she buried her head into Lux's chest, feeling his warmth. "Be careful as well. Don't underestimate our opponents. Although you can revive the dead, no one can revive you when you die."

"Okay," Lux whispered in Cai's ear as he held her close.

The beautiful High Priestess of the Rowan Tribe was now his fiancée, and although they had shared many intimate moments, they still hadn't crossed that last barrier, which would allow the two of them to become one.

Both of them understood that it was still not the right time to do it, so they just allowed themselves to fall slowly in love with each other, enjoying the intimate moments whenever they were alone together.

Lux planted a kiss on Cai's forehead, making the latter raise her head to look at him.

The two stared at each other for a few seconds before both of them pressed their lips together, sharing a long, and passionate kiss.

A moment later, Lux's hand moved to untie the strings of Cai's nightgown, and slowly pulled it down, baring her breasts, which fit his hands perfectly.

Soon, Cai's muffled moans echoed inside the room. Although both of them were still not ready to take that final step to take their relationship to the next level, that didn't stop them from making each other feel good.

This act of intimacy helped quench the burning desire in their bodies, and hearts, in preparation for the battle that was slowly, but surely, making its way towards them.

Chapter 694: Just How Many Secrets Is This Boy hiding?

"They're here," General Fahad said as he looked at the edge of the horizon where countless dark spots emerged like a black tide.

Lux nodded his head in agreement, as he gazed at the Monster Army that had sped up their advance, allowing them to arrive at the city, just two hours after everyone finished eating their lunch.

The Soldiers on the city walls held their weapons tightly in their hands, as they prepared for one of the most dangerous battles of their lives.

Their number was only around twenty thousand because the bulk of the Yelan Army accompanied Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson to defend the Eastern City from the Dreadnaught-Ranked Giant Earth Turtle.

With only over twenty thousand soldiers, against a Monster Army that numbered over a hundred thousand, everyone believed that their chances of survival were very slim. However, they didn't back away because if they did, their loved ones back in the Capital City of the Yelan Kingdom would bear the brunt of the Monster Invasion.

"It will probably take them half an hour to arrive at the city walls," Benjamin, who served as General Fahad's second in command, commented. "We still have time to say our prayers."

Benjamin said those words in a joking manner, but no one laughed at his attempt to liven up the atmosphere.

Everyone, including the teenagers, was feeling too tense and anxious to appreciate his effort, which made the Vice-General feel awkward. Even so, everyone understood what he was trying to do, so they didn't say anything that might embarrass the Vice-General of the Yelan Army.

Suddenly, a change happened among the Monster Army as the flying Beasts advanced ahead. Seeing this, General Fahad knew that the battle would start earlier than expected, so he immediately addressed his soldiers because this was the only time that he could do it.

"Remember, we will fight using the city as our shield," General Fahad announced to his soldiers. "Prioritize helping your comrades, and only focus on dealing with Rank 5 and below Monsters. Leave the Powerhouses of the Monster Army to me and Lux.

"Once the City Walls have fallen, immediately retreat to the rear of the city, and use the strategy that I passed unto your Captains. Prioritize your safety, and do your best to survive!"

General Fahad then unsheathed his sword and saluted the giant flag of the Yelan Kingdom that fluttered in the center of the city.

All the soldiers under his command saluted it as well for it was the symbol of their Kingdom, for which they were willing to sacrifice their lives in order to protect it.

"Glory to the Yelan Kingdom!" General Fahad shouted.

""Glory to the Yelan Kingdom!""

""Glory to the Yelan Kingdom!""

""Glory to the Yelan Kingdom!""

General Fahad then raised his sword and pointed it at the flying Creatures that were nearing their city from the skies.

"Aim!" General Fahad ordered.

The Archers, as well as the magicians all prepared to unleash their long range attacks to decimate the creatures that had come to annihilate them all.

"Steady," Ishtar stated as she nocked an arrow on her bow, pulling it as far as she could.

The hundreds of Skeleton Arcane Archers, and Liches, also prepared to unleash their attacks, in order to help the Yelan Soldiers thin out the number of flying monsters that were only minutes away from them.

Lux watched all of this with his arms crossed over his chest. Eiko also had a serious expression on her face, as she waited for the monsters to arrive.

Lux, Eiko, and Asmodeus, had summoned their clones earlier and distributed their forces across the ramparts, protecting it.

The Skeleton Gangbangers and the Steel Golems stood ready behind the city gate, serving as the second line of defense.

When General Fahad deemed that the Monsters were well within their range, he finally pointed his sword forward, and shouted his order.

"Open Fire!"

As soon as the order was given, thousands of arrows, and spells, rained down on the flying Monsters, making them cry out in pain.

