

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

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Chapter 701: Is It Too Late To Fix Our Relationship?

After the battle in the City of Peyton had concluded, General Fahad ordered his men to take the bodies of the soldiers who had perished and gather them in the city's center.

Lux told him that he could help the souls of the deceased move on to the next life and offered to do so. Naturally, the General was more than happy to agree.

This was the least that the General could do for his men who had fought with their lives to protect their Kingdom from the Monster invasion.

It took some time to gather all the bodies. By the time they finished, the sun had already set, cloaking the land in darkness.

"I will now begin," Lux declared as he respectfully bowed toward the soldiers who died in the battle.

The Half-Elf then raised both of his hands toward the heavens and a faint ripple spread in the surroundings.

A moment later, white butterflies started to appear all over the city as the wandering ghosts of the dead answered Lux's summons.

"So pretty," Cai said softly while looking at the butterflies that were dancing in the surroundings, illuminating the city.

"Wei~" Fei Fei, who was perched on top of Cai's head, agreed while looking at this picturesque scene in front of them.

Even Aur and the members of the Crystal Palace, who were used to seeing beautiful sceneries, couldn't help but be mesmerized by the otherworldly beauty that they were witnessing.

After circling the city once, the butterflies rose up toward the sky, creating something similar to a bridge of light that connected the Earth and the Heavens.

This phenomenon lasted for half an hour, ending when the last butterfly disappeared into the horizon as it crossed to the Cycle of Reincarnation.

Lux did this ceremony for a reason.

He wanted to know if the Yelan Kingdom was connected to the outside world, just like the Blackrock Clan.

Although Lux looked calm on the surface, deep down, he was very startled by his discovery.

Although the Yelan Kingdom was indeed inside a Dungeon, this world was also connected to the whole of Elysium.

What did this mean? It meant that everyone inside this Domain was living in a miniature world that was hundreds of times smaller than the world of Elysium.

The Half-Elf would even go so far as to think that the Sacred Dungeon was similar to Zangrila, a place that no one could enter from the outside unless they were to use a special method to do so.

Lux was very tempted to ask his Master, Gaap, for a second opinion. Unfortunately, the Old Halfling was currently sleeping inside the Mayor's Residence, and the Half-Elf didn't want to disturb him.

Although Gaap didn't say anything to him, Lux could tell that the old Halfling was quite exhausted after saving them and cleaning up the rest of the Monster Army with his summons.

Knowing this, he didn't want to disturb his rest and decided to just put his questions on hold for the time being.

"Is it done?" General Fahad inquired.

Although he had a feeling that the ceremony was over, he still wanted to confirm his thoughts.

Lux nodded. "Yes. It is over. Their spirits have moved on to the other side."

A sigh of relief escaped General Fahad's lips before bowing his head to thank Lux. Now that the spirits of the departed had been put to rest, he was feeling a little bit better, knowing that all of them had moved on to a better place.

"It will take a while before our messengers reach Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson," General Fahad stated. "At most, it will take a day or two before we can pass on the message that the Giant Earth Turtle has been dealt with."

"Good," Lux replied. "I will wait until they give a reply before deciding what my Mercenary Group would do next."

Since Lux had declared in the past war that he was the leader of a Mercenary Group, he decided to use that same setup in order to make things less complicated.

This also saved him the trouble of making up other excuses, which he didn't want to do in the first place.

After parting with the General of the Yelan Army, Lux asked the members of the different factions to rest for the time being.

Currently, they had nothing else to do but wait for confirmation from Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson that the Monster Army had been eliminated from the territories of the Yelan Kingdom.

Lux summoned his Soul Book and once again checked his Quest Objectives.

< Clash of Titans >

< 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.

'As long as we secure the territories of the Yelan Kingdom, this quest will not fail,' Lux thought. 'But it won't be completed unless we go to the Ammarian Kingdom and deal with the two remaining Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses.'

Lux understood that in order to get the maximum quest rewards, he needed to wipe out the entire Monster Army from the face of the map, leaving not a single one of them behind.

While the Half-Elf was laying down the groundwork of his plan to finish the mission as early as possible, the silver-haired Devil in the Ammarian Kingdom was also busy formulating ways to deal with the current situation.

'There is no need to fight them,' the silver-haired Devil thought after spending hours of pondering. 'All I need to do is secure that Dragon Humanoid and suppress his soul. As long as I am able to become the dominant party, I will be able to control his body, allowing me to leave this place for good.'

Although his original goal was to kill Lux and avenge his previous failure, Gaap's appearance had thrown a wrench into his plans.

Since that was the case, the silver-haired Devil decided to focus on his main objective, which was to possess Aur's body and use the power of the Abyss to suppress the Dragonoid's soul, sealing it away at the deepest corner of his subconscious mind.

By doing so, he would become the sole owner of the body, allowing him to do whatever he wished to do with it.

Truth be told, the silver-haired Devil wouldn't care even if the entire Monster Army were wiped out as long as he was able to secure Aur's body. In fact, he intended to use the Monster Army as a distraction, while he focused his attention on the Dragon Prince, whom he had selected to become the vessel of his soul.

His true body was still trapped at the Final Gate of the Apocalypse. The only reason why he was able to move to the other Dimension within the Domain of

the Fallen was his ability to create temporary bodies, which people referred to as homunculi.

The body he's currently possessing was one of his best creations, allowing him to temporarily use it as a vessel and have the Rank of a Dreadnaught World Boss.

'I better lay out the groundwork just to be sure,' the silver-haired Devil mused as he looked at the projection in front of him. 'I must do it as subtly as I can so no one will become suspicious when I finally take over the body.'

Ever since Aur appeared on the Gate of Famine, the silver-haired Devil had been paying very close attention to him.

He was analyzing and memorizing the Dragon Prince's mannerisms, as well as overall character.

This way, he would be able to free his own body using Aur's power and influence when they returned to the Sacred Dungeon to clear the final gate.

Vahan Empire...

Emperor Andreas stared long and hard at the projections in front of him.

Currently, he was observing all the feedback coming from the artifacts that Prince Cyrus, Nero, Malcolm, and the other members of the Skystead Alliance were wearing.

After finding out that Lux had such a powerful Master, the Emperor, who had always desired to expand his territory, felt a bit unnerved by the sudden turn of events.

The appearance of the Dragon Borns from the Crystal Palace was already surprising enough. He thought that if he could become one of their allies, the conquest of the surrounding territories would be easier.

However, after seeing that even the four Saints, who served as Aur's bodyguards, were quite fearful of the Old Halfling, his plans for conquest hung in a delicate balance.

'That Half-Elf and I still have some bad blood between us,' Emperor Andreas thought. 'Is it too late to fix our relationship?'

The Emperor of the Vahan Empire didn't know the answer to this question, but deep inside, he was hoping that Lux and he could decide on a compromise.

Out of all the people that were observing the Half-Elf after he entered the Gate of the Famine, it was Emperor Vahan who was starting to feel the pressure about making Lux his enemy.

Before, he thought that the red-headed teenager was someone that he could easily kill if he wanted to.

However, after seeing his incredibly speedy growth, the Emperor was feeling a bit apprehensive that it might only take a year, or two, before the Half-Elf came to look for him to settle old scores.

If that were to really happen, he was afraid that, even if the entirety of the Skystead Alliance were to declare war against the Half-Elf, the one who would lose in the end would be them.

Chapter 702: I Hope I'm Just Overthinking Things

Three days after the battle at the City of Peyton, an army composed of ten thousand soldiers arrived at the city.

Leading this army was none other than Great General Sherlock. He had received General Fahad's letter, telling him of the battle that had transpired a few days ago.

"It's good to see you again, Great General," Lux said with a smile.

"Lux, why is it that everytime I see you, our Kingdom is always just a few steps away from complete destruction?" Great General Sherlock asked in a teasing tone. "Death God of the Battlefield. That is what we call you, but I think Herald of Death is a more apt title, don't you think so?"

Lux smirked because he could tell that the Great General was just joking.

"Thanks for giving me such a cool title," Lux replied as he gave the Great General a thumbs up. "I like it."

This time, it was Great General Sherlock's turn to chuckle.

"I've read General Fahad's letter, and I'm quite shocked by what he wrote to me," General Sherlock said. "Can we talk about it in more detail after my men have been given their temporary quarters?"

"Of course. I'm staying at the Mayor's Residence, along with my Mercenary Group. You can find us there, Great General."

"Understood. I'll see you later."

After bidding his goodbye, Great General Sherlock led his men to the city's center.

"Are we really going to waste our time here?" Prince Cyrus asked with an annoyed look on his face. "It has already been three days since the battle ended. How long do we have to stay here?"

Lux glanced at the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire and arched an eyebrow.

"No one is stopping you from leaving this place, you know?" Lux stated. "If you really want to leave then you can go. I'm not going to stop you."

"Y-You!" Prince Cyrus wanted to tell the Half-Elf that he should stop wasting his, and everyone's time. But, after hearing Lux's reply, he was unable to come up with words that could force the Half-Elf to go to the Ammarian Kingdom with him.

What the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire didn't know was that Lux had already sent Zagan and Shax to scout the borders of the Ammarian Kingdom.

Gaap was still sleeping, and Lux didn't want to leave him behind if it was possible.

However, Carol, who was guarding her Master, informed the Half-Elf that he could just leave his safety to her, and do whatever he needed to do.

Because of this, Lux no longer felt too worried and sent his two fastest scouts to check on the current situation of the Ammarian Kingdom.

He didn't want to rely on his Master to solve all of his problems for him, and he had a feeling that Gaap had no intention of helping him again on this expedition.

Although no words were spoken between them, the Half-Elf understood that his Master did what he did for a reason, as for whatever that reason was, they would have a proper talk when Gaap regained consciousness.

He was also very curious about Antero's background.

A being such as that was simply too memorable to ignore.

"Your Highness, are we really going to follow that Half-Elf for the duration of this expedition?" one of the members of the Crystal Palace asked.

"Yes," Aur replied as he nonchalantly flipped the page of a book. "You have already seen what he and his Master are capable of. If we want to clear this dungeon, and have all of you gain the ability to bring more people to enter the Gate of the Apocalypse, we will need his help."

Aur then glanced at the remaining members of his entourage in a calm manner.

"I know that all of you are dissatisfied with my decision," Aur stated. "But, I am not here to cater to your petty pride and arrogance. Even if all of you attacked Lux at the same time, I can guarantee that all of you will die before any of you can even touch a strand of his hair. Now, I understand why our Steward's Grandson, Cethus, is following him."

The members of Aur's entourage no longer said anything because none of them had the ability to surpass what Lux had done in the short period of time he had been in the Gate of Famine.

During their first try, they only lasted for several days before they had all been annihilated by the Monster Army that had overwhelmed them in both quality and quantity.

No one blamed them when they failed because even the Saints, as well as the High-Rankers who saw everything that happened, deemed that there was no possible way that mere Initiates could defeat the gate.

But, after Lux made his appearance, the seemingly impossible hurdle was now easily solved.

This shocked all the Rankers that were currently outside the Gate of the Fallen, making them see the Half-Elf in a new light.

"I've already made my decision," Aur said in a tone that would not allow any kind of opposition. "Do not try to dissuade me again. Anyone who does will not be allowed to accompany me on the next expedition. Do I make myself clear?"

""Yes, Your Highness!""

Aur shifted his gaze back to the book he was reading.

This was one of the records that belonged in the library of the Crystal Palace pertaining to the Golem of Destruction that had wreaked havoc across the land during the first invasion of the Abyssal Race.

Originally, he didn't think much about the history of what had happened in the past. However, after seeing Antero, he realized that being ignorant of the past might come to bite him in the present.

As the future King of the Crystal Palace, he should know more about the powerhouses of the world.

People whom he should form connections with, and those he couldn't afford to offend.

'Mother, out of all the visions you have seen about the future, did you also see this scene?' Aur thought.

Before he left the Crystal Palace, his mother told him that he would meet a red-headed Half-Elf on this expedition in the Domain of the Fallen.

She said that whatever happened, Aur should not antagonize this person even though he didn't look that special.

Just as his mother said, Aur had been paying close attention to whatever Lux was doing. He even asked the Vahan Empire for every bit of information that they had of him.

Although Lux had done many amazing things, he wasn't that impressed by it. He was certain that if he faced the same trials as the Half-Elf did in the past,

he would have also won the war against the Ammarian Kingdom, even if the odds were against his favor.

But now, he had to correct this mindset.

Even though he could also fight a Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster alone, he was unable to fight against a Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss.

An ordinary Dreadnaught-Ranked Monster was nothing compared to its World Boss counterpart.

If the Giant Earth Turtle hadn't appeared, Aur was certain that Lux would have been able to defeat the monster that none of them could defeat at their current Rank.

'Still, why do I feel like someone has been observing me ever since I came through the Gate of Famine this time around?' Aur thought. 'I didn't feel this way in the past.'

He understood that everyone was watching what was happening inside the Dungeon through the artifacts they carried. However, the pair of eyes that had been watching him was different, and it made him feel as if he was truly in danger.

'I hope I'm just overthinking things.' Aur sighed.

He wasn't aware that the feeling he had was on point, and even at that moment, the silver-haired Devil was looking at him, even though they were miles apart from each other.

Chapter 703: The Blade Rider

"We have sent several scouts to every part of the Kingdom to check if there are any remnants of the Monster Army," Great General Sherlock said as he pointed at the map on the table. "Watson had informed me just a moment ago that the scouts have not seen any Monster Army that could potentially harm our Kingdom."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. "That means that the last remaining enemies are currently within the borders of the Ammarian Kingdom."

Great General Sherlock snorted. Clearly, he had no love for the Kingdom that had repeatedly sent their armies to try to conquer their lands.

The Half-Elf also understood what the Great General was thinking. Because of this, he no longer said anything.

"I have also sent my own scouts to the Ammarian Kingdom," Lux stated. "Contrary to what I expected, only the outer cities have been destroyed. Those near the center of the Kingdom remained intact, but the two Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters seemed to have occupied the Capital City."

Lux knew that saying this to the Great General would not change things, but he still felt that the Gnome should know about the current situation of their greatest rival.

"So, what do you plan to do?" Great General Sherlock asked. "Are you going to poke the hornet's nest?"

Lux nodded. "I am not doing this because I want to, Great General. You also know that just like you, I have no love for the Ammarian Kingdom. However, regardless of what I feel, I must go."

Great Sherlock didn't know why Lux wanted to go to the Ammarian Kingdom just to fight against Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters. Still, he had known the Half-Elf long enough to understand that he had his reasons for doing so.

"Do you need anything from us?" Great General Sherlock asked. "If it is within our abilities, we will lend you our hand."

"Yes, there is one thing I need from you, Great General," Lux replied.

"Speak. I'm all ears."

"Can you give me some of your latest inventions? I'm very interested in Gnome technology. Actually, I've had the opportunity to come across something like this."

Lux showed him the blueprint of the Magical Cannons that he had gained during the battle in the Wanid Kingdom.

Just like he expected, the Great General became engrossed when he saw the blueprints that Lux's Shadow Lord, Draven, managed to acquire in the enemy's camp.

Their only regret was that they didn't get the chance to get the blueprint of the Destroyer, which was made by the Mages of the Haca Dynasty.

Because of this, they were doing their best to reverse engineer it with the help of the Dryads, and blacksmiths of the Blackrock Clan.

Even Lux's Dwarven Master, Randolph, was doing his best to better understand this magnificent weapon.

Currently, the Destroyer could only be used one more time. What they wanted was to create something similar, or even something better, that would help their Guild have a Trump Card that could unleash an attack that was equivalent to a Grand Spell.

Although it wasn't able to defeat Calamity Ranked Monsters, it was still very possible to lethally injure Empyrean-Ranked Enemies, if they managed to get a direct hit.

"These Magical Cannons are better than what we have invented in the past," Great General Sherlock admitted. He then closed his eyes and pondered for a bit.

He looked like someone who was having an internal battle inside his head, which made Lux wonder what the Gnome was thinking at the moment.

After several minutes passed, the Gnome finally opened his eyes and asked for Lux to follow him.

After leaving their temporary residence, the Gnome took him to a spacious location.

"Truth be told, I shouldn't be showing this to you right now," Great General Sherlock said. "But, you have saved our Kingdom many times in the past, and I believe that you will not use this technology against us."

The Gnome then raised his hand and a magic circle appeared on the ground. A moment later, something unexpected materialized in front of them, which made Lux gasp in shock.

'H-Helicopter?' Lux didn't hesitate and approached the helicopter-like vehicle to give it a closer look.

Of course, it didn't look like the modern helicopters on Earth. Aside from the rotor blades that would allow the Magical Vehicle to fly, everything about it was different.

"What do you call this invention?" Lux asked.

"We call it the Blade Rider," Great General Sherlock replied. "It is the newest invention, but we still haven't used it on the battlefield. Originally, we planned to test it out against the Monster Army. It is made by the best minds of our nation, and we planned to mass produce them."

"How strong is this Magical Artifact?" Lux asked.

Great General Sherlock rubbed his chin. "Currently, this can only fight against 5 Monsters and below. Although they are fast, we still don't know if they are able to outfly flying monsters in the skies. We added some boosters that can momentarily increase its speed, but at most, the boost would only last for a minute. This is why this can only be used as a last resort to escape more powerful enemies."

The Gnome stopped his explanation before pointing at the two magical cannons on the sides of the Blade Rider.

"Although it can only fight against Rank 5 Monsters at the moment, with the blueprint you gave me, it is possible to raise its firepower to be able to deal with a Deimos-Ranked Monster," Great General Sherlock then took out a scroll and resolutely handed it to Lux. "I pray that you will not betray my trust, and use this weapon against us."

The Half-Elf carefully opened the scroll that was handed to him and his eye widened in shock after seeing what was inside it.

It was the blueprint for the Blade Rider, which made the Half-Elf look at the Great General with gratitude.

"Thank you, Great General," Lux said. "I promise that I will never betray your trust, and put this gift of yours to good use."

Great General Sherlock nodded. "Make no mistake, Lux. The only reason why I gave you this blueprint is because you have helped us time and time again. Although the blueprint of this magical artifact is precious, our people's lives are priceless. Think of it as our way of showing our undying gratitude to you for everything you have done for us."

Lux once again thanked the Great General for his gift.

Although he already had flying mounts to allow his Guild Members to fly in the skies, having the Blade Riders would greatly increase the aerial superiority of his Guild, in more ways than one.

Chapter 704: So, Do You Want Revenge?

Four days after the battle in the City of Peyton, Lux and his comrades finally bid their goodbyes to the Yelan Generals and made their way toward the Ammarian Kingdom, where the last of their enemies were located.

"We should have brought that old Halfling with us," Prince Cyrus grumbled. "If he came along, we no longer have to worry about failing to conquer this dungeon."

Malcolm, Nero, and the rest of the members of the Skystead Alliance kept their silence. They neither agree nor disagree with their Prince's statement, but inside their minds, the majority of them shared the same opinion.

Gaap had woken up before Lux left the City of Peyton. The two of them talked for a while about many important things.

The old Half-Ling didn't tell Lux why he fell asleep for a few days, and Lux didn't ask. Even so, they discussed what must be done, and the way on how to do it.

After their talk ended, the Half-Elf announced that he would now go to the Ammarian Kingdom to deal with the remaining monsters. He added that those who wanted to come with him may do so, and those who wanted to stay in the city could remain behind.

If this was an ordinary scenario, many would have stayed in the city in order to play it safe. However, since they were being watched by their superiors outside of the Domain of the Fallen, showing cowardice was not an option.

An hour later, everyone hopped onto their mounts and followed the Half-Elf, who was leading them to the venue of their last battle.

Since Gaap had stayed behind in the city, the majority of the teenagers were feeling anxious. Only Lux and his guild members weren't too worried because they believed that they would be able to overcome any situation as long as they were with the red-headed teenager.

"The spirits are feeling restless," Cai commented while sitting atop of her Winged Serpent, Coatl. "We should be careful when we arrive at the Ammarian Kingdom."

"Can you communicate with them?" Lux asked while his Thunder Warg King flew alongside Cai's flying mount. "Maybe they can tell you something we don't already know."

"Um, I can do it, but not now," Cai replied as she gave Lux a knowing glance.

The Half-Elf nodded because he understood what Cai was trying to say. Since there was a risk that people would find out about her real identity, the High Priestess of the Rowan Tribe made sure that she stayed in her Boar form whenever she was in public.

So far, only a handful of individuals aside from her Tribe members knew about her true form.

"But even if I can't communicate with them, I can make a guess," Cai stated. "You remember that silver-haired Devil that kidnapped me? He's here."

Lux's expression immediately turned serious after hearing his fiancée's words. If that silver-haired Devil was really here, then this final showdown in the Ammarian Kingdom wouldn't go smoothly.

"Do you think he is one of the Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses we are going to fight?" Lux inquired.

Cai didn't reply right away. Instead, she closed her eyes as if using her Divine Powers to find the answer to her fiancée's question.

A few minutes later, the Boar opened her eyes and shook her head.