Countless Monsters died in that initial clash, but many were able to break past through the first salvo, especially the two Argonaut-Ranked Cockatrices, whose breath attack could turn people to stone.

"Brace!" General Fahad shouted as the two Basilisks prepared to unleash their dreaded Petrification Breath, which they were famous for.

When the two Cockatrices unleashed their breath attacks, Lux, Eiko, and their clones, unleashed their own Dragon Breaths, which blocked the attack of the two Argonaut-Ranked Beasts, dispersing it completely.

That was how the clash between the Monster Army and the Defenders started, and what followed after that was pure chaos.

Shax, who had summoned his clones, engaged the Argonaut-Ranked Cockatrices in a dogfight in the sky, preventing them from targeting the defenders on the ground.

Keane, Xander, Gerhart, Cethus, and Einar, and Val, took off to the skies with their Deimos-Ranked Wyverns, decreasing the pressure that the defenders were feeling.

While this was happening, the land Monsters had all increased their pace, and were now running full speed towards the city walls, making the defenders focus in their direction

Since their allies were fighting off against the monsters in the sky, no one among the Defenders aimed their long range attacks upwards, in fear that they might hit their allies due to the chaotic battle that was happening.

At the forefront of the monster army, six black rhinos that were at least six meters tall were leading the charge, tanking the arrows, and spells that were raining down on them from afar.

"They are good Chargers," Cai said with a solemn look on her face. "What do you think, Fei Fei?"

"Wei~"

"I think so too. Um, maybe we can tame them later, after Lux beats them up."

"Wei~"

Lux, who was standing beside Cai scratched his head as he looked at the six Pseudo-Deimos Ranked Monsters, whom Cai wanted to tame.

He then gave a subtle order to his army to not kill the Black Rhinos, and simply cripple them, so that he could give them to his fiance once the battle was over.

Suddenly, Lux saw a flash of light in the distance, which made the hairs on the back of his neck stand on end.

Immediately after that, he summoned the Wraith King, Leoric, who shot forward like a blue comet.

A moment later, a loud explosion took place, creating a shockwave that sent the Monsters near the point of impact flying in every direction, which almost blew away every soldier off the ramparts due to how powerful it was.

Good thing, Lux had already anticipated this happening, ordering his Skeleton Gangbangers and Steel Golems to merge together, creating eighteen Hecatoncheires, behind the City Walls, who spread out their arms, and shielded the people from the aftermath of the Dreadnaught-Ranked long range attack, that came from more than a mile away.

Leoric, who had successfully blocked the attack, hovered in the air, as he stared in the direction of the foe that Lux had designated for him to face.

"Is he your Trump Card?" General Fahad asked.

"Yes," Lux replied. "He will deal with the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster, while we deal with the small fries."

The General of the Yelan Kingdom nodded his head in understanding.

Now that there was someone to deal with the leader of the Monster Army, he once again issued commands to his soldiers, whose morale was boosted after seeing the Wraith King, Leoric.

Outside of the Gate of the Fallen, a pin-drop silence emanated.

No one, not even Hector, who was Xander's father, and Lux's staunchest ally, uttered a word as they all looked at the projection in front of them.

'Just how many secrets is this boy hiding?' Hector thought after he regained his calm.

He was already surprised that Lux was able to summon Argonaut and Deimos-Ranked Monsters to fight for him.

But now, the appearance of the Wraith King made him, and the other people in the cavern, wonder if Lux could summon something stronger.

If he really could do that then everyone's stance against him, including the Vahan Empire, would definitely change.

Now that they had seen what Lux was capable of doing, they could no longer treat him as an ordinary Initiate, but a true Powerhouse that could potentially tilt the outcome of the war in their favor.

Chapter 695: I Found Myself One Hell Of A Disciple

"Are we not going to help them, Your Highness?"

"Let's just watch for now. I want to know if Lux has any other Trump Cards that he is still hiding in his sleeves."

Aur, and the members of the Crystal Palace, observed the battle from on top of a mountain.

They had just arrived at the scene, and the first thing they saw was the ongoing battle between the Defenders of the Yelan Kingdom and the Monster Army.

Aur didn't know if the Monster Army was affiliated with the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters that had annihilated each and everyone of them during their first attempt to clear the dungeon.

However, that experience made him understand that even though he was carrying many powerful artifacts, and weapons with him, there was a limit to what a single person could do alone.

In order to achieve his goal, he needed to gain powerful allies. If only Rankers and Saints were allowed to enter the dungeon then Aur wouldn't have this problem.

Unfortunately, this was not possible, so he could only seek help elsewhere.

Right now, the only one who seemed to be brimming with potential was none other than the red-headed teenager, who had forced him to swallow his pride and enter the Sacred Dungeon a second time.

'What a sly monster,' Lux thought as he looked at the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster in the distance, who resembled Godzilla, with annoyance. 'Leoric can't advance forward because once he does, the bastard will fire a long range attack, aimed at the people, forcing Leoric to block it.'

The leader of the Monsters was firing its long-ranged attacks consecutively, preventing Leoric from fighting it directly.

Currently, only the Wraith King could successfully block the attacks of the Dreadnaught Monster.

If he failed to block the Monster's attack even once, half of the city would instantly be wiped out. Killing thousands of people at the same time.

The powerful shockwaves had also destroyed several parts of the city walls, allowing the Monsters to enter the city.

Lux and his comrades were fighting a fierce battle on the land and in the sky, dyeing the ground with the color of blood.

General Fahad roared in anger as he and his elite soldiers started to hunt down the Deimos-Ranked Monsters that had entered the city.

These Monsters easily killed the low-ranking defenders, enraging the General and his men.

"Those at the right wall, fall back!" General Fahad ordered as he hacked down a Rank 5 Monster, who had almost bitten off one of his soldier's heads..
"Head to the rear of the city! Bring the injured to the infirmary! Leave this place to us!"

"Y-Yes Sir!" The soldier hastily supported his injured comrade to safety. However, there were many other injured people in the surroundings, who were unable to help themselves.

Not wanting any of his soldiers to die, General Fahad stood his ground, slashing every monster that broke past the destroyed wall.

Even with Lux's army, dealing with the High-Ranking monsters, the enemy's numbers were simply too many.

They were about to reach their limit, and it was only a matter of time before the defensive lines broke completely.

Suddenly, the dead soldiers around him rose to life. A good number of the Zombies carried the injured soldiers, and headed towards the rear of the city, Instead of helping the General fight off the Monsters.

Those that were helped, cried bitterly as their comrades, who had died, took them to safety, so that they could live.

Before the battle started, General Fahad asked his soldiers if they were willing to be revived after they died in the battle.

To his surprise, all the soldiers declared that if they were to perish in battle, they wanted Lux to revive them, so that they could continue fighting.

While some of the revived soldiers carried their comrades to the rear of the city, the rest of them assisted their still-living-counterparts in fighting against the Monsters, and preventing other soldiers from joining them in the afterlife.

Since they were revived as soon as they died, their memories were still intact, and their will to protect their Kingdom burned brightly in their chest, allowing them fight with great vigor and ferocity.

Cai, who was fighting Monsters inside the city, and helping the soldiers retreat, was being protected by her Winged Serpent, Coatl, who flew dozens of meters above her, eliminating the stronger threats that tried to attack the Boar from the sky.

Lux had ordered her to remain in the city, while he joined Leoric to charge behind the enemy lines, bringing six Hecatoncheires with him.

The Half-Elf knew that if he didn't bring down the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster first, everyone's lives would continue to hang on a very thin line.

All it took was a single mistake, and the people he cared for would all be wiped from the face of the Yelan Kingdom.

Of course, he understood that if any of them died inside the Dungeon, they wouldn't really die, but simply be expelled from it.

Even so, Lux didn't have the "I won't die even if I am killed" mentality, and treated this battle seriously.

Leading the charge was none other than Leoric, and his 12 Wraith Knights who were all of the Deimos Rank.

Behind them, Six Hecatoncheires advanced slowly, grabbing, punching, slapping, and pinning down every monster they came across.

Lux, was riding on his Thunder Warg King, Jed, who was busy unleashing lightning bolts at the monsters in front of him.

Zagan and Lazarus flew beside Lux, guarding him from any sneak attacks from their enemies.

He had left Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, Asmodeus, Orion, Revon, and ALL-MITE, back in the city in order to protect his friends, and keep a lookout for Cai.

Suddenly, a four-meter tall Earth Wolf, who was of the Deimos Rank, sprang out from the ground, with the intention of crushing the Thunder Warg King, and his Master, with his powerful jaws.

This particular wolf had a peculiar ability, similar to Jasper, allowing it to merge with the ground, and travel under it like a fish in the water.

It was the perfect ambusher, and it had locked its sights on Lux, who was now deep inside their battle formation.

Unfortunately for it, Lux was paying close attention to his Soul Book, and had already known that the Wolf was planning to ambush him.

"Flamma! I choose you!" Lux shouted as he summoned the Half-Orc, who had been watching the battle in the projection back in their Guild Headquarters just a few seconds ago.

Immediately, the Deimos-Ranked Half-Orc materialized out of thin air, carrying his War Axe, poised to strike.

"It's about darn time!" Flamma roared as he smashed his Axe downwards.