"I don't know," Cai replied. "But if he isn't one of the two Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses that we already know about, then things would be a lot harder. That bastard is pretty sly. I still want to pay him back for kidnapping me back then."

Lux also wanted a piece of that silver-haired bastard's face. Back then, he was still too weak to fight against him.

The Half-Elf was confident that as long as the Abyssal Creature wasn't a Calamity-Ranked Monster or a Saint, he would be able to beat him to a pulp.

Two days later, they finally arrived at the border of the Ammarian Kingdom.

It was quite evident that a fierce battle had taken place. No matter where one looked, there was destruction everywhere. Many villages, towns, and cities along the way were in ruins.

Bloodstains could be seen in all directions, but no bodies were found.

Clearly, the monster made sure to devour their victims, leaving nothing but the blood that dyed the ground.

"Let's rest here for the night," Lux said as he urged his Thunder Warg King to land in a ruined city, where several houses were still intact. "It will take us one more day to reach the Capital City. Everyone, do what you can to recover your strength just in case we need to fight monsters along the way."

The Half-Elf wanted to test something that he had learned in Zangrila, and this city was the perfect place to do his experiment.

After everyone had settled down, Lux went off on his own and went to the place where he could feel the strongest presence of lingering souls in the city.

Following the awakening of his Necromancer sense in Zangrila, Lux could see the earth-bound souls of the dead that were unable to enter the cycle of reincarnation.

"Can any of you tell me what happened here?" Lux asked the souls that he had summoned to him. "What kind of monsters attacked you?"

"Devil," an old man replied. "It was a Devil that attacked us. He commanded countless monsters. We weren't able to do anything."

"Everything happened so fast, we were unable to defend ourselves," a man wearing armor answered. "However, even if we had been warned beforehand, it would still be simply impossible to fight against them. We were outranked and outmatched."

The other souls also shared everything they saw during the day of their deaths, but aside from the silver-haired Devil that they spoke of, they didn't get the chance to see the other monsters that were as strong as him.

"I can't find my mommy anywhere," a little girl said tearfully. "Can you help me find her? I've already looked everywhere."

"It hurts... it burns... stop... don't kill me!"

"Noo! Don't come close! I don't want to die!"

Some of the souls had already lost their reason and were reliving their last moments before they died. It was very painful to see, so Lux helped them cross over to the other side.

But not everyone wanted to enter the cycle of reincarnation.

Several soldiers and those who had helped to defend their city on that fateful day wanted revenge.

There were several hundreds of them, with a few of them being rankers as well.

"How about I help you out on this one, Lux?"

Leoric appeared beside the Half-Elf and looked at the souls of the dead with a smile.

"What do you plan to do?" Lux asked.

"Well, I plan to temporarily convert them into Wraith Soldiers until they finish their revenge," Leoric replied. "Although they are only numbered around five hundred, with my ability, they will be able to instantly gain combat experience, making them more effective in battle."

As the Wraith King of Zangrila, Leoric had the ability to recruit ghosts, specters, wraiths, and any other corporeal spirits into his own Legion.

Each member of Lux's covenant could have their own armies under them, greatly increasing the Half-Elf's forces, without him having to do anything.

"So, do you want revenge?" Leoric asked the souls in front of him.

"We do!"

"Kill those monsters!"

"I'll avenge my family!"

"I'll kill them all even if that's the last thing I do!"

"Very well." Leoric nodded. "All of you kneel."

The souls all knelt in front of Lux and Leoric as if they were their sovereign.

"Do all of you swear to acknowledge Lux Von Kaizer as your temporary Sovereign until you finish with your revenge?" Leoric asked.

""""We swear!""""

"And, do you also swear to defend and obey him until death takes you for the second time?" Leoric asked.

""""We swear!""""

"Then I dub all of you Wraith Knights under the service of your new liege!" Leoric raised his sword and a ray of light descended upon the souls in front of him. "Rise! And until you have exacted your revenge, serve him well!"

""""Yes! My Lord!""""

All the souls that had sworn fealty towards Lux received spectral armor, similar to what the Wraith Soldiers of Zangrila were wearing when they fought against the Abyssal Creatures.

The knighting ceremony also raised their ranks back to the peaks they had reached when they were alive, allowing these warriors to fight at their full potential.

Although they were just temporary soldiers that would fight under Lux's banner, having them around would greatly bolster their current forces.

Lux, who had seen Leoric's ability, pondered for a bit.

Gaap had told him before they left that if ever he came across a battlefield with many earth-bound souls, he should ask the newest member of his Covenant, the Wraith King, to make them all part of his spectral army.

After seeing it firsthand, Lux finally understood how terrifying Leoric could be. As a Necromancer, he could revive the dead, but the souls of the departed were still out of his reach.

'Maybe I can unlock a skill that would allow me to have dominion over souls after I become a Ranker,' Lux thought as he eyed the Wraith Army in front of him.

Because of this, Lux decided to go to the Ancestral Grounds of the Necromancer with his Master, Gaap, in order to receive the blessing of the World as soon as possible.

That way, he would be able to unlock his Transcendent Skills, which would truly bring out the power that he currently possessed inside his body.

Chapter 705: Using Blackmail To Keep Everyone In Line

Aur, who had secretly followed Lux, looked at the Wraith Army in the distance with a calm expression on his face.

Currently, everyone was depending on the Half-Elf to overcome the wall that was preventing them from conquering the Dungeon.

'You're really full of surprises, Lux,' Aur thought.

A dozen members of the Crystal Palace, who served as Aur's bodyguards, were also in awe at the hundreds of Wraith Soldiers that the Half-Elf had acquired in a short period of time.

Although they were still not sure whether the Half-Elf's Undead Legion would be able to overcome the disparity in numbers, they no longer felt as hopeless as they did when they left the City of Peyton.

"Let's go," Aur ordered.

The Dragon Prince gave Lux one last glance before flying back to his temporary residence to rest.

Even now, he could still feel a pair of eyes observing him from somewhere. But, after being subjected to this gaze for many days, he had gotten accustomed to it already.

With the Wraith Soldiers guarding the city and keeping an eye out for possible Monster attacks, the teenagers slept peacefully despite the fact that they were currently in a ruined city, where countless people had died.

Perhaps, it was due to how dangerous the world of Elysium and Solais was that they were able to tolerate staying in such conditions.

When morning came, the teenagers ate their breakfast, after which Lux gathered everyone to tell them about the strategy that he had in mind.

"All of you already know that we will be facing at least two Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses when we arrive near the Capital City of the Ammarian Kingdom," Lux stated. "I can effectively deal with one of them, which leaves one more World Boss to contend with. In order to fight the last remaining threat, I will need your help, Aur."

The red-headed teenager looked at the Dragon Prince which made the latter arc an eyebrow.

"What kind of assistance do you need?" Aur asked back. "As long as I am able to do it, I will cooperate with you in order to conquer this Dungeon."

Lux smiled as he explained what he had in mind.

"When we first arrived in the Dungeon, you had an artifact that allowed you to amplify the power of your Dragon Breath, right?" Lux inquired.

Aur nodded. "Indeed. However, I have almost used up the power of this artifact. At most, I can only use it one more time."

"Once is enough. However, can it amplify anything aside from your attack?" Lux wanted to know if the plan he had in mind was feasible or not. "For example, if we all use spells at the same time, will you be able to amplify all of them?"

"Impossible," Aur answered in a heartbeat. "At most, it can amplify two kinds of attacks. If I attempt to amplify more than two, the artifact will break before it can even amplify anything."

Lux breathed a sigh of relief because this was the thing that he wanted to hear.

"Two is fine," Lux stated. "I will need you to amplify both of our attacks. I believe that if the two of us combine our powers, we will be able to deal with one of the Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses. If we can't kill it, we can at least freeze it for the time being, giving us time to deal with the first World Boss."

"Very well," Aur commented. "I will cooperate with you."

Now that one of his immediate concerns was taken care of, Lux then glanced at the faces of everyone around him before explaining the next step of his plans.

"Just like what happened in the City of Peyton, we can expect to fight against several Deimos and Argonaut-Ranked Monsters," Lux said. "There is nothing we can do about the disparity in Ranks, so all of you should focus on helping each other overcome dangerous situations."

"I will also be summoning the entirety of my Undead Legion, which might be able to hold off the Monster Army for a while. Our survival will rely on how fast Leoric and his Wraith Knights will be able to kill one of the World Bosses."

"As long as he is able to defeat it fast, we will be able to overturn any situation with his help. So, I implore all of you to set aside your differences with each other. I know that some of you don't like me, and believe me when I say that the feeling is mutual."

The Half-Elf eyed Prince Cyrus as if telling him "I know what you did last summer," making the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire snort.

After making sure that the Prince understood what he was trying to say, the Half-Elf continued his explanation.

"Right now, we are here as one, and fighting on the same side. I would also like to remind you that people are watching you from the outside. If you don't do your best, and hold back from using your full powers, they will know about it.

"Wouldn't it suck if you get punished because you look like extra baggage in the eyes of your superiors? So, if I were you, I'd go all out and ensure that we clear this mission with flying colors."

Although they didn't say it out loud, everyone who was there knew that the Half-Elf was using blackmail in order to keep everyone in line.

Even the Rankers and other envoys of the different factions could only shake their heads after hearing the Half-Elf's words from the projections outside the Gate of the Fallen.

But, having reached this far, everyone who was looking at the Half-Elf right now understood that he was right.

If they didn't give their best, it would reflect badly on them when they returned to the outside world.

"Well then, there is one last thing you need to do," Lux said in a teasing tone. "No matter what happens, do your best to survive. The more survivors we have, the more people we can bring when we challenge the final Gate of the Apocalypse. Isn't this why all of you are here?"

The Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, and Xynnar War Pact were very desperate to increase the number of candidates that they could send inside the Domain of the Fallen.

The Crystal Palace had a special artifact that allowed them to bypass this rule. But, even then, they could only send a limited number of Initiates that served as Aur's bodyguards.

If many of them were able to survive, then they would no longer feel so restricted or have to go as far as to negotiate with those who had the ability to enter the Domain of the Fallen again.

"Now that we're done here, do you have any questions before we leave?" Lux asked.

Surprisingly, no one asked him any questions. Now that everything had been said and done, they once again embarked on their journey toward the capital city of the Ammarian Kingdom.

As to what surprise they would be welcomed with once they got there, Lux and his team had no way of finding out until it was almost too late.

Chapter 706.1: This Small Fry Is Not Enough To Kill Me [Part 1]

"You guys go on ahead," Lux said. "But don't go too near the Capital City. I'll just go for a bit and take a piss in that forest over there."

Without another word, the Half-Elf urged his mount, Jed, to descend into the forest, disappearing from everyone's view.

"Does he have a habit of peeing when things are about to get dicey?" Prince Cyrus asked.

This wasn't the first time the Half-Elf had done this, and every time he did, he couldn't help but feel like the latter was up to something.

Contrary to what Lux expected, no one left and waited for him to finish his business.

A few minutes later, the Thunder Warg King once again took off towards the skies, carrying the red-headed teenager, who looked like someone who had just reached enlightenment.

They then proceeded to continue their journey and headed toward the Capital City of the Ammarian Kingdom.

Inside the forest, a Half-Elf watched as the group disappeared into the horizon with his arms crossed over his chest. A faint smile hung at the corner of his lips, which only lasted for a brief moment before he disappeared to who knows where.

Two hours later, on the outskirts of the Capital City of the Ammarian Kingdom...

"Something doesn't feel right." Cethus frowned as he looked at the city in the distance.

He could sense people inside the city, but he couldn't see any Monsters anywhere.

Lux remained calm as he scanned the surroundings. Zagan and Shax had both scouted the Capital City a few hours ago and had told him that the area was littered with Monsters.

If not for the fact that they were chased away by a giant fly, who was at least four meters tall, the two of them would have continued to observe the city from a distance.

The fly was very fast, even faster than Shax. It even nearly killed the Nightgaunt. If not for the fact that Lux had recalled him at the right moment, nothing could have saved him from dying.

Due to the dangerous situation, he also recalled Zagan, ending the scouting mission for the two of them.

The Fly was one of the Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses that went by the name Gloom Wing Horror.

Due to how fast and dangerous it was, Lux deemed it best for Leoric to personally deal with it in order to prevent the Giant Fly from targeting the teenagers and killing them before they could even react to its speed.

"What should we do now?" Cai asked. "Should we enter the city and ask the residents if they have seen any Monsters around?"

Lux shook his head because he felt that entering the city would be the most dangerous thing to do at this point in time.

While they were thinking of what to do next, a magic circle appeared in the sky, encompassing a wide stretch of land, including the city as well as its surrounding areas.

Suddenly, everything around them turned red, which reminded Lux of the scenery in Zangrila when he was there.

No other colors aside from red could be seen, making all the teenagers feel alarmed.

"Calm down everyone," Cethus said. "Look at the bright side. There's no crack in the sky right now that is spewing monsters above our heads."

As if on cue, a resounding crack reverberated in the surroundings, and the sky directly above them broke apart.

Immediately, a buzzing sound was heard, which made the Half-Elf's expression turn grim.

"Leoric, I'll leave it in your hands!" Lux ordered.

The Wraith King materialized beside Lux before flying upward to exchange blows against the Gloom Wing Horror.

Just as he expected, the Fly was indeed fast. It was so fast that Lux could only see faint blurs when he tried to follow it with his eyes.

Fortunately, Leoric had the ability to phase in and out of existence, reappearing in other locations as if he was using Teleport.

Lux and the others didn't have enough time to pay attention to the battle between the Wraith King and the Giant Fly because Monsters had started to pour from above them en masse.

A moment later, the ground under their feet shook, making everyone on the ground almost lose their balance.

"Cai! Fly upwards now!" Lux ordered.

The Boar, who had sensed the urgency in Lux's voice, commanded his Winged Serpent to fly upwards.

As soon as Coatl rose in the air, the ground under its body broke apart, and a Giant Death Worm that was nearly a hundred meters long opened its massive jaws in an attempt to eat the Winged Serpent whole.

'A Dreadnaught Ranked World Boss?' Lux's face became grim because the numbers weren't adding up.

He had assumed that the silver-haired Devil was one of the two Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters. However, after seeing the two World Bosses in front of him, his worst fears came to life.

Lux no longer had any time to think about other things as he summoned his Undead Legion to his side.

The Half-Elf summoned a single clone, while Eiko and Asmodeus summoned all of their clones.

A moment later, sixteen Hecatoncheires appeared on the battlefield, towering over most of the Monsters, yet they were still completely dwarfed by the Giant Death Worm, whose massive jaws were open wide, revealing its countless razor-sharp teeth.

"This is what a Raid is like," Lux muttered as he ordered all sixteen of his Hecatoncheires to fight against the Giant Death Worm, who burrowed into the ground once again, preparing to strike when they least expected it.

"Shax, focus on attacking Argonaut Ranked Monsters," Lux ordered.

The Nightgaunt nodded and took off to the skies.

The battlefield had become extremely chaotic, with all the members of the different Factions duking it out with the Monsters who had started to attack them.

Aur flew beside Lux and took out the artifact that could amplify their attacks at the same time. This was the Trump Card that they were planning to use against one of the Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses.

The only problem was that the Giant Fly was too fast, and the Giant Death Worm was too sly, making it difficult for them to aim their attacks properly.

The Dozens of Wraith Knights and Hundreds of Wraith Soldiers fought alongside the teenagers, preventing them from dying.

Since the Wraith Knights were all Deimos-Ranked Fighters, they were able to hold off Monsters of their same Rank.

The only problem was that there were at least a dozen Argonaut-Ranked Monsters on the battlefield, making everyone's heart beat wildly inside their chest due to the tension.

"Fire Snakes!"

Flamma roared, and four Fire Snakes clashed against an Argonaut Ranked Monster, entangling it in its fiery embrace.

Although the Half-Orc was only a Deimos-Ranked Alpha Monster, he had the artifacts and skills that allowed him to deal with Argonaut-Ranked Monsters in a one-on-one battle.

Aside from Shax, Flamma was one of the handful of fighters in Lux's entourage that could contend with Argonaut-Ranked Monsters.

The Half-Orc fearlessly repelled one Argonaut Ranked Monster after the other as he summoned Fire Snakes left and right.

He could control ten of them at the same time, and the only thing he could do right now was defend against these monsters.

Even if he were to fight one of them, it would still take a while before the end of the battle. By then, half of the teenagers might be killed, which was something that Lux wanted to prevent no matter what.

Truth be told, the Half-Elf wanted everyone to survive the battle because he had a feeling that the rules of the Final Gate of the Apocalypse would be different from what they currently knew.

Gaap told him about the possibility that, if they successfully cleared the Gate of Famine, Rankers and High-Rankers might be allowed to enter the Gate of the Apocalypse.

Because of this, Lux wanted to have as many survivors as possible, prioritizing the people who had formed alliances with him.

As if to mock their efforts, something unexpected happened.

Four strong monsters made their presence known, which made the hair on everyone's neck stand on end.

"Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters?!" Prince Cyrus exclaimed. "What the hell is happening here?! Aren't we only supposed to fight two of them?!"

This was the same thought running through everyone's mind. All of them were already reeling from the shock of fighting so many High-Ranking monsters at once, which was truly impossible at this point.

Except, the new arrivals weren't Alpha Monsters or World Bosses. All of them were of the Dreadnaught Rank, which was above the Argonaut Rank.

These monsters all had the ability to destroy entire cities, making killing dozens of teenagers look like mere child's play.

Chapter 707.2: This Small Fry Is Not Enough To Kill Me [Part 2]

One of these Argonaut-Ranked Monsters was a Black Hawk, who currently had its gaze locked on the Half-Orc who had just summoned a Fire Snake to save Einar from getting attacked by a Deimos-Ranked Monster in his blind spot.

An ear-piercing screech spread across the sky as the Black Hawk dove down for the kill.

Flamma, who only noticed the Monster when it was only dozens of meters away from him, couldn't do anything because he was occupied, fighting against a Kobold King.

If he tried to block the Black Hawk's attack, the Kobold King would certainly take this opportunity to cut off his head.

If he focused on the Kobold King, the Black Hawk would definitely peck a bloody hole in his body, killing him on the spot.

Whatever choice he made led to death, and Flamma had no choice but to hold his ground and fight. Suddenly, he saw something in the corner of his vision, making him grit his teeth.

With one roar of defiance, the Half-Orc chose to block the Kobold King's slash that was aimed at his neck, stopping its sword with his War Axe.

Just as the Black Hawk was about to deliver the deadly blow to the Half-Orc, a crude spear suddenly stood in its way.

A resounding clash spread on the battlefield as the Black Hawk's beak collided with the crude spear.

A moment later, the Black Hawk's giant body skidded across the ground for hundreds of meters, sending Monsters flying in every direction.

"You little bird dare to bully my son?"

A disdainful voice reached Flamma's ears, making him grin like a little kid who had just received his birthday present.

Protecting his back and standing proud and tall was none other than the Chieftain of the Blackrock Clan and his mother, Lady Avyanna.

Although her mate, Barca, was the strongest among the Orcs of the Blackrock Clan, that didn't mean that she was weak.

Lady Avyanna was a Dreadnaught-Ranked Alpha Monster, and dealing with ordinary Dreadnaughts was something that she could do even if one of her hands were tied behind her back.

"Flamma, if you lose against that Kobold King, I'll give you a spanking when you get back home," Lady Avyanna said as she walked towards the fallen Black Hawk, who was trying to prop itself off from the ground.

"Don't worry, Ma," Flamma declared. "This small fry is not enough to kill me."

Lady Avyanna nodded before raising her staff high in the air.

"Blackrock Clan!" Lady Avyanna shouted. "Assemble!"

As if waiting for that moment, loud warcries erupted in the battlefield as tens of thousands of Blackrock Clan Warriors bulldozed their way through a horde of monsters, tearing everything in their path apart.

Upon seeing this scene, a raging inferno was lit up inside Flamma's chest, making him shout his warcry.

"For the Clan!"

Lady Avyanna laughed as she, too, as well as countless warriors of the Blackrock Clan, chanted their warcry.

""For the Clan!""

Flamma had always prided himself as one of the warriors of the Blackrock Clan.

But, he never felt as proud of his clan as he did in this very moment when all of them were cutting through the Monster Army like a hot knife cutting through butter.

A good distance away from the battlefield, Barca watched the battle with his arms crossed over his chest.

One of Lux's clones stood beside him, paying close attention to the surroundings.

"Do you think he will make an appearance?" Barca asked as he gazed at his wife and son, who were fighting side by side on the battlefield.

He was itching to join the mother and child, but Lux had assigned to him a very important mission, which was to wait until the silver-haired Devil appeared before he made his move.

"He will definitely appear," Lux's clone replied with confidence. "The only question is when."

Barca scanned the battlefield with his gaze, but even his strong sight couldn't spot any silver-haired Devil flying around.

This was the second time Lux had summoned him using the skill, Heaven's Call [EX], and the Half-Elf wouldn't be able to summon him again for at least a month using this special method.

The Blackrock Clan had received many resources from Lux, including Draconium Ores and Aenarium, allowing them to craft Pseudo-Legendary and Legendary equipment, which strengthened their Warriors' performance significantly.

Because of this, they were more than happy to lend their hands to the Half-Elf, especially during this crucial moment.

In the distance, the Giant Death Worm resurfaced, eating one of the Hecatoncheires whole in the process.

Lux had used one of his Hundred-Armed Giants to lure the Giant Death Worm out of the ground in order for him and Aur to deal it a devastating blow.

Without even making eye contact with each other, the Dragon Prince activated his artifact before opening his mouth wide.

Lux, who was hovering a few meters away from him, also opened his mouth wide at the same time.

An image of a giant Crystal Dragon appeared behind the Half-Elf as he prepared to unleash one of his strongest attacks, the Peerless Dragon Strike [EX], which he could only use once a day.

At the same time, as if they had already done this numerous times in the past, the two teenagers simultaneously unleashed their breath attack, which was amplified by Aur's special artifact.

""Crystal Dragon's Breath!""

A brilliant, and misty Dragon's Breath flew towards the Giant Death Worm, whose skin was so thick that normal weapons couldn't even put a dent in it.

Perhaps sensing that its life was in danger, the Death Worm hurriedly tried to dig into the ground, escaping the Breath Attack.

Unfortunately for it, its action was a bit too late.

The combined Crystal Dragon Breaths slammed against the Giant Death Worm's body, making it shriek in pain.

Lux and Aur raised the output of their Dragon Breaths, squeezing every ounce of Draconic Energy they had in their body to ensure that the Giant Death Worm would turn into a crystal statue.

While this was happening, a brilliant flash of light erupted in the Heavens, nearly blinding everyone on the battlefield.

Because of this, Lux and Aur were forced to stop their attacks in order to shield their eyes from the light that came out of nowhere.

In that brief moment in time, when everyone was unable to see, the silver-haired Devil made his move.

He had been waiting for the right opportunity to initiate his plan. And now that any opportunity presented itself, he was more than willing to take the chance in order to obtain freedom.

Chapter 708.1: A Dragon's Wrath [Part 1]

When the blinding light receded, Lux looked in front of him and saw that half of the Giant Death Worm had turned into crystal.

Unfortunately for them, only its lower half had been hit, instead of the upper part where the head was located.

If only they hadn't been forced to stop their attacks due to the sudden brightness that enveloped the surroundings, they might have been able to turn the worm's whole body into a crystal statue.

The Giant Death Worm then slammed its head against the ground, digging deep in order to prevent itself from getting attacked again.

"We almost got it, Aur," Lux said with disappointment.

"Y-Yeah," Aur replied as he looked at his two hands before clenching them together into tight fists. "Don't worry about it. We will deal with the small fries first."

"Right." Lux nodded as he gave the Dragon Prince a glance. "How about you and your subordinates reinforce the members of the Skystead Alliance over there? They sure look like they badly need some help."

Aur smiled and gave Lux a brief nod. "Very well. Leave them to me."

The Dragon Prince was about to fly in the direction Lux had pointed to when he suddenly found himself crashing towards the ground after getting hit by an attack from the back.

Aur's subordinates gasped in shock as they looked at the Half-Elf that had turned into a lightning bolt, and executed a dropkick on their Prince's head, just as Aur was about to hit the ground.

This created a hundred-wide crater, showing how strong Lux's attack was.

Piccoro and the other Saints who saw this cried out in alarm, not expecting the Half-Elf to backstab their prince without any rhyme or reason.

"What's the meaning of this?!" one of Aur's subordinates shouted as he dove down from the sky in order to attack the Half-Elf who had assaulted his Prince.

"Damn you! How could you do that to His Majesty?!"

"Kill him!"

"Break his bones!"

"Cut off his head!"

The Dragon Borns all roared in anger as they all charged at the Half-Elf who was busy stomping their Prince's head on the ground, expanding the crater that had been caused by his earlier attack.

However, just as they were about to attack the Half-Elf, Zagan, Lazarus, and Revon all appeared in front of them and immediately clashed with the Dragon Borns, whose eyes had turned bloodshot due to anger.

Lux didn't pay any attention to them and kept on hitting Aur's body like a punching bag, making the Saints who were watching outside the Gate of the Fallen enraged.

"Damn it!" Piccoro shouted in anger. "You're courting death, Half-Elf!"

The Saints had unleashed their auras, making everyone inside the cavern feel as if an entire mountain was pressing on their shoulders. Even though some of the people there were High-Rankers, they were unable to hold a candle against the Powerhouses who were only below the Supreme Rank.

"You!" Piccoro pointed his finger at Hector, whom he believed had a close relationship with the Half-Elf, forcing the High-Ranker of the Rowan Tribe to kneel due to the pressure that the Saint was releasing towards him. "Tell me, what the hell is that Half-Elf doing to our Prince?!"

Hector, who received Piccoro's rage, as well as the rage of the other Saints, wasn't able to resist their combined pressure, causing blood to pour out from his ears, nose, and lips.

"I-I don't... know!" Hector forced himself to reply to the Saint's inquiry despite the fact that he had suffered internal injuries. "I don't know what's happening!"

The Rankers of the Six Kingdoms and the Xynnar War Pact didn't intervene because they didn't want to suffer the same fate as Hector, who was on the receiving end of the frustration of the Saints that couldn't enter the dungeon to save their Prince from Lux's one-sided beating.

If only any of them were inside the dungeon, they would have definitely slapped the Half-Elf, turning his body into meat paste.

Unfortunately, no matter how strong they were, they were unable to force themselves to enter the Domain, which only accepted individuals of the Initiate Rank and below.

Piccoro and the other Saints also knew that even if they tortured Hector to death, they wouldn't get the answers they were looking for.

Because of this, they shifted their gaze back at the projection and glared at the Half-Elf with bloodshot gazes, wishing that they could twist the red-headed teenager's neck, and feed his body to the fishes.

Just as the Saints were nearing the limits of their patience, Lux's voice, filled with disdain, reached their ears through the projection.

"Do you really think that you can fool my eyes?" Lux asked with a sneer as he pulled the Dragon Prince's hair, forcing the latter to look at him. "Tell me, Zelken Leth Ailphostes, do you really think that you can possess someone's body and get away with it that easily?"

Lux's words made the expressions of Piccoro, as well as the Saints of the Crystal Palace, turn grim. They didn't know why the Half-Elf was saying such nonsense. However, deep inside, they felt greatly alarmed at the possibility of having the body of their Prince possessed by others.

The Half-Elf knew that those outside of the Gate of the Fallen would be surprised by what he did, and he was worried that the four Saints might vent their frustrations on his allies.

Because of this, he made sure to speak loudly and clearly, making sure that those who were watching him right now through the artifact that Aur carried understood why he attacked the Dragon Prince without any warning.

"H-How did you know?" Aur asked back in disbelief.

Although Lux had given him a one-sided beating, he only received moderate injuries. The Dragon Prince's body was quite strong, and even though Lux kept on attacking him, it was not enough to break his bones.

Of course, Lux held back his attacks because he didn't want Aur to suffer any lasting injuries. At most, he would just make whoever possessed the Dragon Prince feel a world of pain, forcing the latter to leave Aur's body.

However, the silver-haired Devil was persistent, and no matter what Lux did, he didn't want to leave.

This was his one chance at freedom, so even if the Dragon Prince died, he would not leave his body no matter what.

Even though he was just a soul, his rank far exceeded Aur's, forcing the latter's soul to enter a hibernation state and sealing it deep within his consciousness.

Due to the preparations the silver-haired Devil had made, he was able to take over the Dragon Prince's body without any hardship.

After experiencing how powerful and resilient Aur's body was, the silver-haired devil rejoiced that he had chosen the right vessel to possess.

Unfortunately for him, he was not dealing with an ordinary teenager, but a Necromancer, and one who had a Master with a lot of experience handling souls.

All Lux needed to do was seal Aur and bring him to his Master, letting the old Half-Ling deal with the silver-haired Devil, who had taken an all-out gamble for freedom.

But, before Lux could even knock the Dragon Prince unconscious, the silver-haired Devil unleashed his own powers, sending the Half-Elf flying backward.

"You bastard Half-Elf!" Aur spoke in a different voice, which made Piccoro's and the Saints' who were watching the projection blood turn cold. "Why are you always getting in my way?!"

As if the power sealing his body was broken, Aur's rank suddenly rose exponentially, breaking through the Initiate Rank, and jumping to that of an A-Ranker.

"This is the last time you will get in my way!" Aur said hatefully as he raised his hand, summoning a giant ball of darkness that had black lightning bolts snaking around its surface. "Die!"

The Dragon Prince unleashed his unholy attack that was fueled by his rage and bloodlust. In a world devoid of any color but red, the Dark Energy Ball, which was nearly ten meters tall, stood out on the battlefield, catching everyone's attention.

The silver-haired Devil had failed to kill Lux when he sent him directly to the void the moment he entered the Gate of Famine.

Although he didn't know what happened during that time, he decided to just kill the Half-Elf with his own hands to get it over with and ensure that the red-headed teenager would be erased from the face of the world.

Chapter 709.2: A Dragon's Wrath [Part 2]

The silver-haired Devil, whose name was Zelken Leth Ailphostes, sneered at the Half-Elf as his strongest attack was about to collide with the red-headed teenager's body.

He had hated Lux since the first time the latter got on his way and had long been dreaming to kill him with his own hands.

Although things would be a bit complicated once he exited the Dungeon, he was certain that he would be able to keep Aur's body as long as he timed his escape properly.

However, before that could happen, he had to eliminate all the bastards who were getting in his way, and he would start with the one he hated the most first.

But, just as his attack was about to obliterate the Half-Elf, a ferocious Dragon Roar spread in the surroundings.

The Dark Energy Ball suddenly dispersed, shocking Zelken, who was already celebrating Lux's demise.

"How dare you?!"

A growl filled with intense rage reverberated in the surroundings, making the silver-haired Devil subconsciously shudder.

Hovering in front of Lux was a Dragon Token that was being enveloped by golden lightning bolts.

"I'll kill you!"

Keoza's hateful roar made the land shake, creating large cracks that extended in every direction.

Suddenly, the red environment shattered, similar to tens of thousands of crystal cups breaking at the same time.

The sky, which was clear a while ago, was covered with dark clouds, and golden lightning rained down from the heavens, instantly killing any monsters that were unlucky enough to get hit by it.

A few meters above Lux's head, a giant silhouette of a Crystal Dragon, who was at least a hundred meters tall, looked down at the silver-haired Devil that had possessed the Dragon Prince.

"H-His Majesty Keoza!" Piccoro shouted in both awe and excitement as their one true king finally made his appearance.

The other Saints shared the Black-Scaled Dragon Born's feelings, making them rejoice in their hearts.

They had been looking for their King for the past century, and they had exhausted every means at their disposal to find him. However, no matter how far their search extended, they were unable to find any clues about where they could find their King, who had disappeared without a trace.

As if sensing the presence of his mortal enemy, Zelken decided to flee.

However, before he could do that, a giant transparent dragon claw snatched him from the sky, holding him in a vice grip.

"Just where do you think you're going?" Keoza locked his bloodthirsty gaze on the silver-haired devil, making the latter cry out in pain.

The Crystal Dragon's claws were coated with divine power, which was very fatal to Abyssal Creatures.

The Crystal Dragon was directly attacking the silver-haired Devil's soul instead of Aur's body, making the Abyssal Duke scream in pain.

"I-If you kill me, I will make sure to kill this Dragon Prince's soul as well!" Zelken shouted in desperation. "I will take him with me to the afterlife!"

Keoza roared hatefully as he once again increased his grip on Aur's body as if squeezing the devil's soul out of it.

"You think you can trick me, you despicable creature?" Keoza sneered. "I wasn't born yesterday!"

The Crystal Dragon once again increased his grip with the intention of crushing the silver-haired Devil's soul inside Aur's body.

Lux watched this from the side with a calm expression on his face. In his eyes, Keoza was an easy-going Dragon whom he could depend on for advice when he needed it.

This was the first time he saw Keoza this angry as if someone had touched his reverse scale.

He didn't know what kind of relationship the Crystal Dragon had with the Dragon Prince, but seeing how enraged Keoza was, it was quite easy to tell that they shared a very close relationship with each other.

"Oi! Don't crush that soul! Why are you being so wasteful, you stupid Dragon?!"

Suddenly, an annoyed voice, which was similar to someone who had been forced to wake up in the middle of the night, reached everyone's ears.

Lux, Keoza, and everyone in the immediate vicinity glanced in the direction where the voice was coming from.

There, they saw an Undead Wyvern with an old Halfling standing on top of it, wearing an impatient expression on his face.

"It's very rare to get hold of a High-Ranking Abyssal Soul in this day and age, and you plan to crush it completely?" Gaap scoffed. "Stand aside, Amateur. I'll handle this!"

Keoza narrowed his eyes, but he didn't make any move to attack Lux's Master.

As someone who had accompanied the Half-Elf on his journey, it was impossible for him to not recognize those whom the Half-Elf deemed important to him.

An Undead, whose body was covered by a black plated armor from head to toe, appeared beside Gaap.

The Black Knight then opened its black angelic wings and flew towards the Crystal Dragon, who was holding the Dragon Prince in his claws.

"Hand him over," the Black Knight said. "My Master will take care of him."

Keoza narrowed his eyes as he looked at the Black Knight before shifting his gaze to the Dragon Prince in his hand.

A few seconds later, he passed Aur to the Black Knight, making the latter give the Crystal Dragon a brief nod of acknowledgement.

"Y-You! Stay away!" Zelken felt his soul shudder after seeing the old Halfling who was looking at him with a devilish smile, showing off the remaining three teeth in his mouth.

As a soul, he was very sensitive to those who had the potential to harm him.

Even though he had suffered a lot in the claws of the Crystal Dragon, he knew that his fate would be sealed the moment the Old Necromancer got hold of him.

In one desperate attempt, he decided to destroy Aur's soul, in order to have someone accompany him to the afterlife.

Although killing people inside the dungeon would just teleport them to the entrance of the Gate of the Fallen, having their souls extinguished would lead

to permanent death, leaving only a living shell that housed their souls when they were alive.

Zelken could have succeeded in his double suicide attempt if he were dealing with an inexperienced Necromancer like Lux.

But in the face of a true Master like the Halfling, his attempts were futile.

Gaap had already anticipated that the silver-haired Devil would try to destroy Aur's soul, which he had sealed deep inside the Dragon Prince's consciousness.

The old Halfling had seen many who had attempted to do this in front of him, but none of them succeeded.

With a single wave of Gaap's hand, the silver-haired Devil's soul was instantly expelled from Aur's body.

In that brief period of time, Zelken knew that it was a do-or-die situation, so he immediately created a small dimensional rift in front of him that would allow him to escape to the Gate of the Apocalypse, where his true body was sealed.

"Ah... the final struggle of a corrupted soul," Gaap said softly as misty black tentacles shot out from his body. "Unfortunately for you, it's game over the moment I placed a mark on your body."

Zelken's soul had managed to enter the dimensional rift, but it was quickly followed by the shadowy tentacles that Gaap had unleashed to capture the Abyssal Duke's soul.

A few of the tentacles prevented the Dimensional Rift from closing, while the rest hunted down the fleeing Abyssal Soul who planned to return to its true body as soon as possible.

Half a minute later, a screaming and struggling soul was pulled out of the dimensional rift, which immediately closed as soon as he was successfully captured.

Gaap looked at the screaming soul in front of him with delight, as if he had found a new toy.

"Too noisy," Gaap chuckled before he slapped the soul with his wooden stick, causing the silver-haired Devil to go into a daze.

The Old Halfling then placed his wrinkled hands over the Zelken's head, making the latter writhe like an earthworm that had been sprinkled with salt.

This scene lasted for a full minute before the Abyssal Soul stopped moving completely.

Gaap then calmly took out a crystal ball from his storage ring, which he used to suck the unmoving soul inside it.

"Another one added to my collection." Gaap chuckled as he grinned from ear to ear, admiring the crystal ball like one of those wealthy collectors who were passionate about their hobby.

A moment later, the old Halfling stored the Crystal Ball back into his storage ring and looked at the still unconscious Dragon Prince, who was being carried by one of his servants.

"I almost forgot about you," Gaap muttered before pressing the tip of his walking stick against Aur's forehead, making the latter's eyebrows flutter.

Half a minute later, the Dragon Prince opened his eyes and looked around him in a daze.

This scene made the Dragon Borns, who had been beaten black and blue by Lux's subordinates who blocked their attempts to hurt their Master, cry out in joy.

Even the Saints who had been wanting to kill Lux earlier breathed a sigh of relief, seeing that their Prince was now safe from harm.

As if waiting for that moment, the Dragon Prince's gaze landed on the silhouette of a Giant Crystal Dragon, who was looking down at him with a conflicted look in his eyes.

The two stared at each other for a period of time before a sigh escaped Keoza's lips.

Now that Aur was safe, the silhouette of the Crystal Dragon disappeared, and the Dragon Token lost its radiance.

It then flew towards Lux and landed harmlessly on the palm of his hand.

The Half-Elf stared at the token in his hand before shifting his gaze back to Aur, who was looking at him with the same conflicted look that Keoza had earlier.

When Keoza had made his appearance, the Crystal Palace and those affiliated with it had finally been able to see their missing King, who had suddenly disappeared when the world needed him the most.

Chapter 710: Quest Completion

"C-Can you guys stop trailing behind me like ducklings?" Lux complained as he finished killing a Kobold Knight. "All of you are creeping me out. There are still monsters to clean up, and all of you are following me like loan sharks!"

Aur, as well as the Initiates of the Crystal Palace were also killing monsters. But, whenever Lux moved to a new location, they followed him like chicks following a mother hen.

Deep inside, the Half-Elf was cursing Keoza, who for some reason had become completely silent, no matter how many times he called out to him.

"We're not following you," Aur replied. "We just know that fighting alongside you is more efficient."

"That's right! It's not like we like you or anything," one of Aur's subordinates commented. "Don't get the wrong idea, baka!"

"If we all work together, these monsters will all be exterminated in less than an hour. Let's just keep it up!"

"You know what they say, Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much!"

"In union there is strength!"

"Yeah! While you're at it, can you hand over that Dragon Token we saw earlier? I'd like to take a good look at it!"

"Me, too!"

"Me three!"

'These Mofos are really getting on my nerves.' Lux wanted to slap the Dragon Borns silly for suddenly becoming chummy with him.

Earlier, they were like oil and water unable to mix, but now, the oil was forcing itself to mix with the water, giving Lux a headache.

The Half-Elf sighed before glancing in the direction of his Master, who was busy drinking some tea with Barca.

The Heavy Hitters were just chilling, while the teenagers were busy killing. They didn't want to lower themselves to fight against small fries. Barca's role was to deal with the silver-haired devil. However, since Gaap had already dealt with him, the Half-Orc just watched from the side, while his entire Clan helped decimate the Monster Army.

Baronar and the other Orc Warlords were busy storing the Beast Cores of the Monsters they killed in their storage ring, making the corner of Lux's lips twitch.

Instead of a raiding army, they were like bandits taking Beast Cores and Monster parts right under the Half-Elf's nose.

Still, Lux didn't say anything because he did call for their help.

"Mumumumumumu!" Eiko jumped up and down on her Papa's head after seeing that her precious Beast Cores were being taken by everyone.

"Go, Eiko," Lux stated. "Just be safe, okay?"

"Pa!" Eiko replied before jumping off Lux's head and summoning her slime army, as well as her Undead Terrorist Squad in order to get as many Beast Cores as possible.

She and her clones even summoned six Hecatoncheires and their only purpose was to get as many Beast Cores as possible.

Truth be told, the Orcs were not the only ones who were doing it.

All the teenagers had thrown their caution into the wind, and started to farm as many Beast Cores as possible. They didn't usually have the opportunity to get so many Beast Cores in one mission because all their gains would usually be sent to their Kingdom's treasury, or their Guild's treasury, leaving only a few resources within their possession.

Simply put, this was like an all-you-can-eat buffet, but instead of food, you ate Beast Cores.

Prince Cyrus cursed out loud after seeing the Baby Slime's shameless tactics.

"Dammit! How can we possibly win against those giants that have hundreds of arms?!" Prince Cyrus cursed out loud. "They are plucking Beast Cores like they're just plucking grapes!"

Even the Deimos-Ranked and Argonaut Creatures felt that it was no longer worthwhile to stay and fight, so they started to flee one by one.

Unfortunately for them, Lady Avyanna, Baronar, and the Orc Warlords, who were all Dreadnaughts, didn't let a single one of them escape.

The Blackrock Clan had suffered greatly in the war against the Haca Dynasty, and in order to regain what they had lost, they would need a lot of resources to strengthen their warriors.

What better way to do it than to amass a large number of Beast Cores in order to boost their ranks?

"Back in the days, I used to hunt Manticores alone," Barca said after drinking his cup of beer. "But I took an arrow on the knee. One thing led to another and before I knew it, I already had a son.

"Ah, youth," Gaap said softly. "When I was young, I was very popular with the ladies in my village. But, I wanted to see the world, so I left, breaking the hearts of many. Thinking back, I should have enjoyed life more and left a few sons and daughters behind. I'm already old, so I'll just treat Lux's kids as my grandchildren."