"Guillotine Burst!"

The War Axe was covered in crimson flames, greatly empowering Flamma's attack, and imbuing it with the power of Transcendent Flames.

A cry of pain spread in the surroundings as the Half-Orc's War Axe smashed into the Earth Wolf's snout, sending it crashing to the ground.

Giving the Wolf no time to recover, and hide underneath the Earth, the Half-Orc summoned two fire snakes, which immediately coiled themselves around their target, rendering it unable to move.

Now that his prey was immobilized, the Half-Orc started to hack the monster's body senseless, making spilling blood with every strike.

"Go!" Flamma shouted as he kept on hammering the Deimos-Ranked Monster, who couldn't break free from the fire snakes that bound him in place. "I'll catch up to you later!"

Lux nodded and left four of his Hecatoncheires behind to protect Flamma, who was now surrounded by monsters in all directions.

However, the Half-Orc wasn't the least bit scared of his current situation, and even had a fearless look on his face as he one-sidedly hacked the Earth Wolf apart, who had lost its ability to resist.

Heaven's Gate Headquarters in the Outer Reaches...

"..." the Dragon King looked at Flamma in the projection before shifting his gaze to the place where the Half-Orc had been sitting just a moment ago.

He didn't know how Lux did it, but he was completely taken by surprise when the Half-Orc instantly disappeared from where he was, and reappeared where the Half-Elf was currently at.

As a Supreme, he was capable of traveling great distances in an instant if he wished for it. But, he had never seen something like this in the past which greatly intrigued him.

"How did he do it?" the Dragon King asked the old Half-Ling, who was busy cracking peanuts with his fingers.

"Trade Secret," Gaap replied before eating the peanut in his hands. "But, if you give me a Demigod Artifact, I'll tell you."

The Dragon King snorted and ignored the old Half-Ling's unreasonable demand.

The grade above Legendary Equipment was Demigod.

It was only a grade lower than Divine Equipment, and was considered to be one of the best items in existence.

They weren't cabbages that the Dragon King could give away just out of curiosity, so he just focused his attention back to the Half-Elf, whom Keoza had chosen to receive his Dragon Token.

He wasn't aware of the abilities of a Mythical Guild because this was the first time one had appeared in the world, so he thought that Lux had just learned a powerful summoning ability, which he hadn't seen before.

Gaap, who gave the Dragon King a side-long glance, chuckled internally.

Deep inside, he was just as surprised as the Supreme Being beside him.

'Master, I didn't expect your prediction to come true,' Gaap thought as he remembered his beautiful Master, who had the power to see the future. 'I found myself one hell of a Disciple.'

Gaap didn't know if Fate played a role in giving him the chance to meet the Half-Elf in the kingdom of Zangrila. However, one thing was clear.

Now that he was the Half-Elf's Master, he would do his best to ensure that the red-headed teenager wouldn't meet the same fate as his beautiful Master.

His Master had predicted that he would meet someone in the Kingdom of Zangrila, who would open the doors of Heaven and fight the monsters that the world of Elysium fears the most.

Chapter 696: Hold My Beer

'Now, I think I understand a little why you chose him,' the Dragon King thought as he recalled his confrontation with the Crystal Dragon, whom he hadn't seen for a very long time.

To this day, he still had no idea why Keoza decided to reject the position of Dragon King, which shocked not only him but also the entirety of Karshvar Draconis.

"This is for the greater good."

That was the last thing that Keoza told him before he vanished, never to be seen again until Lux appeared in the Dragon Kingdom.

'For the greater good, huh?' the Dragon King narrowed his eyes as he watched the Half-Elf in the projection charge toward the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster that resembled Godz*lla.

Although there were still doubts inside his head, he set them all aside for now. This was the first time he was seeing Lux fight for real, and he was curious about what other things the Half-Elf was hiding from him.

"Leoric, whatever happens, don't let him shoot that long-range attack towards the city," Lux ordered as they approached the Monster that was in command of the entire Monster Army.

"Understood," the Wraith King promised as he slashed the monsters in front of him, cutting all of them in half, which created a path for their charge deep into enemy lines.

When they were only hundreds of meters away from their target, something unexpected happened.

A large crack appeared in the sky, followed by the sound of thousands of crystal vases breaking.

A powerful presence descended on the battlefield, followed by something gigantic falling from the sky, right above Lux and his subordinates.

The Half-Elf, Leoric, and the Wraith Knights immediately backed away in order to prevent themselves from getting crushed by what seemed to be a giant meteor.

The group of Hecatoncheires, who were much slower than the others, didn't have time to evade, and their bodies were instantly crushed by the meteor, sized over a hundred meters big.