"Do you want another cup of beer?"

"Don't mind if I do."

The two Powerhouses enjoyed their Bro moment together, while dying screams spread throughout the surroundings.

Both of them had seen their fair share of battles, and were already used to death and destruction, even thinking the noises around them as nothing more than background music that enhanced the flavor of their beer.

One hour later...

< Congratulations! You have completed the mission Clash of Titans! >

< Quest Rewards >

10,000,00 Gold Coins

Two Random Rank 5 Skill Books that matches your profession

+20 additional Skeleton Gangbangers (Total: 340)

+20 additional Skeleton Arcane Hunters (Total: 340)

+20 additional Elite Spirit Protector (Total: 170)

+20 additional Plague Wing Gargoyles (Total: 100)

+10 additional Liches (Total: 60)

+10 additional Steel Golem (Total: 70)

1,000 Reputation Points with the Crystal Palace

500 Reputation Points with the Six Kingdoms

500 Reputation Points with the Xynnar War Pact

200 Reputation Points with Karshvar Draconis

200 Reputation Points with the Skystead Alliance

< Bonus Rewards >

- Your Doppelganger [EX] will evolve into Doppelganger [SSR]
- Your Peerless Dragon Strike [EX] will evolve into Peerless Dragon Strike [SSR]

< Doppelganger [SSR] >

- None of your clones will disappear unless you unsummoned them, or they have been killed.
- All Clones will have 75% of your Max Health.
- All Clones will have 75% of your total Physical and Magical Damage.
- You can now swap places with any of your clones anytime you want to. The maximum range for this ability is 100 Miles.

< Peerless Dragon Strike [SSR] >

- Create the illusionary image of any type of Dragon behind your back and use one of their Signature Abilities.
- You can now use this ability 3x a day.

Lux sighed in relief because the mission was now over. However, after reading the information about the rewards he received, another notification appeared in front of him, as well as everyone in the dungeon who had survived the battle.

< Hidden Quest: The Gate of the Apocalypse >

- Against all odds, all of you had conquered the Gates of Death, Famine, War, and Conquest. Because of this, you have been granted permission to enter the Gate of the Apocalypse.
- C-Rankers and below may now enter the Domain of the Fallen as well as the Gate of the Apocalypse
- The Gate of Apocalypse will open its doors exactly thirty days from now. Until then, the gate will remain closed until the designated time has come.
- No one will be able to enter the Domain of the Fallen during this time period.

The teenagers who saw this message all cheered, especially those that belonged to the Six Kingdoms, Xynnar War Pact, and Skystead Alliance.

Since the very beginning, these factions were eyeing the resources inside the Domain of the Fallen.

Unfortunately, their candidates were unable to gather these precious resources because they were simply too weak to fight the Deimos and Argonaut-Ranked monsters that roamed the Domain.

Lux, who saw this message chuckled internally because even if the other factions were to send their Rankers to loot the Domain of the Fallen, they would not find anything except for the scraps that were left behind by the two Saints, who had taken everything of importance from it.

Chapter 711: My Sister Also Wants To Meet You. She's Still Single, And Of Marriageable Age...

"Time to go," Lady Avyanna said as she looked at her warriors who all had smug looks on their faces.

Clearly, they had taken a lot of spoils in this battle, and this made the Orc Chieftain very happy.

The teenagers looked at these Orcs with great curiosity because they didn't know where they had come from.

They thought that they were the inhabitants of the Ammarian Kingdom, who suddenly appeared to take advantage of the battle that was being waged between them and the Monster Army.

Of course, Lux didn't bother to correct this misunderstanding because the Orc Army was one of his Trump Cards.

Only the members of Heaven's Gate knew of this secret, and none of them would be stupid enough to tell this secret to others.

As the Orcs left the battlefield, Lux went to talk to his Master, in order to escape Aur, as well as the Dragon Borns, who were hounding him like a plague.

Fortunately, the old Half-Ling was enough of a deterrent to prevent the members of the Crystal Palace from coming close to them.

"It seems that you are in a tight spot, Lux." Gaap chuckled as he looked at the Half-Elf's troubled expression. "It will be best if you don't leave the dungeon the usual way and just head directly to the Guild's Headquarters. From there, the two of us can go to the Necromancer's Ancestral Grounds so that you can become a Ranker.

"I saw the notice that Rankers are now allowed to enter this Domain. Well, that doesn't matter because you have a way of bringing people here and bypassing certain rules."

The old Half-Ling gave Lux a knowing smile before giving the members of the Crystal Palace a side-long glance.

"Before that, Master, can I visit the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven first?" Lux asked. "I've been meaning to meet my old friends and see how they are. It has been a long while since I saw them, and I'm afraid that the longer we don't see each other, the more they will come to hate me."

Gaap frowned but didn't make any moves to forbid Lux from doing what he wanted.

"Well, I think it's fine," Gaap replied after pondering for a few moments. "The entrance of the Ancestral Ground will not appear until the next New Moon. At the very least you should return to the Guild Headquarters within two weeks.

That will give us enough time to visit the Ancestral Ground and allow the World to give you its blessing."

Lux nodded and thanked his Master for being understanding. After saying what he wanted to say, Gaap disappeared from where he was standing, and returned directly to their Guild's Headquarters in the Outer Reaches.

Lux, on the other hand, told his guildmates his plan, and all of them agreed that the Half-Elf should lay low for a bit.

"I'll head to Leaf Village as soon as I can," Cai said through their guild chat. "Unlike you, we will have no excuse when they don't find us at the entrance of the Gate of the Domain. It will be best to not raise anyone's suspicions."

"I will return to Karshvar Draconis and complete my Ranker Quest," Cethus commented. "I also need to sort out the rewards I got from this mission."

"The same goes for me," Gerhart stated. "I will take my Ranker Quest as well."

Cai and Keane had also reached the peak of the Initiate Rank during the battle, fulfilling the requirements to take the Ranker Trial, and ascend to the next stage of their growth.

Just like Gerhart and Cethus, they also wanted to become stronger, so that they would be one step closer to revealing their Guild's name proudly to the world, without fearing the consequences that would happen afterwards.

Perhaps Gaap also wanted this to happen, so he made his appearance in order to let everyone know that he was affiliated with Lux, and his Guild was also under his protection.

After finalizing their plans, Lux talked to Einar, and Val, who had been two of his steadfast allies during their conquest of the Sacred Dungeon.

"We'll meet in a month's time," Einar said as he patted Lux's shoulder. "By then, I will have become a Ranker. Ah! Before I forget, my father wanted to invite you to our kingdom to talk about expanding the cooperation of our alliance. My sister also wants to meet you. She's still single, and of marriageable age..."

The Half-Elf only smiled as he gave Einar the "Are you going to use honeytrap on me? Sorry, I already have two beauties by my side!" gaze.

The Barbarian Prince wasn't aware what the Half-Elf was thinking, and he simply took Lux's smile as his silent acceptance to his offer.

Although everyone knew that the Half-Elf was already engaged with Iris, it was not uncommon in their world for one man to have many wives. Even though his sister couldn't become Lux's first wife, becoming his second wife was good as well.

"I will also be a Ranker the next time you see me," Val stated. "One more thing. Even though I don't have a sister, I have a beautiful cousin. Do you want me to introduce you to her?"

The Half-Elf was very tempted to spit on the Spider Boy because he was able to say all of those things with a straight face.

However, since Val and him had shared many battles together, the red-headed teenager squeezed the words, "I'll think about it", in order to not hurt the other's feelings.

Jasper and Enlil also talked to Lux and thanked him for helping them clear the mission. After seeing what the Half-Elf was capable of doing, both of them decided that it would be more advantageous if they remained on Lux's good side, than to offend him.

Half an hour later, everyone decided to leave the Dungeon after a short rest. Although they were tired, and suffered injuries, they all had smiles on their faces knowing that they were able to accomplish the mission that was given to them by their Kings.

Even Prince Cyrus looked happy because he was able to gain a lot from this expedition.

One by one, the teenagers left the Gate of Famine and reappeared at the Gate of the Fallen, where the Rankers and Envoys of the different factions were waiting for him.

Aur, gave Lux a side-long glance before he, too, left the Gate of Famine.

The Dragon Prince wanted to tell the Saints to capture Lux as soon as he exited the Dungeon, so that they could bring the Half-Elf to the Crystal Palace as a guest.

They had many questions for him, and this was the only way they could think of in order to get the answers they were looking for.

Lux sighed after everyone had left.

"Well then, it's time for me to go as well," the Half-Elf muttered as he gave the Capital City of the Ammarian Kingdom a side-long glance before teleporting directly to the Outer Reaches.

From there, he would take the Teleportation Gate and head to Leaf Village.

It had been a long time since he saw the adorable little dwarf, Colette, and her friends, who were still angry at him for being kept in the dark, during the defense in Whitebridge City.

Chapter 712: Lux's Priorities

When Cai, Keane, Gerhart, and Cethus appeared at the entrance of the Gate of the Fallen, everyone's gaze landed on them.

"Awwww! Don't look at me like that," Cai said with a bashful look on her face after being stared at by so many people. "You are making me blush! Sorry, but I'm already taken. Go find other Boars to love."

All the teenagers looked at the shameless boar with contempt.

They wanted to tell Cai that she should stop being delusional because none of them would want to court her, even if she were to become a Human.

If only the teenage boys knew how beautiful she was in her human form, all of them would be fighting against each other in order to gain her good graces.

"Where is he?" Piccoro asked Cethus, who had a smug look on his face after conquering the Gate of Famine.

"Who?" Cethus asked back with a frown.

"Don't play dumb with me, you numbskull!" Piccoro flicked Cethus forehead, making the latter cry out in pain. "I'm talking about the Half-Elf!"

"Gerhart, my uncle wants to talk to you," Cethus said as he massaged his forehead.

"Not him, you idiot!" Piccoro was so close to slapping the annoying Dragon Born for trying to play the fool in front of him. "I'm talking about Lux!"

Cethus gave his uncle a look filled with injustice before giving his reply.

"He said he wanted to talk to Great General Sherlock and Great General Watson for a while," Cethus replied. "I don't know what he wanted to do, but that is none of my business."

"None of your business? Aren't you supposed to be watching over him because you are his supervisor?"

"Now that you mention it, you're right, Uncle. Well, it doesn't matter. There is only one exit out of this Domain, and this is it. He will not be able to go anywhere unless he wants to stay inside the Domain of the Fallen forever."

Piccoro snorted, but he knew that Cethus was right. There was only one exit from the Domain and sooner or later, the Half-Elf would have to leave it, unless he wanted to stay inside the domain forever.

Of course, they were not aware that Lux had plenty of other alternatives which allowed him to bypass this rule.

Since they couldn't do anything but wait, the members of the Crystal Palace no longer pestered Lux's friends and allowed them to leave the cavern.

"Father, Sir Maximilian, did you find anything interesting in that ruin?" Lux asked the two Saints who had finished their exploration of the ruins inside the Domain of the Fallen.

"We did find something interesting, but we can't do anything about it right now," Maximilian replied. "A special key is needed in order to open the gate inside the ruins, and even using our full power is not enough to create an

opening. Because of this, we decided to leave since there's nothing else to do inside the Domain."

"How unfortunate," Lux commented. "By the way, the final Gate of the Apocalypse will open in a month's time, and C-Rankers and below are now allowed to enter it."

"Really?" Maximilian chuckled. "That's a good thing then. When they arrive here, they will not find anything of importance, unless they want to bring grass and tree leaves back to their Kingdoms."

The two Saints had returned to Barbatos Academy and were leisurely having an afternoon snack together. They still hadn't sorted out the spoils that they had taken inside the Domain of the Fallen because there were a few things that they needed to do first.

It would look suspicious if they didn't meet with the representatives that they had sent to the Domain of the Fallen, so they decided to put the sorting aside, and wait for the triumphant report of the conquerors that finally cleared the Gate of Famine.

"I'll be lying low until the Gate of the Apocalypse opens," Lux stated. "It might even be possible that I won't enter it, and head to other places instead. There are a few places that I've been meaning to visit, but haven't had the opportunity to do so yet, because of the Domain of the Fallen."

"That's a good idea," Alexander commented. "You've been stirring a lot of waves ever since you returned from Elysium. Disappearing from the public eye will benefit you in the long run."

"I agree," Maximilian nodded. "By the way, where are you planning to go? I've heard from Cai that you are very close to the Dwarves in a place called Leaf Village. She added that you even have a statue there. Is that true?"

"Yes, Sir Maximilian," Lux replied. "Leaf Village is the Beginner's Village where I first appeared in Elysium. It holds a special place in my heart."

Due to the fact that he couldn't appear in the Human lands because he failed to pass the trial in Wildgarde Stronghold, Lux was sent to Leaf Village by Eriol in order to help him embark on the journey that had been delayed for a very long time.

"Be careful," Alexander commented. "You don't have to go to the Gate of the Apocalypse unless you absolutely have to. I can send people in your stead. We have a few Rankers who have been itching to check out that Domain for a long time now. This will be a good opportunity to let them have some fun."

Lux felt relieved because for him, the Gate of the Apocalypse wasn't his priority. After meeting with Colette and the others, he would then accompany his Master to the Ancestral Lands of the Necromancer in order to become a Ranker.

After that, he planned to visit the Kingdom of Agartha, which was located near the core of Elysium.

Although he didn't want to admit it, the young lady whom he met once in that very dark place lingered in his mind.

A part of him felt that what he saw was only a dream, but the other half insisted that everything that happened was real.

Because of this, Lux wanted to go to Agartha in order to help that person and, if possible, bring her to a place with light, allowing her to leave that dark place that served as her prison.

With these swirling feelings inside his heart, the Half-Elf entered the Teleportation Gate inside his Guild Headquarters that allowed him to instantly appear in Leaf Village, where the Village Head, Cedwyn, was waiting to give him some good news.

Chapter 713: Cedwyn's Proposal

When Lux arrived in Leaf Village, the first thing he noticed was how different it was since the last time he saw it.

More structures had been built in the surroundings, with some of them even being three stories tall.

"Pa!"

"You're right, Eiko. Leaf Village is starting to look more like a town than a village."

"Un!"

The Half-Elf felt happy about these changes because Leaf Village held a special place in his heart.

The Half-Elf was about to go find Grandma Annie in her candy shop when he heard someone calling out to him from behind.

"Lux, my boy! You're finally here!"

The red-headed teenager couldn't help but smile after seeing the Village Head, Cedwyn, running towards him with an excited look on his face.

"I've been waiting for you for a long time," Cedwyn said. "I know you are busy, but you should find some time to visit us from time to time."

"I'm sorry, Sir Cedwyn," Lux replied. "Things have been quite hectic on my side that I haven't been able to find the time to visit. Don't worry, I'll do my best to pop in here once in a while moving forward."

Cedwyn nodded before dragging the Half-Elf towards the West Gate of the City. There, he found a large building that he hadn't seen in the past.

It was none other than a barracks that could house at least five hundred people, and their mounts.

"Monsters no longer attack the village due to the Guardian Crystal, so we can now focus our attention on expansion," Cedwyn explained. "With Commander Thoram's approval, the Village Guards have been promoted to the Riders of Leaf Village. This Barracks was built so they can train, as well as Master the techniques they need so they know how to be efficient Dwarven Riders."

"Currently, we are sending people to the Savage Lands to accompany Cadmus (Draconian Kobold) and Sid. The growth of the new recruits is quite phenomenal and all of them are Grade C and Grade B Apostles now."

"Although they are weaker compared to your bodyguard, and the Kobolds, they still hold their ground against the lackeys of the strong monsters they come across in the Savage Lands. I have a feeling that if they continued to grow at this pace, they will all become Initiates in a few months time."

The Village Head even motioned for Lux to crouch down a bit so that he could whisper something in his ears.

"When do you think we can add them as members of the Guild?" Cedwyn whispered. "I can tell that you're already at the peak of the Initiate Rank and will become a Ranker soon. I'm not saying that we should announce our name for the entire world to hear, I just think that we should bolster our ranks more.

"This will allow us to do many things at once. For example, while you are handling your stuff, we can explore Dungeons or gather information. Heck, we can even open shops all around the Kingdom, selling stuff, but their real purpose would be to gather important intel that will benefit our Guild Members as a whole.

"You already have Commander Thoram, and the head of the Adventurer's Guild in the Stronghold of Norria, Keelan. Just the two of them alone can gather a lot of important information. We are just not doing it right now because we don't have your orders to do so. How about you choose a representative to handle the Guild's matters here in the Kingdom of Gweliven, while you go off on your adventures?"

Lux pondered for a bit and realized that what Cedwyn said was right. Currently, everything going on in Heaven's Gate revolved around him.

Wherever he went, his Guild Members would follow.

Since he was the Guildmaster of the only Mythical Guild in the world, his members' actions were limited because they had no idea of what the Half-Elf envisioned for the future.

"I'm sorry, Sir Cedwyn," Lux said with a bitter smile. "I hadn't thought that far. You are right, we need to expand our guild's operations, even when I'm not around. So, what do you think? Who should I choose to become the representative of Heaven's Gate here in the Kingdom of Gweliven?"

Cedwyn already had a candidate in mind, so he told Lux the name of the one whom he deemed fit to take on the job.

"It is impossible for Commander Thoram to take control of the Branch Guild because he has a lot of responsibilities and answers directly to His Majesty," Cedwyn stated. "Therefore, I suggest that we pick Guildmaster Keelan. With

his connections, he will be able to effectively lay out the foundations for our Guild without arising any suspicion.

"You have chosen Ex-General Garret to become the steward in the Outer Reaches, so it will be best if you inform him about Keelan, so both of them can effectively collaborate with each other. Who knows? With two great minds working together, they might surprise you one of these days!"

Lux nodded his head to acknowledge Cedwyn's words.

Garret was once the Great General of the Haca Dynasty, which meant that he was a man who stood above tens of thousands. No one would become the Great General of a nation unless he had the skills to back it up.

Guildmaster Keelan was the Head of the Adventurer's Guild in the Stronghold of Norria. Lux was certain that someone of his standing had a few tricks up his sleeve.

In fact, the Half-Elf was feeling that if Garret and Keelan really worked together, they might create an organization that might threaten the stability of an entire kingdom.

'They're not going to launch a Coup d'etat, right?' Lux thought.

He could tell that Garret and Keelan were both ambitious people. If given enough time, resources, and manpower, they might really threaten the Kingdom of Gweliven if Lux didn't rein them in.

Even so, he was very eager to see how far, and how wide the influence of his guild would become in a few months, after he had given the nod to mobilize their people.

'Now I'm feeling like one of the leaders of those shady Dark Guilds that only operate in the shadows,' Lux mused. 'Still... this is worth a shot.'

Because of Cedwyn's suggestion, Lux decided to talk with Garret and Keelan privately in the Guild Chat.

A year from now, the Half-Elf would realize that he made the right decision in designating the two capable individuals to manage his guild for him.

Garret and Keelan would go above and beyond their means to ensure that their Mythical Guild would truly be able to show their might the moment they decided to make their presence known to the entire world.

Chapter 714: Lux's Proxy Guild

"Eiko!"

"Cora! Nora!"

"Yay!"

The three baby slimes who hadn't seen each other for a while greeted each other.

Laura and Livia, who had now become full-fledged Alchemists under the teachings of Grandma Annie, had improved by leaps and bounds due to the power of the Pseudo-Transcendent Flames that were given to them.

Heidi, who had become close friends with Laura and Livia, was helping in the shop by making candies. Since she wasn't able to come with them to the Wanid Kingdom, she decided to master the art of baking and making sweets with the help of her mother, Lilia.

Bedivere's family had completely integrated into Leaf Village, and now, everyone treated them as good neighbors and friends.

"Grandma Annie, you're looking a lot younger now," Lux said with surprise. "Did you eat something good?"

Grandma Annie chuckled after hearing Lux's compliment. After receiving the Transcendent Flames and the Guild Buffs of Heaven's Gate, her frail body seemed to have gotten a second chance at life, and her appearance had become younger by several years.

Right now, Grandma Annie looked like someone in her early forties, shocking almost all of the villagers of Leaf Village.

Even Lux's blacksmith Master, Randolph, had the same changes to his body, making Cedwyn, who was the village chief, quite envious of them.

"The power of the Transcendent Flames is truly remarkable," Grandma Annie replied. "Also, because of the resources that you have given me and Randolph, we have broken through the Initiate Rank. perhaps, that is the reason why our bodies became a bit younger compared to before."

Lux pondered for a bit before nodding his head. This was the only explanation that he could think of as to why the kind Grandma of Leaf Village had turned into the kind Auntie of Leaf Village.

"Grandma Annie, how is the progress of the potions that we need for our future guild members going?" Lux asked.

"It is going at a very good pace," Grandma Annie answered. "With Laura and Livia helping me with Alchemy, we are able to finish dozens of potions in a day. Also, Heidi and her mother, Lilia, have taken the burden of running the Candy Shop from me. This gave me more time to focus on Alchemy, allowing me to quickly finish the potions that we will put in our Guild's Treasury."

"That's good to hear." Lux nodded. "I'll be going to the capital city of Aeronwen soon. Do you need something from there, Grandma?"

(A/N: Aeronwen is the capital city of the Kingdom of Gweliven).

Grandma Annie didn't answer right away. Instead, she glanced at her two apprentices, who were busy crafting stamina pills.

"If you can get us an Advanced Alchemy Book that contains advanced pill and potion recipes, it will help us greatly," Grandma Annie replied. "And, if possible, get us high-quality cauldrons as well. My cauldrons here are old, and I want to give Laura and Livia new equipment."

"Consider it done, Grandma."

"Thank you, Lux."

Grandma Annie then handed the Half-Elf a small pouch containing several candied fruits of various colors.

"Heidi and Lilia made these candied fruits a few days ago," Grandma Annie stated. "Take them with you. You're going to meet with Colette and the others, right? Make sure to greet them on my behalf as well."

Lux happily accepted the candy pouch from Grandma Annie and took a red-colored candied fruit from it, tossing it inside his mouth.

"Delicious!" Lux wasn't able to help but praise the candied fruit that was made by Heidi and her mother, Lilia. "Do you want one, Eiko?"

"Un!" Eiko nodded and crawled on Lux's shoulder to make it more convenient for her Papa to feed her the candy.

Just like the Half-Elf, Eiko loved the taste of the candied fruit and asked Lux to give her some more.

Seeing this, Grandma Annie chuckled and procured one more pouch of candied fruit from her storage ring.

"I'm afraid that Eiko will finish up all those candies before you meet your friends," Grandma Annie commented as she handed the pouch of candies in her hands. "Here, give this to Colette and the others."

"Thank you, Grandma," Lux accepted the gift because he shared the same opinion as Grandma Annie. "I'll be going now. If you need anything, just tell me in the Guild Chat."

"Bye bye, Big Brother Lux!" Laura said with a smile. "Bye bye, Eiko!"

"When you come back, make sure you bring us souvenirs as well." Livia grinned.

"Bye Bye!" Nora and Cora waved at Lux and Eiko and bid their farewells.

Eiko also waved at her friends with a smile as she also bid them goodbye. "Bye!"

After making sure that Grandma Annie didn't have any major concerns with the pill and potion production for the guild, Lux returned to the Town's Plaza, where he could use the Teleportation Gate to teleport to the Stronghold of Norria.

After becoming part of his Guild, Thoram thought that it would be more convenient to have a teleportation gate in Leaf Village that was also connected to his Stronghold.

Because of this, the coordinates for the Stronghold of Norria had been added to the Teleportation Gate of Leaf Village, allowing those who had received permission from the Commander of the Stronghold to instantly teleport into his territory.

Stronghold of Norria...

Keelan, the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild in the Stronghold of Norria, was already waiting for Lux's arrival.

After being given the authority to manage the affairs of Heaven's Gate in the Kingdom of Gweliven, Keelan didn't waste any time and ordered one of his most trusted subordinates to create a Guild known as Ars Goetia.

This was the name of the proxy guild that Lux and his comrades used whenever someone asked them for their Guild's Name.

Since they couldn't casually say "Oh, I'm a member of Heaven's Gate. Have you heard of us? You haven't? Well, I don't like to brag, but we are actually the only Mythical Guild in the world."

The moment they say something like that, thousands of people would immediately pester Lux's Guild Members for the opportunity to join their guild.

Of course, if those with malicious intentions knew about this, they would do everything in their power to take over their Guild by any means necessary.

"I've used the spare token given to me by His Majesty, and it allowed me to create a Silver-Ranked Guild," Keelan explained. "For the time being, I will talk to some of my acquaintances and ask them to lend me some manpower. Of course, if you know someone who is quite influential, we may be able to use their name to convince other people to join us."

For some reason, the first person that came to Lux's mind when Keelan asked of an influential person was none other than the Third Princess of the Kingdom of Gweliven, Anastasia.

"Well, I'm not sure if she will help us, but I'll talk to her if I see her in the Capital City," Lux replied.

"She?" Keelan arched an eyebrow. "I happen to know a lot of people. Do I know her?"

"Yes. She's none other than Princess Anastasia."

"Princess Anastasia? Hmm... she has her own faction, so having her as one of our supporters will definitely help us in the long run. Are the two of you close?"

Lux pondered for a bit before replying with uncertainty.

"I think we parted on good terms with each other," Lux stated. "If not, then I'll just ask Nevreal to help us out."

After hearing the name that Lux mentioned, Keelan laughed out loud while holding onto his belly. Clearly, he found Lux's statement very funny.

"Lux, when was the last time you talked to Nevreal?" Keelan asked as he wiped away the tears in his eyes due to excessive laughter.

"Months ago?" Lux looked at Keelan with confusion. "Why? Did I say something funny?"

"I knew it." Keelan chuckled after hearing Lux's reply. "Do you not know that ever since you scammed ten million gold coins out of him, Nevreal has been cursing at you every opportunity he can? He even went as far as to tell all of his acquaintances, including me, to never lend you money or ask you for favors."

The Half-Elf could only scratch his cheeks guiltily because Nevreal had every right to do what he was doing.

Although it happened months ago, he could still remember the expression on Nevreal's face, which seemed like he had eaten a fly when Lux said that the payment for his services was ten million gold coins—an amount more than half of the middle-aged Dwarf's life savings.

Chapter 715: The Heavens Are Conspiring To Make Your Mission A Success

"Matty!"

"On it!"

With quick and agile strikes, Matty delivered several slashes to the legs of the nearly three-meter-tall dog-like Monster that went by the name Gutspawn.

This was a Rank 4 World Boss Monster, the boss of the low-ranked Dungeon that the Golden Slayers Party had to complete as a commission from the Adventurer's Guild in the Capital City of Aeronwen.

Due to Aina's impressive management of her Guild, Eternal, the King of the Kingdom of Gweliven had upgraded her Guild's Status to Gold-Rank.

Because of this, they gained access to exclusive quests that were only available to Gold-Ranked guilds.

Emma, whom Lux had designated to look after the Dwarf children, stood on the sidelines with her arms crossed over her chest.

She was currently in the Initiate Rank and was paying close attention to the Monster that the Dwarves were facing.

If she sensed Colette and her party members were in danger, she would not hesitate to interfere. Having stayed with them for so long, she had started to treat them like her little brothers and sisters.

After being saved by Lux from Twilight Rain, Emma had been given the chance to use the Lycanthropy Mutation Perfect Genes to her advantage, which allowed her to transform into an Alpha Lycan and return to her Dwarf form whenever she wanted.

Although she was now an Initiate, the moment she transformed, she would become a Pseudo-Ranker, capable of killing the Rank 4 World Boss Monster without too much trouble.

"Step aside, Matty," Andy shouted before using a spell. "Fireball!"

Each member of the Golden Slayer Party was accustomed to everyone's fighting style that they only needed minimal communication in order to execute coordinated attacks that made their enemies suffer.

Matty smirked before rolling to the side of the dog-like Monster, just in time to evade a Fireball that collided directly with the monster's face, making it howl in pain.

"Water Spears!" Axel, the Water Mage of the Golden Slayers, unleashed several spears made of water, which mercilessly stabbed the body of the Monster, making it stagger.

"Holy Arrow!" Helen, who was the Cleric and healer of the party, didn't shy away from fighting and also used one of her offensive skills.

After her friends had been kidnapped by the Kobolds in the past, the little girl vowed that she would no longer be a helpless damsel in distress and trained herself to be a Combat Cleric.

This way, even if her attacks weren't as powerful as her teammates', she would at least still be able to protect herself if she found herself in a pinch.

"Grand Cross!" Colette shouted as she smashed her mace against the side of the Gutspawn's body, sending it skidding several meters away.

The blow was so strong that the Monster wasn't able to prop itself back up right away, allowing Robin, who had joined the Golden Slayers Party on this expedition, to give the killing blow with a swift strike of his bow and arrow.

"Power Shot!"

Robin's arrow flew straight and true, creating a green trail in its wake.

He was an expert marksman, and his arrow accurately hit the Gutspawn in the forehead, making the latter shout its dying howl before turning into particles of light.

"Nice shot!" Colette said with a smile. "Good work guys! We manage to clear this Dungeon easily."

"We could have tried the other high-ranking missions," Matty commented. "This isn't even a challenge to us."

"Don't be like that, Matty," Colette replied. "Never underestimate your enemies. If we bite off more than we can chew, we might regret our decision for the rest of our lives."

Matty glanced at Colette before nodding his head. There was once a party of six within the Eternal Guild that tried to challenge a higher ranking dungeon in order to impress Aina, as well as make a name for themselves.

Unfortunately, the Raid Boss was simply too strong for them, ending in a one-sided slaughter.

Only one of its members was able to escape alive and after that event, he left the Guild because the trauma of losing his close friends made him feel extremely guilty.

Although Aina immediately ordered the elite members of her guild to clear the dungeon and try to recover the bodies of her members, it was already too late.

The majority of Dungeons absorbed the bodies of those that died in battle. There was a saying that the Dungeons also served as the graveyards of Adventurers who were unlucky enough to die within its many floors.

"Good work, everyone," Emma said as she clapped her hands, praising the Dwarf children for their incredible teamwork. "I just received news from you-know-who, and he said that he will be coming to meet us soon. Do any of you want to meet him after we leave the dungeon?"

Colette brightened up after hearing Emma's words. However, this only lasted for a brief moment before a pout appeared on her face.

"Sister Emma, tell him that we are going to meet him tomorrow," Colette replied. "I want to make sure that I'm ready to face him."

Matty, Andy, Axel, and Helen all nodded their heads in agreement. They were Lux's first friends in Elysium, and they were very dear to him, just as he was dear to them.

However, the previous incident where he faked his death made them incredibly sad because they only heard about it a few days after the Half-Elf "died".

Because of this, they held a grudge against Lux for not trusting them enough to keep his secret.

After collecting the Boss Drops, the Golden Slayers Party left the dungeon and returned to the outside world.

Currently, they were in the Dungeon Town of Wisp Tree, where a giant tree was located.

This tree was also the entrance to the Dungeon. The Dwarves had built a town around it, making it one of the centers of trade in the Kingdom of Gweliven.

As soon as the Golden Slayers left the Dungeon entrance, they were greeted by someone who made Colette and Helen run toward her in order to give her a loving hug.

"Eiko!"

"Colette! Helen!"

The Baby Slime jumped off the head of the black knight, who was standing near the entrance, waiting for their return from the Dungeon.

Naturally, this Black Knight was none other than Diablo, who was now equipped with a Pseudo-Legendary Armor crafted by Randolph, according to Lux's suggestions.

"I missed you, Eiko." Colette lovingly rubbed her cheeks against the baby slime's body, making Eiko giggle.

"Me, too," Helen said as she gave Eiko a kiss on the cheeks.

"Miss you, too!" Eiko replied, as she too kissed Colette's and Helen's cheeks, making the hearts of the two Dwarves melt into puddles.

"D-Diablo?" Matty stood in front of the Black Knight who gave him a very familiar feeling.

Diablo raised his hand and lightly rubbed the Dwarf boy's head, making the latter smile.

"It has been a while, Matty," Diablo said.

"Y-You can talk now?!" Matty gasped in shock after seeing the drastic changes in Lux's First Born, who had fought alongside him in the past.

"Yes," Diablo replied. "And you've gotten quite a bit stronger as well. You're only thirteen, and you're already a Grade-A Apostle. Once Master knows about this, he will certainly be jealous of how fast you are growing."

Matty, who both hated and admired Lux, felt his cheeks burn due to Diablo's praise. In fact, after being saved by the Half-Elf during the Lycan incident of Twilight Rain, Matty no longer saw him as an annoyance because he had come to understand that Lux only thought of them as his little brothers and sisters.

"Where is he?" Matty asked.

"In an inn inside this town," Diablo replied. "Emma told us that you will only see him tomorrow, so he decided to have me escort Eiko to see you guys. She was quite excited to see you guys again, so Master deemed it best to let you guys meet her first."

Axel and Andy also approached Diablo after lightly patting Eiko's head, who was currently being cuddled to oblivion by Colette and Helen.

"How strong has Big Brother become?" Axel asked. "Is he already in the Initiate Rank?"

Diablo nodded. "Master is now at the peak of the Initiate Rank. After finishing his business here in the Kingdom of Gweliven, he will go on a pilgrimage in order to receive the World's Blessings and become a Ranker."

"Tell him that we will catch up to him soon!" Andy stated. "Next time, the ones who will be saving him will be us, and not the other way around."

Diablo chuckled after hearing Andy's reply. He didn't say that his Master didn't need to be saved by them because he had so many powerful Guardians to ensure his safety.

On the contrary, he even encouraged the Dwarf children to become stronger so that one day, there would come a time when they would be able to save Lux if he happened to fall into danger, which he and the rest of his Undead Comrades were unable to prevent.

Even those who stood at the peak of the world like Saints needed someone to rely on during times of great difficulty.

Diablo firmly believed that Colette and the others were fated to play a role in his Master's journey in this world.

Since that was the case, he decided to pass the Dwarf children's messages to his Master, who was now smiling inside his room as the red-headed teenager listened to Matty's, Andy's, and Axel's determination to surpass his Rank.

Somewhere in Wisp Tree Town...

"Is the target really in this town?" a Dwarf, wearing a black robe covering his face and entire body, asked.

"We have confirmed that Aina's little sister is here," a merchant replied. "I never thought that I would live to see the day when the Guildmaster would send one of his Slayer Candidates to personally deal with a mere Grade A Apostle."

"This just proves how important this mission is," the black-robed Dwarf stated. "Although it is beneath me to kidnap a brat, orders are orders."

The Merchant nodded his head.

The Slayers were an elite Assassination Group belonging to Twilight Rain, and all of its members were composed of Rankers.

This was the group that Scarlet, who was sent to assassinate Lux in the past, wished to be a part of.

Aina had been getting a lot of attention as of late because of her multiple accomplishments in the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Since she was a very talented individual, Twilight Rain had sent many envoys in order to poach her into becoming their partner in overthrowing the Royal Family's rule. However, Aina didn't want to be a part of it and rejected their offers.

After nearly exhausting all means to make the young Guildmaster agree to their request in a "peaceful" manner, they decided to resort to drastic measures, such as kidnapping Colette and using her as a bargaining chip to make Aina agree to their demands.

"Where is she now?" the black-robed man asked.

"Probably still inside the Dungeon," the Merchant replied.

Suddenly, the jewel on the Merchant's ring vibrated, informing him of the latest news about the person that he was supposed to keep an eye on.

"Congratulations," the Merchant said to the black-robed Dwarf with a smile. "It seems that the heavens are conspiring to make your mission a success. This girl, Colette, has just left the Dungeon. Perhaps her mission is already complete."

The black-robed Dwarf nodded his head before walking out of the door.

His mission was to capture Colette by any means necessary.

Since his target was already in the vicinity, he decided to go and pick her up, so he could complete the mission that was personally assigned to him by the Guildmaster of the Dark Guild, Twilight Rain.

The Merchant watched the black-robed Assassin go before shaking his head.

"If you want someone to blame, you can only blame yourself for being stupid," the Merchant said as he looked at the picture of Aina, who was pinned on the bulletin board on the wall of the room. "You should have accepted Twilight Rain's offer when we were still being nice. Now, you will understand the price of rejecting our offer."

The Merchant was one of Twilight Rain's informants who was working undercover in the Town of Wisp Tree.

However, no matter how wide their network was or how detailed the information they could gather, they were unable to gather any information about the Baby Blue Slime that was currently giggling in Colette's hands.

A Baby Slime that had the power to turn Wisp Tree Town upside down and crush the Ranker who belonged to the Dark Guild, who wished to harm one of her closest friends.

Chapter 716: Ending The Battle With A Bang!

"Are you hungry, Eiko?" Colette asked the Baby Slime, who was now perched on top of her head.

"Hungry!" Eiko replied.

"Good! I'm starving as well," Colette stated. "What do you want to eat?"

"Dreadnaught Core!"

"... Okay, let's have some beef stew instead."

"Un!"

Matty and the others, who were walking beside Colette, couldn't help but smirk because they thought that the Baby Slime was merely joking with them.

On the contrary, during the battle in the Ammarian Kingdom, Eiko and her Terrorist Squad managed to snatch one of the Dreadnaught-Ranked Cores that Prince Cyrus tried to sneakily get when Lux wasn't paying attention.

Eiko had even ordered one of the Hecatoncheires to slap the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire away since he was trying to get what rightfully belonged to her.

Of course, the Hecatoncheires held back, or else the Second Prince of the Vahan Empire would have turned into meat paste.

Diablo followed behind the children and walked beside Emma, whom Lux had intended to designate as the Secretary of Heaven's Gate.

This was similar to Alicia's position in Barbatos Academy, handling all the things that the Headmaster didn't need to personally deal with.

Like all Dungeon towns in the Kingdom of Gweliven, the town was built five hundred meters away from the Dungeon's Entrance.

It was done on purpose to serve as a defensive line just in case a Dungeon Outbreak occurred.

Fortunately, adventurers regularly visited the Dungeon in order to thin out the number of Monsters, preventing such a disaster from happening.

As the children and the two adults walked towards Wisp Tree Town, a Dwarf with blonde hair and blue eyes was watching Colette and her entourage from a distance.

He was making sure that the little girl didn't have anyone around her that could threaten him. After confirming that there were only two Initiates following behind the children, he deemed that it was safe to kidnap Colette then and there.

Although he was confident that he could still capture his target even if she were inside Wisp Tree Town, he didn't want to deal with the hassle of unnecessary risks.

'This is my first mission after joining the Slayers,' the blonde-dwarf assassin thought. 'Failure is not an option.'

He had just become an E-Ranker with the help of Twilight Rain, and everyone was looking forward to his future accomplishments. Just like Scarlet, the blonde assassin was a relative of one of the Elders of the Dark Guild, allowing him to receive preferential treatment.

After making up his mind, the Assassin walked towards his target in a carefree manner.

If someone were to look at him, that person might think that he was some ordinary adventurer who was about to take his chances inside the Dungeon.

Simply put, no one would think that he was an assassin of the most notorious Dark Guild inside the Kingdom of Gweliven whom the Royal Family was very wary of.

When the assassin was only a few meters away from Colette, he stomped his right foot on the ground and increased his speed exponentially.

A second later, he wrapped his right arm around Colette's waist before jumping high into the air, summoning his Contracted Beast, the Black-Crowned Vulture.

His movements were so fluid that Emma and Diablo didn't realize what happened until Colette had been abducted right under their noses.

Even the little Dwarf in question was surprised when she suddenly found herself being carried by someone and now flying high up in the air.

'Mission accomplished.' the Blonde Assassin smirked as he glanced beneath him, where Colette's entourage was looking up at him with shocked expressions on their faces.

Just as he was about to knock Colette unconscious with a strike to the back of her neck, he noticed a Baby Blue Slime that was looking at him with an amused smile.

'A Slime? Well, no matter,' the Blonde Assassin thought. 'Maybe it is this girl's pet. At the end of the day, it's not something that could threate—'

Before he could even complete that thought inside his head, something grabbed his right hand, which he was about to use to strike Colette.

This time, it was the Assassin's turn to be surprised. Standing on the back of his Beast Companion was a Skeleton who was wearing fighter's clothes.

Without any warning, Eiko's Skeleton Monk, Bam, jabbed the Assassin's jaw, causing the latter to briefly stagger.

With one swift motion, the Skeleton Monk pried Colette from the Assassin's hold and tossed her off the flying Vulture, making the Dwarf girl scream.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

"Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"

Eiko, on the contrary, giggled because she found this current situation very fun.

"Bomber!" Eiko called out another one of her Terrorist Squad minions, which was a floating Blast Bomb that was nearly two meters tall.

Bomber immediately caught Colette mid-air, which made the little Dwarf stop screaming.

"Whitey, Blackie, Cloud!" Eiko called out her Slime Army to help her Skeleton Monk fight against the Ranker in the sky.

The Angel Slime, the Devil Slime, as well as the Aero Slime, all flew upwards to gang up on the Black-Crowned Vulture, providing their comrade the help he needed to fight against the Ranker.

Similar to Eiko, Bam's rank was at the peak of the Initiate Rank.

He was weaker than the Ranker, but he was able to fight him because he was in an advantageous position.

The Blonde Assassin wasn't proficient in fighting in the sky because he was used to quick and deadly strikes that always caught his target by surprise.

Now that he was out in the open, he found the Skeleton Monk's aggressive fighting style very difficult to deal with even though he was a rank higher than Bam.

Since he was part of Eiko's Terrorist Army, Bam's punches and kicks had an exploding effect.

Whenever the Blonde Assassin was about to initiate an attack that made contact, Bam would stomp his foot, or punch the back of the Black-Crowned Vulture, creating an explosion, which made the poor giant bird cry out in pain.

This tactic made the Vulture's flight erratic, which even threatened to throw its own Master from its back.

The Blonde Assassin cursed internally because his opponent was fighting dirty, making him fear for his own life.