The powerful explosion that shook the entire surroundings, sending rock and dirt flying in every direction, covered the battlefield in a thick dust cloud.

Lux and his subordinates, who had barely evaded the attack, looked at the dust cloud in front of them with grim expressions on their faces.

For a brief moment, all the sounds on the battlefield disappeared as if time had stopped. However, this silence was broken a few seconds later by an earth-shaking roar that made General Fahad's face turn pale.

"I-Impossible!" General Fahad gasped as he looked at the dust cloud in the distance. "W-What is it doing here?!"

As if to confirm his worst fears, the land suddenly shook as the sound of gigantic footsteps echoed in the surroundings.

After what seemed like an eternity, a Giant Earth Turtle emerged from the dust cloud, making all the Defenders' hearts turn cold.

"Sh*t..." Lux cursed after seeing the Dreadnaught-Ranked Giant Turtle, who was supposed to be fighting in the Eastern Regions of the Yelan Kingdom, appear in front of him.

As if to make matters worse, the crack in the sky widened, and countless flying monsters began to pass through it.

Not only that, even land Monsters fell from the sky and, even from such great heights, none of them were injured as if all of them had the ability to levitate.

"What now?" Leoric hovered in front of Lux, protecting him from any possible attacks that would come from the Giant Monster.

He had the ability to handle one of the Dreadnaught Monsters, but fighting two of them at the same time was beyond his capabilities.

"I guess we have no choice," Lux stated. "Time for Plan B."

The Rankers outside of the Gate of the Fallen were dumbfounded after witnessing the unexpected turn of events that they never saw coming.

Although half of them didn't like Lux, they still felt that this was simply too much for him to handle.

"Well, it was fun while it lasted," one of the Rankers of the Skystead Alliance said. "Unfortunately, it's over now."

The other Rankers all nodded their heads in agreement. Although they had seen Lux do many miraculous things, they sincerely felt that this was how far the Half-Elf could go.

"Your Highness, you made the right decision to not help them earlier," one of the members of Crystal Palace escorting Aur commented. "If we did, we would definitely suffer the same fate as them."

"That's right!"

"At least we won't die a miserable death."

As the members of the Crystal Palace were getting rowdy, Aur finally opened his lips, shutting all of them up.

"Do you really think that way?" Aur asked in a calm tone. "If they really die, then we would have all come here in vain."

Without any warning, the Prince of the Crystal Palace jumped off the mountaintop, surprising all of his retainers.

Before they could even react to his actions, a pair of crystal-like wings sprouted from Aur's back, allowing him to glide towards the battlefield at great speeds.

"Protect His Highness!" one of the Dragon Borns shouted and also jumped off the mountain to follow their Prince.

All the Dragon Borns took flight because they knew that if they let something bad happen to Aur, all of them would be severely punished when they got back to the Crystal Palace.

The teenagers from the Skystead Alliance also summoned their mounts to follow the others to battle.

Now that it had come to this, they could no longer stand idly, or their Emperor would punish them when they returned as well.

Heaven's Gate Guild Headquarters...

Gaap, who had seen his Disciple's current situation, propped himself up in his chair and drank half of the mug of beer in his hand.

Lux had asked the Dwarves to try making something similar to beer using the recipes he knew from Earth.

To his surprise, the Dwarves loved the idea and even managed to make something that tasted better than the ones he had back on Earth.

He then handed the mug to the Dragon King, who looked at him with a weird look on his face.

"What?" the Dragon King asked.

"Hold my beer," Gaap replied.

"Huh?" The Dragon King had a weird look on his face, but he still took the mug from the Halfling's hand, wondering what the latter wanted to do.

Gaap then rotated his neck, creating cracking sounds. After that, he moved his hips counter-clockwise, making cracking sounds as well.

After doing a bit of stretching, the Halfling summoned his walking stick and placed one of his hands behind his back.

"I'm going in," Gaap stated.

A moment later, he disappeared from where he stood, making the Dragon King's eyes widen in shock.

The Halfling was fine with Lux trying to fight monsters above his Rank, but after seeing the current situation, he decided to join in the fun.

Gaap knew that his Disciple had many enemies in his home world, with some of them being the rulers of different Kingdoms and Empires.

Since that was the case, he planned to make his appearance and show them that the Half-Elf had a Master like him, who could flip the Giant Earth Turtle upside down with a simple flick of his walking stick.

By doing so, he was sure that they would understand that if they did anything bad to his Disciple in Solais or Elysium, he could easily turn their worlds upside down, just like the Giant Earth Turtle, whom everyone thought had the upper hand in this battle for survival.

Chapter 697.1: Every Act Of Creation Is First An Act Of Destruction [Part 1]

Flamma, who was busy slicing everything around him, paused when he saw the Giant Earth Turtle make its appearance.