Although he was already a Ranker, dropping down from such a height could still potentially kill him. Because of this, he planned to kill his opponent as soon as possible so that he could recapture his target, who had escaped from his grasp.

Unfortunately for him, three slimes appeared and began to hurl spells at the Black-Crowned Vulture, completely enraging it.

Eiko watched this battle from on top of her Flying Blast Bomb with great interest.

As a battle junkie herself, she was very tempted to join the battle. However, she was also worried about Colette's safety.

Because of this, she hurriedly ordered Bomber to fly toward the ground so that Colette could be reunited with her friends.

Only after the leader of the Golden Slayers party had safely planted both of her feet back on the ground did Eiko and Bomber fly back to the sky.

Now that her fighting spirit had been fanned, the Baby Slime wanted a piece of the action and to end the battle with a Bang!

Chapter 717: Blaze Of Glory

'Sh*t!' Amir cursed internally as he tightly held onto his mount for his dear life. It was like the Black-Crowned Vulture decided that enough was enough, so it began to spin mid-air.

The Vulture intended to shake off the Skeleton Bastard who was punching its back repeatedly as if it was its mortal enemy.

If the Vulture could only speak human language, it would have already screamed, "Why are you punching me?! Punch Amir instead, you bastard!"

Alas, the Black-Crowned Vulture couldn't speak human language, so it could only endure the one-sided beating of the Skeleton Monk on its back.

To make matters worse, three flying Slimes had appeared out of nowhere and began to attack it as well, enraging it completely.

Just as the Black-Crowned Vulture and its Master, Amir, thought that things couldn't get any worse, Eiko and Bomber appeared on the scene, causing the mount and master pair to almost puke blood!

"Eyah!" Eiko spat a barrage of water bullets at the Black-Crowned Vulture's face and body, making it look like a wet duckling.

The Black-Crowned Vulture was a Rank 5 Alpha Monster that was only a step away from becoming a Deimos-Ranked Monster.

However, it still needed ample resources before it could reach that Rank, so for now, it was unable to endure Eiko and her Terrorist Squad's one-sided bombardment.

Although the Black-Crowned Monster couldn't speak, it was smart enough to identify Eiko as the Master of the summoned creatures.

Amir shared the same opinion as his Beast Companion, so both of them decided to focus their attacks on the Baby Slime, who was riding on what seemed to be a floating ball made up of bones with two arms and hands coming out from its sides.

With a scream of rage, the Black-Crowned Vulture flapped its wings and flew towards Eiko like an arrow that had been released from its bow.

Instead of being afraid, Eiko smiled fearlessly before opening her little mouth.

"Transcendent Breath!"

Currently, her Papa was out of her range, so she was unable to use her Mimicry ability on him. Even so, Eiko now possessed her own flames, allowing her to unleash a breath attack of purple flames that had the power to burn someone's mana.

Everyone in Elysium and Solais had mana in their bodies whether they were magicians or not.

No matter how little it was, mana was still mana, so Eiko's breath attack still triggered its effect, causing the Black-Crowned Vulture and Amir to feel a world of pain.

Even so, they endured it all and broke through Eiko's Breath Attack intending to deal the Baby Slime a lethal blow.

However, when they were only a meter away from the target, Eiko's body glowed briefly before disappearing completely.

Eiko had the blink ability, which allowed her to instantly teleport several meters from her location.

Now that its Master was not nearby, Bomber activated its ability which was none other than Self-Destruct, exploding right in front of the Black-Crowned Vulture's face!

The powerful explosion, which was like the booming of thunder, reverberated in the heavens.

The explosion was so loud that it was heard all the way to Wisp Tree Town, making everyone take notice of the battle that was happening in the sky.

Eiko, who had teleported away, hovered a good distance away from the explosion.

After consuming numerous Beast Cores, she had gained the ability to use Air Strider [EX] and Levitate [EX], giving her the ability to fight in the sky, similar to a flying ability if needed.

The Black-Crowned Vulture, who had somehow endured the attack, was now struggling to stay in the air.

It no longer flapped its mighty wings and simply glided in the air, trying to flee from the crazy battle junkie who could summon suicide bombers.

But it had forgotten something very important.

The Skeleton Monk, Bam, was still on its back!

"N-No!" Amir cried out in panic when he saw the Skeleton Monk raise his hand high in the air, wrapping it in a fiery blaze.

"Dynamite Punch!" Bam shouted as he smashed his blazing fist against the Black-Crowned Vulture's back, creating another powerful explosion, blowing Amir out of his mount's back.

Fortunately, Amir had thrown a grappling hook around his Beast Companion's claws, allowing him to hang on for his dear life.

But his relief was short-lived.

The Black-Crowned Vulture shrieked one last time before it lost consciousness and went into a freefall.

Eiko and her Slime Squad all dove down from the sky, like Battle Angels about to deliver the Coup de Grace to the Blonde Assassin who tried to kidnap her close friend, Colette, right in front of her.

Amir gritted his teeth as he prepared for a rough landing.

When the Black-Crowned Vulture was only dozens of meters above ground, the Blonde Assassin let go of his grappling hook and activated an artifact that would allow him to briefly hover above the ground.

With a resounding crash, the Black-Crowned Vulture smashed into the ground, creating a small crater.

Even someone as strong as it was unable to survive the freefall.

It died the moment its head smashed into the ground.

Amir knew that he wasn't safe yet, so upon landing on the ground, he immediately began to sprint toward the forest in the distance.

As long as he could reach the forest, he was confident that he would be able to hide from his pursuers.

But before he could entertain this thought, he saw a flash of light that only lasted for a brief moment appear dozens of meters in front of him.

When the light faded, the familiar Baby Blue Slime appeared, which made the Blonde Assassin roar in anger.

"Die!" Amir shouted as he took out his dagger that would kill the little troublemaker who had gotten in the way of his mission's completion.

Eiko didn't back away and once again opened her mouth.

However, this time, instead of a Dragon's Breath, she spat out a Bone Cannonball that was nearly as big as Bomber.

Whenever Eiko was free, she would spend her time creating Blast Bombs, which she would encase inside a Bone Cannonball.

Although the bomb she took out was only two meters tall, unlike the one that Asmodeus had used to bomb the Royal Palace of the Haca Dynasty, it was still strong enough to instantly kill dozens of Rank 4 Monsters in one hit.

"Boom Boom Bakugan!"

In a flash, the Skeleton Cannonball flew toward Amir, giving the latter no time to dodge.

Thinking that he could just slice the Skeleton Cannonball in half, Amir used a killing blow that could instantly sever a head off from a person's body.

His attack had the intended effect, and he succeeded in cutting the Skeleton Cannonball in half.

At that exact moment, time seemed to move incredibly slowly, allowing Amir's gaze to land on the Baby Blue Slime, who was also looking at him with a devilish smile on her face.

The two stared at each other for what seemed an eternity before the Blonde Assassin saw Eiko's lips move, saying a word that he didn't understand.

Even so, he heard it as clearly as if the baby slime was whispering in his ears.

"F*cker."

That was the last thing that Amir heard before all of the blast bombs that were encased inside the Skeleton Cannonball blew up, engulfing his entire body in a blaze of glory.

Chapter 718: A Nightgaunt's Specialty

Somewhere in the territory of Wisp Tree Town, Amir coughed up blood as he tried to endure the pain he felt from his injury.

Thanks to the life-saving artifact given to him by Twilight Rain, which activated at the last second, he didn't die even after receiving an attack that should have burnt his body to a crisp.

All Slayers were highly valued by the Twilight Rain, so they were each given an artifact that they could command using their thoughts that would allow them to instantly and randomly teleport within a kilometer from where they were last located.

However, this was something that could only be used once. Even if they were given the same artifact, it would no longer activate because it was a one-person-use consumable.

Because of this, all Slayers would usually never use it unless it was a last resort.

"That Slime is crazy," Amir muttered as he wiped the blood off his lips. "I was not informed that Colette had a Beast Companion like that."

Just as he was thinking about what to do next, he heard someone speak to him from behind, which made his entire body stiffen.

"She's not her beast companion."

After a few seconds of shock, Amir hastily backed off as he looked behind him to see the person who managed to approach him without his notice.

"Y-You...", Amir stuttered as he looked at the familiar yet unfamiliar person in front of him.

There had been a time when Amir was still part of the Reapers, which was the Assassin Organization composed of talented Apostles and Initiates, all of whom Twilight Rain was grooming to become part of the Slayers.

Back then, they were informed by their superior that a Half-Elf had crushed one of their hidden headquarters in the Kingdom of Gweliven, which greatly annoyed the Branch Guildmaster of Twilight Rain.

Because of this, he had asked for the Half-Elf to be assassinated by the Reapers.

Amir was one of the candidates that was in line to accept the mission. However, after much consideration, the Higher-ups decided to choose Sid and Scarlet, who were both the best Assassins at that time.

The Blonde Assassin was heartbroken when he found out that Sid had died on the mission.

Amir had idolized Sid and treated him as his rival. In fact, the two of them were very close, so when he learned of his death, he decided to train harder in order to prevent the same thing from happening to him.

Sid didn't return, but Scarlet completed the mission.

This was why the red-headed Dwarf was given ample resources, allowing her to break through the Ranks and become part of the Slayers a few months ahead of him.

As for Lux, his poster hung in the Mission Hall of Twilight Rain, bearing a large X on its surface.

Those who bore this mark were people who had been assassinated, so Amir was shocked to the core to see the only red-headed Half-Elf in the Kingdom of Gweliven standing before him.

"Y-You're Lux Von Kaizer?" Amir asked.

"The one and only," Lux replied as he gazed at the Ranker with a devilish smile on his face.

"You're supposed to be dead! Scarlet killed you."

"You're right. I did 'die' back then. Since you have seen me, it's your turn to die... is what I'd like to say, but I have questions, and I need answers."

Before Amir could even do anything, he felt something wrap around his body, preventing him from escaping.

The next thing he saw was a creature without a face, who had wrapped him up with its tail, sealing his movements.

"I-Impossible! Why is an Argonaut-Ranked Monster here?!" Amir started to panic because he sensed how strong the faceless Creature in front of him was.

He understood that no matter what he did, there was simply no chance to escape from the Monster who held him in place.

Left with no choice, Amir decided to end his life by biting the poisoned capsule that was hidden in one of his teeth.

But before he could do so, the Faceless Creature's clawed hand entered his mouth and casually tore out the tooth that contained the poisoned capsule, making Amir cry out in pain.

Blood dripped down the corner of Amir's lips as his only way of escaping his current situation disappeared without a trace.

"Kill me!" Amir shouted. "No matter what you do, you won't get anything from me!"

"We'll see about that," Lux replied.

The Half-Elf chuckled as he approached the Assassin who tried to kidnap his very first friend in Elysium. Deep inside, he really did want to kill the Blonde Dwarf, but just like he told the other party earlier, he needed answers.

He wanted to know who was targeting Colette, and why she was being targeted. As long as he was able to find out the truth, he believed that he would be able to do something about it.

"Shax, tickle him," Lux ordered.

Although the Nightgaunt had no face, a soundless laughter seemed to emit from his body after receiving Lux's orders.

Nightgaunts were extremely rare monsters, and very few had seen them. More than anything else, they were notorious for "tickling" anyone whenever they felt like it, and those that were tickled by them would laugh until they wished they were dead.

Soon, Amir's laughter reverberated in the surroundings. Even though blood dripped down from his mouth and he was in pain, Amir laughed nonstop as the Nightgaunt used its tail to tickle his neck, ears, face, and nose.

Lux found this scene quite amusing, and even Asmodeus, who had summoned himself on his own, rubbed his chin as he looked at Shax's effective way of torturing people.

"Fascinating," Asmodeus commented. "This is bringing the saying 'laughter is the best medicine' to a whole new level."

Lux nodded because he wholeheartedly agreed with Asmodeus' remark.

The Half-Elf had repeatedly made sure to examine Shax's special skill, Tickle [EX], to ensure that it was a non-lethal ability.

According to its description, no one would die from this skill, making it an extremely vile and potent way to torture people.

Those tickled by Nightgaunts wouldn't die even if they felt like dying no matter what, making them suffer for as long as the faceless creature wished.

"Stop! Hahahaaha! I'll talk! Hahahahaha!" Amir shouted in desperation. "I'll... Hahahaha! Tell you... Hahahaha...everything!"

Lux raised his hand and gave Shax the silent order to stop.

Although the Nightgaunt neither had a face nor said anything, the Half-Elf could feel that it was quite reluctant to stop tickling the Blonde Dwarf.

"I'll ask you a few questions, and every time you give me the wrong answer, I will let Shax tickle you for ten minutes straight," Lux stated. "Every time you lie to me, I will add ten more minutes to that penalty.

"If you annoy me, I will make you laugh for an entire day without rest. Don't worry, I have plenty of stamina potions and recovery potions with me. I can make you laugh for days on end if I want to."

Amir shuddered after hearing Lux's words. He had only been tickled by Shax for nearly ten minutes, and he already felt that he was going crazy.

If he was tickled for an entire day, wouldn't that mean that he would completely lose his sanity?

While he wasn't afraid of dying, being tickled by the Nightgaunt for days on end seemed to be a fate much worse than death.

"Now, let's start with the question, who are you?" Lux asked as he crossed his arms over his chest. "After that, tell me why you are targeting Colette and who are the people involved in this incident."

Amir dreaded betraying his own organization, but he dreaded the Nightgaunt's tickle more, so he decided to come clean and tell the devilish-looking Half-Elf everything he knew.

Perhaps, if he did that, the Half-Elf would find it in his heart to end his suffering and allow him to die a quick and painless death.

Chapter 719: Lux's Plan To Do Them Dirty

"Twilight Rain... I should have known." Lux narrowed his eyes as Amir finished telling him everything he knew.

The Blonde Dwarf had already accepted his fate, so not only did he tell Lux why Colette was being targeted, he even told him the name of the individuals that were part of his organization who were stationed in Wisp Tree Town.

Amir thought that as long as he made Lux happy, the Half-Elf would no longer torture him and give him a quick death.

Lux closed his eyes to think for a few minutes so that he could digest all the information that the Blonde Dwarf had told him.

"Such a troublesome organization," Lux muttered after a few minutes of silence.

He knew that even with his current strength, it was still impossible for him to deal with Twilight Rain, who had remained hidden in the shadows of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Even the Royal Family, who had Rankers and two Saints at their beck and call, were unable to fully uproot this organization and end their tyranny once and for all.

That just proved that this organization was not a pushover and that it would take more than a few tickling sessions in order to bring down all of their branch headquarters in the entirety of the Dwarven Kingdom.

"Kill me," Amir begged. "Please. Just kill me."

Lux stared at the Blonde Dwarf whose lips were still bleeding from the injuries he received. Now that he had gotten everything he needed from Amir, the most logical choice was to kill him so that his secret would remain a secret.

However, although Lux's hands were already dyed with blood, he found that killing the Assassin would be a waste, so he summoned his coffin.

"Come out, Sid," Lux ordered.

Immediately, the lid of the coffin opened, and a black mist came out of it.

When the mist gathered together, the once most talented member of the Reapers appeared in front of him.

"I-It can't be," Amir had received another shock after he saw someone that was supposed to be dead for the second time. "Sid! You're still alive!"

"Amir?" Sid, who recognized the blonde Assassin, couldn't help but gasp in shock after seeing someone whom he hadn't seen for a very long time.

Among the Reapers, there was one person whom he considered to be a very close friend, and it was none other than Amir, who was currently wrapped up in Shax's tail with blood dripping from his mouth.

Sid bit his lip as he lowered his head to look at the ground. He was having an internal battle inside of his head.

The last thing he wanted to see was the death of his only friend when he was still alive, but after seeing Amir in the flesh, he understood the current situation.

There was only one reason why Amir would appear in front of Lux, and that reason was none other than an assassination mission.

Sid thought that Twilight Rain somehow discovered that Lux was still alive, which was why they sent his friend to assassinate him.

Little did he know that his assumption was far from the truth, and the Blonde Assassin was only ordered to kidnap a Dwarf girl as his first mission after becoming a Slayer.

After half a minute, Sid clenched his fist before raising his head to look at his Master, Lux.

"Master, I know that this may sound selfish, and it might even cause you great harm in the future," Sid said softly as he looked directly into his Master's eyes, making sure that every word he uttered was understood. "But please, can you spare Amir just this once? I will talk to him and make him take an oath that he will not tell Twilight Rain that you are still alive."

"Spare him?" Lux arched an eyebrow as he looked at the Assassin who once tried to assassinate him along with Scarlet.

"Yes, Master," Sid replied. "Please spare him."

Ever since he had revived Sid to become a Dhampir, the handsome Dwarf had dedicated his life to him, and he could tell how loyal the Dwarf Assassin was to him.

This had been especially true ever since he allowed Sid to take his two sisters to Leaf Village so that they could be cared for by people who wouldn't put them in harm's way.

Amir felt touched after seeing that the one he treated as his rival and friend was doing his best to save his life.

Although he had already resigned himself to death, if there was a possibility to live, who wouldn't want to live?

After what seemed like forever, Lux smiled and nodded his head.

"Very well, if you can convince him to pretend that he hasn't seen me, then I'll let him go," Lux replied. "If he agrees then I have a proposal to make."

"A proposal?" Amir asked. "What kind of proposal?"

"Become a double agent."

"W-What?"

Lux smirked. "Become a double agent. You will become my mole inside Twilight Rain."

"Are you crazy?!" Amir couldn't help but shout after hearing Lux's proposal. "You want me to become your spy? You want me to betray my Organization?"

The Half-Elf nodded. "You have already betrayed your Organization by ratting out the members that are stationed in Wisp Tree Town. Since you're already a traitor, why not go all in?"

Amir was going to refute Lux's statement, but after thinking about it, he realized that the Half-Elf was right.

He had already betrayed his comrades, so betraying them again wouldn't make much of a difference, right?

"Don't worry, this is not a one-sided deal," Lux said in a coaxing tone, similar to salesmen who were planning to sell their wares to their customers. "You will benefit from this as well."

Lux raised his hand, and a bronze-colored Wyvern materialized behind him.

During the battle inside the Gate of Famine, Gaap had decided to capture the Deimos and Argonaut-ranked Monsters who had tried to escape the battlefield.

He had tossed these monsters into the Heaven's Gate bestiary to be trained by Bedivere, who was a Dragon Knight.

Because of the power of Lux's Covenant, Bedivere could recruit any flying creature, especially those with Dragon Blood in them to become part of his Aerial Cavalry.

All in all, Gaap had captured six Wyverns. They were all Deimos-Ranked Monsters, and Bedivere was able to tame them, making them ownerless Flying Mounts of Heaven's Gate.

Since Amir's Black-Crowned Vulture had died, he decided to give one of the Wyverns to the Blonde Dwarf as one of the bribes he had in mind in order to gain the Assassin's loyalty.

"For now, you can have this Deimos-Ranked Wyvern." Lux offered the powerful beast to Amir as if it was just a cabbage he had picked on his farm. "As long as you do your job properly, I will give you more benefits."

"Believe me when I say that the things you can get from me are greater than what you can get from Twilight Rain. If you think I am joking, you can ask Sid over here. He will tell you what kind of employer I am."

Sid, who was doing his best to keep his friend alive, nodded his head and affirmed Lux's words.

"Master is a very generous individual," Sid stated. "He will not shortchange you. I have experienced this first hand after being killed by him."

Amir blinked his eyes in confusion. "Killed by him?"

"Yes," Sid replied. "Master is a Necromancer. He revived me from the dead."

Lux took this opportunity to summon his Skeleton Gangbangers, who approached Amir with excitement, even looking at their Master in askance if they could do the thing to their Master's captive.

Although Amir didn't know what the Skeleton Gangbangers were planning to do, his sixth sense was screaming at him that these Skeletons could do more damage to him than what he experienced from the Nighgaunt's tickling session.

"Indeed." Lux smiled. "I am a Necromancer. I could have killed you then revived you again, forcing you to become loyal to me. But since Sid is pleading on your behalf, I plan to spare your life on the condition that you become a double agent. So, what will it be?"

The Blonde Assassin stared at Lux's face before shifting his gaze to Sid.

Sid held his gaze and nodded his head. Clearly, he was telling Amir that he should put his trust in him just this once.

"Fine," Amir said through gritted teeth. "I will become your mole in the organization."

Lux nodded and procured a scroll in his hand, in which he would make Amir write a blood oath.

These scrolls were personally given to him by Gaap as if he was expecting Lux to make unreasonable demands on people, so he could bind them in a blood contract.

The Half-Elf was aware that the Blood Contracts that Gaap gave him were imbued with Antero's blood. If anyone broke their oaths, Antero's visage would appear in front of the offender and devour them until nothing was left.

From the very start, he had planned to make Amir his mole inside Twilight Rain, just like Scarlet.

He needed people in places where his eyes and hands couldn't reach. To make this happen, he needed more moles in Twilight Rain.

He needed agents that would inform him if the Dark Guild was planning to make a big move that could potentially harm those who were important to him.

Since Twilight Rain, who was hiding in the shadows, was targeting his friends, he planned to do them dirty by turning their agents into his own agents.

By doing so, he would slowly build the foundation that would help uproot them once and for all.

Chapter 720: Shifting The Blame to Someone Else

"Are you sure he can be trusted?" Amir asked Sid, whom he hadn't seen for a very long time.

"Yes," Sid replied. "I am sure that he only thought that reviving me as his subordinate was a good idea because he was short on manpower back then, but I never felt like I was being taken advantage of. In fact, it is the other way around. It is me who has received a lot of kindness from Master."

Amir had a complicated expression on his face as he gazed at the one person whom he wanted to surpass in Twilight Rain. He didn't even think that Scarlet was someone worthy of becoming his new rival because it had always been Sid whom he idolized in his heart.

"But how should I explain my failure to the organization?" Amir sighed deeply. "This is my first mission after becoming a Slayer. My track record would be ruined if I go back empty-handed."

Lux, who had been listening from the side, thought of a good idea on how to save Amir from his current situation. In fact, the problem wasn't that big in the first place. All they needed to do was put the blame on someone else!

"Usually, when you Assassins are given a mission, you're given a full report about your target, right?" Lux asked.

Amir nodded. "That is usually the case. Although I did a bit of research on my own, most of the data I have about Colette was given to me by the informants of the organization."

"Well then, that makes things easier." Lux chuckled. "All we need to do is prove that your target has a bodyguard that far surpasses your rank, making

the kidnapping attempt nearly impossible. If that happens, your organization will probably send more Assassins to handle it, right?"

Amir's eyes widened in shock after hearing this loophole. Indeed, if the high-profile target was guarded by powerful individuals, a single Assassin would not be enough to complete the mission.

Lux's case was special because his assassination mission had been a promotion contest between Sid and Scarlet. They were not working together and were even competing against each other.

"You speak the truth," Amir agreed. "If we are planning to kill a high-profile target that is heavily guarded by strong individuals, the organization usually sends more than one Assassin to kill them. In this case, my mission was only to capture Colette. Since the organization deemed that she didn't have strong bodyguards to protect her, they sent me, who had just become a Ranker, to do the job."

The Half-Elf then began to explain to Amir what reasons he could give his superiors to explain why he was unable to capture Colette. His plan was to lure in more Assassins to handle the job, and this time, he would not show any mercy and go for the kill!

After their brainstorming session, Amir headed back to the town in order to talk to the Merchant, who served as Twilight Rain's Branch Manager in Wisp Tree Town.

Meanwhile, Colette, who had been saved from the assassination attempt, had returned to the inn that they had reserved after taking the commission for their guild.

She was still quite shaken by the incident that had happened an hour ago. Even Emma, who served as her bodyguard, almost panicked when Colette was captured by an unknown individual.

Lux had tasked her to look after the children, and she didn't want the Half-Elf to be disappointed in her for letting something happen to them.

Fortunately, Eiko was there to save the day.

Had she not been there, Colette and Emma both didn't know what would have happened if the kidnapper succeeded in his mission.

Unfortunately, the Assassin managed to escape at the last second, but the important thing was that Colette was safe and sound.

"Thank you, Eiko, for saving me," Colette said as she patted the Baby Slime sitting on top of the table. "I'll order a lot of food for you today, so eat as much as you can, okay?"

"Un!" Eiko nodded her head happily. "Eat a lot!"

"Still, I didn't know you were this strong," Helen said as she playfully poked Eiko's cheeks. "You're still a baby, yet you can already fight against a Ranker. Just what kind of food have you been eating as of late?"

"Dreadnaught Core!"

"Hahaha. I almost believe you. Do you want cookies? I have cookies."

"Un!"

Colette and the others didn't believe that Eiko had been eating Dreadnaught Cores because, for them, those kinds of Monsters were something that they couldn't hope to defeat with their current Rank.

Although the Baby Slime was strong and their Big Brother was stronger, they only thought that Lux could, at most, fight against a Deimos Ranked Monster even if he used all of his Summons to help him.

Robin, who knew a bit of Lux's abilities, also didn't think that the Half-Elf had what it took to fight against a Dreadnaught Rank Monster.

When his little sister, Anastasia, was captured, Lux tried to gather as many people as possible in order to save her because he didn't have the strength to fight against Rankers.

The Prince of the Kingdom of Gweliven didn't believe that Lux could have become that strong in just a short span of time.

Having thought of this, he assumed that the Half-Elf told the Baby Slime to say that what he was feeding her were Dreadnaught Cores despite the fact that they were only low-ranking cores.

"Here is your order. Enjoy your meal," the waitress said as she placed the dishes on the table. Her gaze lingered on Colette for a brief moment before going to another table to take the customer's order.

Naturally, her gesture didn't escape Diablo's gaze, but the latter didn't do anything and simply sat opposite Colette while paying close attention to their surroundings.

It was not only Emma who felt frustrated when the Ranker managed to kidnap Colette. As Lux's firstborn, Diablo knew how much his Master treasured the little Dwarves, whom the red-headed teenager treated as his little brothers and sisters.

The Death Knight didn't think that someone would actually try to kidnap someone with him around, and it made him realize his shortcomings.

While they were waiting for the food, the door of the tavern opened.

A chubby young man, who was clearly a Human, and a handsome Dwarf, who was wearing a gray robe that covered his face, entered.

Almost everyone focused their attention on the chubby Human, whom they hadn't seen before. The Kingdom of Gweliven was not a place where people of other races could enter as they pleased because the control of their borders was very strict.

As soon as Colette and the Golden Slayer Party saw the chubby Human, they immediately recognized him for who he truly was.

"Big Brother..." Colette almost sobbed after seeing the person whom she thought had died during the defense of Whitebridge Town.

Matty and the others also felt as if their tears were going to escape their eyes as the chubby young man walked in their direction with a smile.

Even though he was wearing a disguise, they couldn't possibly forget the presence that the Half-Elf gave off when they were together.

A presence that made them feel as if there was nothing in the world that could harm them as long as he was with them.

Chapter 721: Diversionary Tactics

"Big Brother!" Colette was no longer able to hold back her overflowing feelings and threw herself to the chubby young man, who readily caught her with open arms.

"It's nice to see you again, Colette," Lux said as he gave the adorable little Dwarf a hug. "Did you miss me?"

Instead of answering, Colette lightly pounded Lux's stomach with her clenched fist, making the Half-Elf smile.

Clearly, the adorable dwarf still hadn't forgiven him completely for keeping them in the dark about his plan to fake his death.

A few seconds later, Helen also joined her best friend and went to hug Lux as well. As soon as she felt his warmth, the tears in her eyes poured like rain.

Although the other three tried to hold back their tears, Matty, Andy, and Axel still teared up as they gazed at the Half-Elf whom they looked up to like a Big Brother.

If not for the fact that they were in a public area, they might have also joined Colette and Helen in hugging the Half-Elf, who had disguised himself as a chubby young man.

Lux felt extremely guilty after seeing the young Dwarves' expressions, so he simply stood his ground and allowed Colette and Helen to use his clothes to wipe away their snot and tears.

Eiko, who felt out of place, jumped off from the table and landed on Colette's head. She then pressed her head against Lux's stomach, joining the group hug.

The Dwarves in the tavern looked at this scene with amused expressions on their faces. It was very easy to see at a glance that the humans and the little Dwarves knew each other and that their relationship looked quite close.

"Let's go back to your table first," Lux said. A few minutes had passed, and the two dwarf girls were still hugging him. "I'm also feeling hungry, so let's all have lunch together."

Colette and Helen nodded before grabbing Lux's hands and pulling him toward their table. Naturally, the two girls sat beside Lux, with Eiko perched on top of his head like always.

Matty and the others had no complaints about this and simply stared at him as if they were afraid that he would disappear again without saying goodbye.

"Relax. I'm not going anywhere," Lux replied.

"How long will you be staying with us, Big Brother?" Colette asked.

"Two weeks," Lux answered. "There are places I need to go, and I only came here to see you guys and apologize for what happened in the past. However, this is not the place to do that. Let's talk after we've finished having our lunch."

Lux then gave Robin a side-long glance. He didn't expect to see the low-profile Prince of the Kingdom of Gweliven with Colette and the others.

The timing was also good because he needed to talk to Robin about a few things and ask the latter to pass a message to his sister, Princess Anastasia, telling her that he would like to talk to her before he left the Kingdom of Gweliven in two weeks' time.

Robin, who received Lux's stare, arched an eyebrow as if sensing that the Half-Elf needed him for something. But since this was not the right time and place to talk, he simply remained silent and observed the scene in front of him like a bystander.

"Waitress, can I take an order?" Lux asked.

"Coming," the waitress replied as she returned to Colette's table to take the chubby young man's order.

"I'd like to order two servings of the Chef's signature dish, Porkchop Surprise," Lux said.

"I want, too!" Eiko spoke in order to let her Papa know that she wanted the dish as well.

"Three Porkchop Surprise then." Lux smiled at the waitress, who smiled back at him before going to the kitchen to inform the Chef of their orders.

Sid briefly glanced at the waitress' back before shifting his gaze back to the table, where several dishes were already served.

Amir had already told them that the most popular inn inside the town was part of Twilight Rain's undercover intelligence network in Wisp Tree Town.

Usually, the most common establishments served as the Dark Guild's base of operation, which meant that they were in enemy territory the moment they set foot inside the inn.

Aside from the Maid and the Tavern owner, there was also a Merchant, a Stall Keeper, and a Butcher, who were all under Twilight Rain's employ.

These people were the Agents that had been planted in the Dungeon Town, which served as one of the important hubs of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Agents that were ready to act when their superiors gave them an order.

After thinking long and hard, Lux decided to let the Order of the Griffin handle this case because his Blood Contracts were limited.

If possible, he wanted to use them to bind an Elder of Twilight Rain or someone who had great influence in the Dark Guild, utilizing them as his eyes, ears, and mouths inside the nefarious organization that wanted to take over the Dwarven Kingdom by any means necessary.

'One step at a time,' Lux thought. 'There's no need to hurry since I can't stay in the Kingdom of Gweliven for a long time. However, I still need to deal with the people that are targeting Colette and Aina before I go.'

Actually, after making Amir one of his double agents, an idea had already formed inside Lux's head.

Since Scarlet and Amir had relatives who happened to be Elders of the Dark Guild, he planned to use them to make these high-ranking people go to certain places, where he and his Undead Legion would be waiting for them.

Of course, although Scarlet and Amir were working for him now, that didn't mean that they would betray their relatives. Even Scarlet, who was loyal to

him only because she was revived by Lux using the coffin, would think twice before letting her Grandpa become one of Lux's pawns.

In order to find an effective way to deal with the current situation, Lux asked his Guild Members for advice in the chat.

"Just kill every Assassin that comes," Cethus replied. "As long as everyone they send keeps on dying, they will think twice about sending more."

"That will not always work, Cethus," the Commander of the Stronghold of Norria, Thoram, commented. "While it may help solve the problem in the short term, Twilight Rain will certainly learn from their mistake and send a force that will be enough to decimate an entire city.

"We're talking about High-Rankers moving in groups here. Maybe you can deal with a few low-rankers, but when those Heavy Weights start to put their foot down, you will be unable to do anything about it."

Keelan, who was busy laying out the foundation of their Branch Guild, Ars Goetia, gave his opinion about the matter.

"Usually, the Main Guild Headquarters of the Adventurer's Guild in the Kingdom of Gweliven would issue us missions when things started to get out of control," Keelan explained. "However, there are occasions when even our strongest adventurers feel helpless and that is if 'many things' are happening at the same time.

"To give you some idea, we may be ordered to help repair a broken bridge or dam in a territory within the kingdom. That is all fine and good, but when another problem arises, let's say a plague, famine, or even war, we are forced to divert our attention to much more important things, instead of dealing with the smaller ones."

Cai, who had just finished her lunch also joined the conversation, and the words she said made Lux realize that the answer to his problem was really simple.

"Just like Guildmaster Keelan said, how about you just create trouble for Twilight Rain and divert their attention to you?" Cai proposed. "That Amir fellow said that there is a Merchant in that town that is part of Twilight Rain's umbrella, right? Why don't you start with him? As a Merchant, he will certainly know the other Merchants belonging to the Dark Guild.

"If all of their Merchants are being attacked, killed, or kidnapped, they would certainly focus all their attention on finding the culprit. Also, it will be best if you don't ask the Royal Family for help. I'm pretty sure that there are also spies working for the Royal Family. As long as the King is kept in the dark, the spies will also be kept in the dark.

"This will then make Twilight Rain think that someone was purposely targeting their information network and uprooting it from the ground up. As long as you are smart and make these attacks at regular intervals, the focus of those bastards will no longer fall on Aina and Colette."

Lux thought that this proposal was sound, so he decided to capture the Merchant in Wisp Tree Town and give him a tickle session to make him spill the beans.

Unlike the Assassins who were trained to commit suicide when captured, Merchants were different. They had more to lose, and they certainly didn't want to die.

As long as Lux could get some names from that person, he would task Sid and Shax to launch a covert operation that would make the Dark Guild feel as if another organization was trying to challenge their rule.

Chapter 722: Can You Help Me Convince Your Papa To Marry My Sister?

"We just reunited, yet Big Brother has to go away again," Colette said with a pout as she lay on the bed. "I am starting to hate that Dark Guild, Twilight Rain."

Helen nodded her head in agreement. "Not only did they try to assassinate Big Brother, but they're also targeting your sister now. They even went as far as sending an Assassin to kidnap you to serve as a hostage in order to blackmail Big Sister Aina into obeying them.

"Still, we were lucky this time," Andy commented. "Big Brother just happened to be in the city, and Eiko came to meet us. If she hadn't been there, the Assassin would have definitely succeeded in capturing Colette."

"I won't forgive those bastards!" Matty clenched his fist in anger. Just imagining the things that Twilight Rain could have done to the person he loved made him feel as if he wanted to start killing people. "If only I was a High-Ranker already, I would have definitely given all of them a beating!"

Emma, who was also in the room and serving as a bodyguard, sighed in her heart. She had once been captured by Twilight Rain, and they conducted many experiments on her, forcing her to become a monster against her will.

If Lux didn't come to save her, she might have already died somewhere—used as convenient cannon fodder by the Dark Organization that hid within the shadows of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Everyone in the room looked depressed, but this depression broke when the four-armed hero, whom Lux had left behind to guard the dwarves, spoke.

"You kids are safe now," ALL-MITE said. "Why? Because I am here."

Everyone stared at the Unsung Hero, who was the strongest member of Lux's covenant.

Although the Wraith King, Leoric, was several ranks higher than ALL-MITE, if the two of them fought in the same rank, the one who would come out as the victor was none other than the four-armed Hero.

Why? Because ALL-MITE could increase his power exponentially, beating any opponent of the same rank.

"Your name is ALL-MITE, right?" Robin asked the Four-Armed creature who looked like Venom, and Masked R*der combined. A villain and a hero character that were popular in Lux's original world.

"That is I," ALL-MITE replied.

"Were you there when my sister got kidnapped by Twilight Rain?" Robin inquired.

"What?! Twilight Rain also kidnapped your sister, Robin?!" Colette, who had almost been kidnapped just a few hours ago, propped herself up from the bed and looked at the Dwarf who often joined them on their expeditions.

"Yes," Robin replied. "And just like today, they almost succeeded. The one who saved her was also your Big Brother."

"Amazing!" Helen gasped. "Even when we can't see him, Big Brother is always there helping people."

"Eiko, Big Brother is really the best!" Colette picked up the Baby Slime that was lying on top of her pillow.

"Un!" Eiko nodded her head. "Papa best!"

Colette then remembered something important, which made her lightly tap her forehead.

"I need to talk to Big Brother about my sister." Colette then looked at Eiko with a mischievous smile. "Eiko, can you help me convince your Papa to marry my sister? My Sister is very beautiful, right? Although she looks standoffish and doesn't show much emotion on her face, they look good together, right?"

"No comment!" Eiko replied before giggling.

The Baby Slime knew how much Colette wanted to matchmake her Big Sister to her Papa. However, Eiko didn't want to interfere with Lux's love life because she respected his decisions on most things.

Iris had also told her that there might come a time when her Papa would have more than one wife.

For the most part, Eiko didn't really care. She already had Lux and Iris, but having more people in their family was fine with her.

ALL-MITE, whom Robin had asked a question of earlier, shook his head to answer the Dwarf Prince, who was hiding his true identity from his friends.

"It is regrettable that I wasn't there when it happened," ALL-MITE answered. "I became part of Master's Covenant recently."

"I can tell that you can fight most Rankers," Robin stated. "But will you be able to protect Colette from High-Rankers? Twilight Rain is a huge organization. They have many High-Rankers within their ranks."

"I can't fight against High-Rankers," ALL-MITE replied truthfully. "But as long as we are not dealing with a Saint, Master will be able to do something about it."

"You sound confident."

"I am confident."

Robin quieted down as he gazed at the powerful bodyguard that Lux had left them. Not only did ALL-MITE look intimidating, but his words were also firm and confident. He truly made people feel they were safe when he was around.

Perhaps, this was why Lux decided to leave the Four-Armed Hero with the Dwarf kids. It was so that they would not feel depressed even if he was not around.

"Then can you tell me where Lux went?" Robin asked.

Unlike Colette and the others, he didn't call Lux Big Brother or by any other honorific. It was as if he was referring to Lux as an equal, which he rarely did with people. This was especially true since Lux wasn't a Dwarf like them.

ALL-MITE smirked after hearing Robin's question. Lux had told him that they were currently in one of the hidden bases of Twilight Rain, so there was a very big possibility that someone was eavesdropping on their conversation.

But before Lux left, he made sure to use his Soul Book to check every nook and cranny of the room to ensure that no one would be spying on the kids while he was away.

Having thought of this, ALL-MITE decided to say a few things to Robin, which made the latter tilt his head in confusion.

"Let's just say that Master is currently busy negotiating with someone," ALL-MITE said. "Depending on the outcome of the negotiation, things might get lively here in the Kingdom of Gweliven."

Robin didn't really understand what ALL-MITE was trying to say, but he could see the smile on the Four-Armed Hero's face, which made him believe that Lux was somewhere in Wisp Tree Town, doing something that would ensure Colette's safety.

Chapter 723: Why Don't You Tenderize Him A Bit More?

Sam Wiggins was a very successful Merchant.

He started as the leader of a caravan that traveled between the different cities of the Kingdom of Gweliven for trade and commerce.

In fact, he was so successful that many of the High-Ranking Nobles of the Kingdom of Gweliven patronized his services. With his strong portfolio, he even received an offer to become the Head of the Merchant Union in the Dungeon Town of Wisp Tree Town.

This position held considerable power, allowing him to decide which businesses were given permits and certifications to operate.

Simply put, he had complete control over the trades happening inside the city, which would make any Merchant wish that they were him.

This was also the reason why Twilight Rain spent many resources in order to win him over and become one of the Honorary Elders of their Guild.

With this newfound backer ready to crush any opposition who wished to stand in his way, Sam felt that he was the Underground Emperor of Wisp Tree Town.

With a single wave of his hand, those who annoyed him would disappear, never to be seen again. After tasting this power and authority, Sam thought that he was invincible.

To this day, he felt that way, but not until half an hour ago when he found himself hanging upside down inside his own office, looking eye to eye a monster without a face.

'Damn you, Amir!' Sam cursed the Blonde Assassin in his heart with a vengeance. 'You led their people to me!'

An hour ago, Amir had gone inside his office to complain that Sam had given him the wrong information about Colette. The Assassin even claimed that he

almost died when he faced off against an Argonaut-Ranked Monster, whom he believed was Colette's Beast Companion.

Naturally, Sam thought of Amir's complaint as complete bullsh*t. He even mocked the Assassin for creating excuses for his own incompetence. As the Honorary Elder of Twilight Rain, he always made sure that the information he gave to their agents was accurate.

This was why he didn't believe Amir when the latter insisted that there was a strong Monster guarding Colette, which Sam didn't know of.

Originally, Lux's plan was to shift the blame on Sam so that Amir would not be punished by the organization. However, after getting everyone's suggestion, he decided to change his strategy and catch the Big Fish, which they would use to catch a Bigger Fish.

"What are you doing in my office?!" Sam shouted in the hope that his voice would reach the guards that were patrolling around his mansion. "Who sent you?! If you don't release me right now, I promise you that you will regret the day you were born! You have no idea who you are dealing with!"

"Wow. He can spout off the lines of a third-rate villain," Asmodeus commented. "I am almost impressed."

Lux chuckled in agreement with the Archlich's words. They weren't worried about Sam purposefully shouting in an attempt to attract attention. All the guards around the mansion had already been dealt with by Sid, Shax, and Amir, who had become one of Lux's double agents.

"Asking him questions right now is a waste of time, Master," Asmodeus said. "It will be best to make him understand what happens if he doesn't give us the answers we need."

"My thoughts exactly," Lux replied. "Shax, you know what to do."

The Nightgaunt then raised his clawed hands and tail to tickle the Dwarf to oblivion.