Due to its size which surpassed a hundred meters in height, it was impossible for anyone to not see it unless they were blind.

Its presence alone was quite domineering, overshadowing all the countless Monsters in its surroundings.

General Fahad, as well as the Defenders of the Yelan Kingdom, felt a lump form in their throat at the sight of the powerful Monster that was supposed to be fighting against the bulk of their Main Army led by their two Great Generals.

For it to appear here, while falling from the sky, was simply heaven-defying.

"Time for Plan B," Lux said.

However, just before he could act on his plan, a defiant voice spread in the surroundings.

"Crystal Dragon's Breath!"

Aur unleashed his Dragon Breath and even used an Amplification Artifact to increase its power threefold.

The Dragon Breath flew straight towards the Giant Earth Turtle. But before it could even hit its target, a giant wall of earth over a hundred meters tall jutted out of the ground and blocked the attack completely.

A moment later, the wall of earth transformed into a crystal wall.

Seeing this, Aur clenched his fist before preparing to fire another Dragon Breath. However, the Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss didn't give him another chance.

The giant crystal wall shattered and transformed into countless crystal shards that fell on the battlefield like rain.

This was, without a doubt, a deadly attack that didn't distinguish between friend or foe, killing anything it hit.

"Shield Wall!" Pazuzu shouted, and the rest of the Elite Spirit Protectors did the same.

A moment later, several blue tower shields appeared in front of the Defenders, blocking the crystal shards that could potentially wipe out everyone in the city.

"Defend yourselves!!" General Fahad gave his order, making all the soldiers crouch low on the ground, raising their shields in front of them.

The Hecatoncheires that were defending the city spread their arms that numbered in the hundreds to block the incoming crystal shards as a second line of defense, protecting the soldiers behind them.

A few seconds later, blood rained down from the sky as the flying monsters got pierced by the crystal shards, receiving serious injuries. Some of these monsters died instantly, while others received fatal injuries that caused them to fall from the sky, and crush anything below them.

Including the Soldiers whom they were fighting earlier.

Seeing that its devastating attack worked, the Giant Earth Turtle jumped high in the air and curled itself into a ball, looking like a gigantic boulder.

"D-Don't tell me!" Flamma, who was right in front of the Giant Turtle, immediately ran away when it saw it rolling in his direction.

"Zagan! Lazarus! Attack!" Lux ordered.

Following his orders, Zagan and Lazarus bombarded the gigantic rolling boulder that was headed toward the city with Black Lightning bolts and Cold Flames in an attempt to stop or slow it down.

Unfortunately, even though their attacks could bypass most defenses, even directly attacking the Monster's soul, the Giant Earth Turtle was unfazed as their combined attacks didn't even leave a dent in its body.

"Mom!" Flamma, who was running faster than an Olympic sprinter on Steroids, knew that it was impossible for him to outrun the Giant Rolling Boulder that was making the entire land tremble.

Lux gritted his teeth and decided to save the Half-Orc by transforming into a lightning bolt.

Zagan did the same because he wouldn't allow Lux to die no matter what.

Leoric followed, but since he was considerably slower than Lux and Zagan, he was left behind completely.

'Not good!' Lux thought as he sped towards the Half-Orc, who was only a heartbeat away from turning into a pancake. 'I won't make it!'

Just as Flamma was about to call out his Mother's name for a second time, the Giant Rolling Boulder stopped completely.

This gave Lux the opportunity to grab the Half-Orc and take him away to safety.

Flamma, who had just been saved, sighed in his heart. He was so close to pissing himself due to his near-death experience. Fortunately, the World Boss' Death Roll stopped before it could graze his skin.

"Back in the day, I could have stopped this monster with just a finger. Oh, I've grown too old."

Everyone on the battlefield, including Lux, looked in awe when they saw a giant black hand holding onto the curled-up Giant Earth Turtle, preventing it from rolling forward.

On top of that giant black hand stood an Old Halfling.

The old man was wearing a traveler's robe whose colors had faded away. Clearly, it had seen better days in the past, but now, it had lost all of its luster.

He was holding a walking stick in one of his hands, while the other rested behind his back. His back was slightly bent, just like any old person who was in the last years of their life.

Even so, the way he carried himself made him look like an esteemed warrior that had seen countless battles in the past.

Realizing that something was holding onto its body, the Giant Earth Turtle started to squirm around in an attempt to break free from the giant black hand that held it in place.

"Still resisting?" Gaap chuckled before lightly tapping his wooden walking stick on the black hand, where he was standing. "It has been a while since I allowed you to play with something, so play to your heart's content. Just make sure that you don't accidentally kill it, okay?"

As if responding to his words, the earth shook violently, making everyone who was standing on the ground unable to keep their balance.

Half a minute later, the sky darkened as something truly gigantic blocked the rays of the sun.

"By the Dragon Gods...", Cethus muttered as his vision locked onto a gigantic Black Golem, which was over three hundred meters tall at the very least. "Could that possibly be Antero?!"

A hideous laughter echoed in the surroundings as the Black Golem opened its mouth, making those who heard it subconsciously shudder.

Out of habit, Lux took out his Soul Book in order to identify the monstrous creature in front of him.

However, nothing could have prepared him for the shock that ran through his entire body when he saw the creature's information.

< Antero >

"Every act of Creation is first an act of Destruction."

Monster Rating: Empyrean-Ranked World Boss

True Monster Ranking: Demigod Rank (Sealed)

– Primordial Abyssal Golem of Destruction

– Progenitor of Abyssal Golems

Health: ?????????????????? / ??????????????????

Mana: ?????????????????? / ??????????????????

Strength: ???????

Intelligence: ???????

Vitality: ???????

Agility: ???????

Dexterity: ???????

Unique Ability: Indestructible Golem of Destruction

< Indestructible Golem of Destruction >

– This creature can't be killed by any monsters of Demigod Rank and below.

– Even if the entire world was destroyed, this Golem would not die and would regenerate itself completely.

Chapter 698.2: Every Act Of Creation Is First An Act Of Destruction [Part 2]

"Impossible!" Piccoro, who saw the Gigantic Golem of Destruction, gasped in shock. "How can he be there?! He's supposed to be imprisoned in Zangrila!"

It was not only him who reacted this way. The three other Saints belonging to the Crystal Palace stared at the projection with fearful gazes because they couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"We must alert the Steward at once!" one of the Saints stated.

"Even if we alert her now, there's nothing that she can do about it," one of the Saints gritted his teeth in anger. "It's impossible for her to enter the Domain of the Fallen. But how did that Halfling worm his way there?! Is there another entrance to the Domain that we don't know about?!"

The four Dragon Born Saints were clearly feeling agitated and for a good reason. When the Dragon Race was still united and living in peace, there came a time when the world was thrown into chaos.

The former Dragon King, the other Supremes, as well as the Saints from every corner of the world, joined hands in order to fight against the Abyssal Invasion.

One of the most powerful creatures that had crossed between the worlds was none other than the very same Primordial Black Golem that they were seeing in their projection.

The Black Golem of Destruction, Anteros, had killed dozens of Saints when it rampaged across the land.

Even Supremes had a hard time subduing the monster, let alone killing it completely as it was a Progenitor Class Existence.

The first of its kind, containing all the powers that surpassed the limits of beings below its rank.

Fortunately, the Goddess of the World helped them subdue this beast with the help of a Supreme Necromancer, sealing its powers, and making it regress to the Empyrean Rank.

Even so, Antero couldn't be killed because it was simply indestructible.

Using his vast expertise, the Supreme Necromancer, with the assistance of the Goddess of the World, forced the creature into a contract, making it fight for their side.

Although its Rank had regressed to that of an Empyrean Ranked World Boss, the other Abyssal Creatures were unable to destroy it, allowing the people of Elysium to resist the Abyssal Invasion with its help.

Due to the intensity of the battle and the unholy contract that the Supreme Necromancer used to bind Antero, he also met his end in the war.

There was a price to pay for summoning Antero, and that was the Summoner's lifespan.

Because of this, its ownership changed frequently, but it could only be passed along the lineage of Necromancers, belonging to the Unholy Guild called Memento Mori.

Each time it made its appearance, destruction would follow.

For that was the sole purpose of its creation.

There was also a time when a Necromancer of Memento Mori used this to fight against the might of the Dragon Kingdom and almost succeeded in that battle as well.

If not for the fact that Gaap's Master intervened to stop the war, the possibility of Karshvar Draconis falling from the sky was already a done deal.

Fortunately, it didn't happen. However, since then, the Dragon Race had a profound fear of the Golem of Destruction because it was one of the handful of existence in the world that could easily demolish their floating islands from the sky if its Master willed it.

"There's no way that anyone can beat that thing," Piccoro sighed. "All the teenagers inside the Gate of Famine are doomed!"

However, just as Piccoro and the rest of the Saints from the Crystal Palace were dreading the inevitable death of their Prince, something unexpected happened.

"The Primordial Golem picked up the rolled-up Giant Turtle and tossed it high in the sky and laughed like a little child as if it's playing with a rubber ball."

Seeing this happen, the other Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster attacked the Primordial Golem with its most powerful attack, but it didn't even make a small dent in the Golem's body.

Antero glanced at the Godz*lla-like monster behind it with annoyance.

Without warning, it raised its hand and smacked the Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster like a mosquito, instantly turning its entire body to meat paste.

After killing the Dreadnaught Monster like a bug, it raised its hand to catch the falling Giant Earth Turtle with its hand and laughed out loud before tossing it again upwards.

"You can play with it, but don't kill it, okay?" Gaap ordered. "I have something in mind for it, you hear?"

Antero laughed in reply as if what it had heard was the biggest joke in its life.

"Ai~ you've been cooped up too long and don't want to listen," Gaap lamented before glancing in the direction of his disciple, who was looking back at him in disbelief.

The corner of Gaap's lips rose up as he gave Lux a teasing smile, which made the Half-Elf realize that he didn't really know much about his new Master whom he had met in Zangrila.

"Why are you staring at me like an idiot, stupid Disciple of mine," Gaap shouted. "Are you not going to greet your Master?"

Lux snapped out of his daze and immediately pressed his palms together before respectfully bowing his head.

"Disciple greets Master," Lux replied.

The Half-Elf had no idea how Gaap managed to enter the Gate of Famine when he didn't even use his Guild's Ability to call him.

What he didn't know was that, when Gaap accepted him as his Disciple, the ring that the Old Halfling gave him served as a medium that allowed him to instantly teleport to his location with just a thought.

Gaap did this to ensure that his Disciple wouldn't be bullied by High-Rankers or Saints from any of the Kingdoms or Empires that wanted to antagonize him before he could reach his full potential.

Of course, this ring had a limitation and it would only allow Gaap to appear by Lux's side once a month.

Since the Halfling knew that the Crystal Palace was able to see what was happening inside the Gate of Famine, he made sure to make his appearance to inform them that he was Lux's Master, making them think twice about harming his Disciple.

Just as he expected, an uproar happened inside the cavern as the entourage of the Crystal Palace cried out in alarm after they saw Lux bowing to Gaap, recognizing him as his Master.

Even the envoys of the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and Six Kingdoms were shaken after this discovery.

'What?! Lux is Gaap's disciple?!' Piccoro's body shuddered after seeing this scene. "D-Damn! Just what is going on here?!"

After seeing how fearful the four Saints from the Crystal Palace were, he didn't need to be a genius to understand that the old Halfling standing on the Giant Black Golem's shoulder was someone that he and the Vahan Empire couldn't offend no matter what.

'T-This brat has such a Master?!' Aron exclaimed internally. 'I better report this to His Majesty immediately!'

It was no secret that the Half-Elf and the Vahan Empire had bad blood with each other. However, if an existence that could even make the Crystal Palace feel threatened would become the Skystead Alliance's enemy, it could only lead to one end.

Complete and utter destruction of their entire realm!

Gaap, who had already achieved what he wanted, raised his hand with a smug look on his face, making him feel as if he had returned to his younger days.

A faint ripple spread across the battlefield the moment Gaap raised his hand. A few seconds later, all the dead Monsters came to life and started attacking the monsters who had remained frozen in place due to the pressure Anteros was emitting.

Because of this, they were killed without the ability to protect themselves from the countless Undead that answered the Old Necromancer's summons.

While Lux could also revive the dead, his ability couldn't be compared to what his Master was doing right now.

With a simple gesture, he had easily revived tens of thousands of monsters, whose numbers would continue to grow as they killed the other Monsters, who were once their comrades.

This sight made everyone remember how troublesome it was to fight against Necromancer because once they started summoning the Undead, there would be no end to it unless their Master was killed completely.

Back in Karshvar Draconis, the Dragon King sipped the mug that Gaap had handed him while looking at the projection in front of him.

"Idiot," the Dragon King then extended his hand to have his mug refilled by one of the Maids that served General Garret's family. "You're just shortening your already short life. No wonder you now look like a decrepit old man. Just for the sake of this farce, you act like a clown in front of everyone."

The Dragon King muttered a few more curses before taking another sip from the mug that was now refilled with beer.

Now that Antero had finally shown itself after decades of absence, he was certain that the organization that had killed Gaap's Master would break their silence.

"Hah... this is going to be messy," the Dragon King muttered before drinking half of the beer inside his mug. "I sure hope you know what you're doing, you fool. Are you that eager to meet your Master in the afterlife?"

The Dragon King didn't know what Gaap was thinking. There were plenty of other ways the old Halfling could have dealt with the situation while showing his might to everyone.

However, of all the methods in his arsenal, he chose the one that could potentially trigger another large-scale war between the Divine Army of Light and Gaap's Undead Legion, who screamed for vengeance for his Master's untimely death.