Since Sam was hanging upside down, his drool, and snot flowed over his eyes, making a pitiful scene.

However, no matter how embarrassed or disgusted he was, the only thing he could do was laugh, and laugh, and laugh some more.

Finally, after five minutes of tickling torture, Lux ordered Shax to stop so that Sam could regain his breath and give him the information he wanted.

"As you already experienced, my friend here is very good at tickling people," Lux stated. "I don't advocate hurting people, so instead of a painful torture, I make them laugh instead. Now, I will ask you several questions.

"If you don't answer them correctly or purposely try to make your answer vague, you will experience a ten-minute tickle session. The one you had only lasted five minutes. So if you want to laugh again, feel free to lie to me."

Sam had suffered many hardships in the past before he reached the position he currently had. He suffered pain and had his share of getting beaten up until his nose and ears bled.

Although he wasn't as resilient as the Assassins of Twilight Rain, he was still someone who had weathered several storms in his life.

But nothing could have prepared him for the different kind of torture he had just experienced under the clawed hands and tails of the faceless monster, whom he sensed to be silently laughing at him.

"W-What do you want to know?" Sam asked.

His face was very wet from a mixture of his drool, snot, and tears, making his vision a bit blurry. Even so, Lux didn't give him the opportunity to wipe it away.

After all, if he lied, the same thing would happen again, so wiping it away was unnecessary.

"You are an agent of Twilight Rain, correct?" Lux asked.

"Did that bastard Amir rat me out?!" Sam wasn't able to hold back the frustration inside his chest, so he shouted before he could even stop himself.

"I think you have forgotten something very important," Lux stated. "The only one that can ask questions here is me. The only thing you need to do is answer my question and nothing else."

"Master, he still has some fight left in him," Asmodeus commented. "Why don't you tenderize him a bit more? Maybe a good laugh will make him loosen his lips."

"You're right, Shax why don't you tick—"

"No! Forgive me! I will answer your question. Please, no more tickling!"

Sam begged and wailed as he continued to be dangled upside down by Shax's tail.

Lux pondered a bit before nodding his head.

"I'll give you one chance," Lux said. "If you don't give me the answer I want, you're going to get it."

"Yes! Thank you!" Sam replied with gratitude. "Indeed. I am an agent of Twilight Rain. But I am only an ordinary agent. I don't hold any high position in the guild... Hahahahaha!"

Before Lux could even confirm if Sam was lying or not, Shax took the initiative to tickle the Merchant until his drool, snot, and tears once again flowed over his face.

Lux didn't stop his Nightgaunt, who seemed to be enjoying what he was doing. Fortunately, Shax knew when to hold back before his victim lost his mind completely.

"What position do you have in Twilight Rain?"

"Hic... I'm... sob... an Honorary Elder."

Tears started to fall like rain from Sam's face because he truly regretted his decision to lie earlier. At first, he thought that Lux wouldn't have a way to know whether he was lying or not. But after being tickled once again, the worst-case scenario in his mind was proven to be true.

The Faceless Monster could tell if he was speaking a lie.

"Who are the other agents here in Wisp Tree Town that belong to Twilight Rain?" Lux asked.

This time, Sam answered truthfully, even giving more names than Amir did.

Since Shax didn't tickle the Merchant again, it meant that the latter had spoken the truth, which made Lux frown.

'Over a dozen individuals, but all of them are small fries,' Lux thought. 'Well, it doesn't really matter. What we are after are the Merchants anyway.'

"Do you know any other Merchants that are serving under Twilight Rain?" Lux inquired.

"I-I only know two other Merchants," Sam answered. "The only reason why I came into contact with them was due to a major incident that happened, which required us to temporarily collaborate with each other."

"Major incident?" Lux arched an eyebrow. "What major incident?"

"O-One of Twilight Rain's Honorary Elders died in Wolfpine Barony," Sam answered. "The entire town was wiped from the face of the world, and one of the casualties was someone who had close ties with the Guildmaster. He asked us to gather as much information as we could in order to understand what caused the tragedy."

"I see..." Lux nodded his head in understanding.

Unknown to Sam, the Half-Elf had also been there on that fateful day, which made him realize how easy it was for Power Houses, who held absolute power, to perform a one-sided genocide without fearing its consequences.

Because of what happened back then, he didn't do the same to the Haca Dynasty when Lux summoned Barca and the others to help save Garret's family from those who wished them ill.

He didn't mind killing soldiers or warriors on the battlefield because they were there to fight and kill others.

What he didn't want to do was involve the innocents, who didn't have the strength to protect themselves. Lux had his bottom line, and that was the one thing he didn't want to cross even if he were to become a Powerhouse who could influence the world with a single word from his lips.

"What are the names of these Merchants, and where are they located?" Lux continued his interrogation.

To his surprise, Sam mentioned the name of a Merchant who was stationed in one of the cities that he had been to in the past.

"Lucius Ballard," Lux muttered. "I guess my first stop will be Whitebridge City after all."

Whitebridge City was where the great battle between the Monster Outbreak and the defenders of the city happened. This was also the place where Lux had faked his death in order to fool the Higher-Ups of Twilight Rain, tricking them into thinking that he really was dead.

Since the enemy was inside the city where Aina's Guild Headquarters was located, it was only natural for the Half-Elf to pay him a visit.

Now that Scarlet had successfully become a Ranker and a Slayer candidate, it was time for him to reappear in the Kingdom of Gweliven and make those who thought that he was dead understand that it would take more than killing him to kill him completely.

Chapter 724: Sam's Proposal

"If you know what's good for you, it will be best if you keep everything that happened here a secret, okay?" Lux said with a devilish smile on his face. "I have placed a tracker on your body, which will always tell me your location.

"Of course, you can also divulge my information to your superiors. I don't really care what you do because sooner or later they will find out about me. However, if my information came from your lips, you better make sure that you hide in a place where I can't reach you.

"I don't mind if you hide in Twilight Rain's Main Headquarters. In fact, I would greatly appreciate it if you did."

The Half-Elf paused before raising the dwarf's chin with his finger, making Sam look up at him.

"That will make things easier for me because I can bring the High-Rankers of the Kingdom of Gweliven with me in order to raid that place, and crush you bastards once and for all.

"I will also ask the King to invite the Saints to ensure that no one will be able to leave that place alive. So, if you think you can hide under a fortress and feel safe, think again. The moment I catch you, I'll make you laugh until you lose your mind."

Sam didn't know whether Lux was lying or not, but he still nodded his head like a hen pecking rice in order to acknowledge that he understood what Lux was trying to say.

"I'll let Shax stay here for a few days to keep you company, while I pay a visit to Lucius," Lux stated. "If I don't see him in Whitebridge City, I'll assume that you warned him of my arrival. When that happens... hehehe."

The Half-Elf chuckled and it made all the hairs on the back of Sam's neck stand on end.

"I-If you like, I can contact him in advance," Sam proposed. "I will tell him that an important client wants to meet up with him. That way, he will certainly not leave the city. We often introduce high-profile Nobles, as well as other influential people in the Kingdom to each other. He won't be suspicious if we do it this way."

"Oh? Something so convenient exists?" Lux arched an eyebrow. "Very well, tell him that I will meet up with him tomorrow at three in the afternoon. He can specify the place, and I'll be there."

"C-Can I make a suggestion?" Sam asked. "If I tell him that he will be meeting with a Half-Elf, or a Human, he will certainly raise his guard. I propose that you look for a Dwarf to meet him. The more influential, the better."

Lux rubbed his chin as he thought of the influential Dwarves that he knew. He didn't want to use Commander Thoram, Keelan, or any of the Dwarves from the Leaf Village for this mission because he didn't want to trouble his Guild Members.

He needed to find a Dwarf that wasn't affiliated with him, who had a high position within the Kingdom that could potentially entice Lucius to meet up with him.

Suddenly a smile appeared on the Half-Elf's face as he thought of the perfect person for the undercover mission.

However, that person currently had a grudge on the Half-Elf, so Lux wasn't sure if the latter would agree to his request.

'Well, I can always look for others if it doesn't work,' Lux thought.

The King of the Kingdom of Gwelien, King Uther, was very grateful to Lux for helping save his precious daughter, Princess Anastasia.

If he asked the King for a favor, he was certain that the person whom Lux wanted to help him would have no choice but to agree, even if he still bore a grudge against the Half-Elf.

"Very well, tell him this," Lux said after giving it some thought. "Someone named Nevreal will come to meet him."

"N-Nevreal?!" Sam gasped in shock. "Are you talking about THAT Nevreal?"

"What? Are there other Nevreals in the Kingdom of Gweliven?" Lux asked.

Sam gave Lux a bitter smile before explaining to the Half-Elf who the middle-aged dwarf was.

"While the possibility exists, there is only one Nevreal that holds enough influence in the Kingdom of Gweliven to have an audience with the King anytime he wants."

"Oh? That middle-aged dwarf was that important? It looks like I still have no idea who's who in this Kingdom."

Lux now understood why Nevreal was the one taking care of the low-profile Prince of the Kingdom of Gweliven, Robin.

"Very well, set up the meeting," Lux ordered. "Just tell Shax if it pushes through. He has a way of relaying a message to me regardless of how far apart we are. I already told you this, but if you try anything funny, I'll make sure that you will have the best laugh of your life."

The red-headed teenager then left Sam's Residence through the front door. Along the way, several guards were lying on the floor, who had lost consciousness.

None of them were seriously hurt because Lux had ordered Leoric and his Wraith Knights to just knock the living lights out of them to ensure that no one

would be able to disturb his chat with the Head of the Merchant Union, who was also a part of Twilight Rain's Information Network.

Half an hour later, Lux returned to the inn and told Colette and the others about his plan to visit Whitebridge City.

Naturally, the little, adorable, blonde Dwarf was extremely happy to hear her Big Brother say that he planned to meet with Aina in order to talk about a few things.

Colette was trying to find a good excuse to make the two meet, especially since her Sister was now being approached by many influential Dwarves, who were asking for her hand in marriage.

Some of these suitors were of the same age as Aina, while others were old enough to be called her Father.

For Dwarves, who were able to live up to 300 to 500 years, having a big age gap wasn't a big deal to them.

This difference in age didn't even hold a candle against the Elves, who usually had partners that were hundreds or thousands of years older than them.

If not for the fact that Aina's family had a special tradition, she might have already been engaged to someone long ago.

Only the men who were approved of by their entire family would be able to marry Aina and Colette.

If Colette didn't approve of anyone, no one could marry her Big Sister even if her entire family gave their nods of approval to someone.

This was the rule that their father had made in order to prevent his daughters from marrying at a young age because he was over protective of them.

If only Colette's father knew that his own daughter was pushing entire mountains to make her Big Brother and Big Sister become a couple, he would definitely puke blood.

Fortunately, he just thought that Colette was fond of Lux because he had saved her during the Kobold incident. If he only knew how serious his

daughter was, he would definitely come to Elysium and invite the Half-Elf on a fishing trip.

Chapter 725: Do You Believe In Love At First Sight?

"I understand why you are asking for my help in this matter," Robin said. "But, wouldn't it be better if you let the Rankers of the Kingdom deal with this personally?"

Lux shook his head. "I'm pretty sure that Twilight Rain has already planted their spies in almost all the cities of the Kingdom, including the Royal Palace. If any prominent members of your Kingdom's Elites start to move, they will certainly catch wind of it."

Robin was unable to refute Lux's words because this was indeed the truth. Even his father acknowledged that even those he trusted might have already been bribed by Twilight Rain in order to help them usurp his rule.

"Understood." Robin nodded. "Since you are doing this for the sake of the Kingdom, I will help you. I'm sure that Nevreal will set aside his personal grudges in order to rid ourselves of these hidden dangers."

"Tell Nevreal to meet me at the earliest time tomorrow after we arrive in Whitebridge City," Lux stated. "He will be meeting with that Merchant in the afternoon, so we need to create a foolproof plan in order to ensure that he will not be able to escape."

Lux wasn't too conceited to think that the mission to capture Lucius would be an easy one. He was only able to capture Sam because he used the element of surprise in order to do so.

Just like Amir, the Half-Elf was certain that the Honorable Elders of Twilight Rain had artifacts that would allow them to instantly teleport to somewhere in order to escape those who wished to catch them.

Unlike the Head of the Merchant Union in Wisp Tree Town, Lucius was more prominent, and more influential. He also had powerful bodyguards, including one High-Ranker that went by the name Ferron.

Because of this, capturing him would not be easy.

"Just to be on the safe side, make sure that Nevreal also brings a bodyguard with him," Lux proposed. "A High-Ranker would be good."

"Okay." Robin nodded.

He could tell that this mission carried a lot of risks, and he didn't want Nevreal to be hurt, or worse, captured by the enemy, whom Lux was planning to capture alive.

After their talk ended, Robin returned to his room and used his artifact to contact Nevreal, who was currently in the Royal City of the Kingdom of Gweliven, Aeronwen.

The next day, just an hour after sunrise, Lux and the little band of Dwarves entered the Teleportation Gate of Wisp Tree Town in order to head directly to Whitebridge City.

Dungeon Towns had access to a Teleportation Gate that could easily connect to all the Major Cities of the Kingdom.

The only problem was the Teleportation Fee. The farther the place was that you wanted to go, the more expensive it was. Because of this people only traveled to nearby cities before riding in Wagons in order to save a bit of gold during their travels.

Lux didn't have this problem because he was filthy rich. In the past, he didn't even have a hundred gold coins.

Now, he had millions.

After arriving in the city, the first place they visited was the Guild Headquarters of Eternal, where Aina was already waiting for her sister's arrival.

As soon as Lux entered the Guildmaster's Office, the sight of the doll-like beauty, who looked so perfect in any angle, made Lux's heart skip a beat.

'She really looks like the younger version of Luna,' Lux thought as he tried to calm down his wildly beating heart.

Although this wasn't the first time he had seen and talked to her, Lux still felt like he was a fan that was meeting his favorite idol for the first time.

If only he was holding glow sticks in his hand, he would certainly be waving them right now, just like the fans who go to Luna's concert would do in order to cheer for her.

"Big Sister!" Colette immediately went to hug Aina, who also held her lovingly in her arms.

Although the doll-like beauty's expression didn't change, Lux was certain that Aina was very happy to see that Colette had returned safely from her mission.

"Big Sister, I have many things to tell you!" Colette said as she reluctantly took a step back from Aina's embrace. "That Dark Guild tried to kidnap me while I was out on a mission! If Eiko wasn't there, I wouldn't be standing here with you right now!"

Aina briefly narrowed her eyes before shifting her gaze to the Half-Elf, who had removed his disguise after entering her office.

"Words cannot express how grateful I am for your timely assistance in rescuing my sister each and every time she is in trouble," Aina said. "If there is a way to repay you, just say the word. As long as it is within my ability to do so, I will do it without fail."

"Then, can I have your autograph?" Lux asked before he could stop himself from talking.

In front of Aina, he was not the Guildmaster of Heaven's Gate, but a Fan who regretted not being able to go to her concert because he died before he could get that opportunity.

"Autograph?" Aina's expression didn't change. "What's that?"

Colette also tilted her head in confusion. "Big Brother, what's an autograph?"

"Um, an autograph is when you give people your signature as a sign of goodwill," Lux tried to explain the concept of Autograph to the Dwarves who were hearing about it for the first time.

"Big Brother, getting my sister's autograph is lame," Colette pouted. "You should just ask her hand for marriage. Don't worry, I will convince my parents to approve of yo-ouch!"

Aina, slightly pinched her sister's cheeks with a dead-pan face, making the other Dwarves chuckle.

"Stop playing matchmaker and rest for now," Aina said before releasing her hold of her little sister's cheeks. "Your Big Brother and I have things to talk about in private, so be a good girl and don't leave the Guild Headquarters until we are sure that no one will try to kidnap you again."

Colette rubbed her right cheek, but still nodded her head obediently. She then winked at her Big Brother before giving Lux a thumbs up.

"Goodluck, Big Brother!" Colette said in passing before leaving the room with her friends.

Only when Lux and Aina were the only two people in the room did the doll-like beauty turn around to walk towards her desk where she usually completed her duties as the Guildmaster of Eternal.

"Please, have a seat, Lux," Aina said as she made a gesture to the chair in front of her table. "I would like to hear all the details about Twilight Rain's failed kidnapping attempt on my sister."

Lux nodded and sat across Aina. He then relayed everything that happened, including his plan to capture Lucius, who was the Head of the Merchant Union in Whitebridge City.

"It seems that I owe you a bigger favor than I initially thought," Aina replied after listening to Lux's entire explanation. "Twilight Rain has indeed made several attempts in order to make me their pawn against the Royal Family. But, I never thought that they would try to capture my sister and use her as a bargaining chip in order to make me agree to their demands."

Aina's words were steady, and firm, but Lux could sense the anger hidden between her words. Although the doll-like beauty's expression was still calm on the surface, deep inside her heart, a raging volcano was about to erupt.

"Don't worry, if my plan succeeded, Twilight Rain will have no time to bother you and your sister for a period of time."

Aina stared at Lux, holding his gaze. Her clear, blue eyes, that seemed to contain a myriad of emotions and nothing at the same time, made Lux feel as if he was looking at a woman who had sealed her heart away.

He didn't know what Aina's circumstances were, but being able to raise Eternal's Rank to the Gold Rank was not an easy task.

For such a small body to carry so many responsibilities on her shoulders, Lux couldn't fathom just how many things Aina had sacrificed in order to get to where she was now.

"Why are you going this far for us?" Aina asked. "I know you care about Colette. But, what you are doing far exceeds the boundaries of friendship. Do you perhaps have a hidden agenda?"

Lux was about to shake his head, but stopped midway. Although he didn't really have any hidden agenda, and just wanted to help Colette because he wanted to help her, he believed that this was not the answer Aina was looking for.

Because of this, he decided to tease the doll-like beauty and see how she would react to his words.

"Do you believe in love at first sight?" Lux asked. "What if I tell you that I fell in love with someone who looks exactly like you in the past?"

"Love at first sight...", Aina replied. "I am aware that this exists, but I've never felt it before. As to you falling in love with someone who looks exactly like me... I can tell that you're not lying."

Aina then rested her chin on the back of her intertwined hands and narrowed her gaze.

"So, Lux Von Kaizer," Aina said in a tone that was as flat as a board. "How confident are you in capturing Lucius alive?"

Lux didn't answer this question right away, instead he lightly tapped his finger on top of Aina's table and glanced at the map of the Kingdom of Gweliven, which hung on the wall of her office.

"There's no guarantee that I will succeed," Lux said after a few minutes. "But, even if I don't, it will be fine."

The Half-Elf had already prepared a contingency plan just in case his attempt to capture Lucius failed. Even if the Dwarf managed to escape, he would have a way to track him down, as long as he was within the territory of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Chapter 726: What Makes You Think That This Will Work?

"Damn it!" Piccoro cursed out loud. "Just how long does that bastard Half-Elf plan to stay inside that Dungeon! How many days should I keep waiting here?!"

After the Gate of Famine had been conquered, Piccoro decided to stay and wait until the Half-Elf appeared, so that he could personally invite him to the Crystal Palace to have a nice long talk about certain things.

Of course, if Lux rejected his invitation, Piccoro would not hesitate to use force and drag the Half-Elf back with him whether the red-headed teenager liked it or not.

He even praised himself for thinking ahead, so he asked the three Saints, as well as the other envoys of the Crystal Palace to escort Aur back to their territory.

The Dragon Prince also wanted to wait until Lux exited the dungeon. But, after Piccoro promised him that he would personally bring the Half-Elf back to the Crystal Palace, Aur decided to go with the others and return to their homeland.

However, three days had passed and there was no sign of the Half-Elf appearing at all!

If not for the fact that he couldn't destroy the Gate of the Domain, Piccoro might have already smashed it to bits out of anger and frustration.

"You want to play the waiting game huh?!" Piccoro growled at the Gate in front of him. "Fine! I'll play your game! I swear that the moment I get my hands on you I'll make you understand the consequences of angering me!"

The Dragon Born crossed his arms over his chest, and sat cross-legged in front of the Gate of the Fallen.

He had no intention of leaving until he captured the annoying Half-Elf and gave him a good spanking!

Headquarters of Eternal in Whitebridge City...

"Achoo!"

Lux rubbed his nose, while walking down one of the hallways of Aina's Guild Headquarters.

"Someone must be thinking about me," Lux said. "Do you think it's your Mama, Eiko?"

"No!" Eiko replied. "Ugly Dragon Born!"

"Hahaha!" Lux laughed. "An ugly Dragon Born is thinking of me? No thanks!"

He had just finished his talk with Aina, and advised her to not leave her Guild Headquarters until he finished dealing with Lucius.

Aina agreed to this request.

She also promised that she wouldn't let Colette, and her friends, take a single step outside of their Guild Base, with the exception of Robin, whom Lux wanted to take with him.

Now that his business with the doll-like beauty was over, it was time to meet with the middle-aged Dwarf, who was still upset with Lux for needing to cough up ten million gold coins.

Nevreal swore on that day that he would never make a deal with the Half-Elf again, even if an axe was placed above his head.

But, this time it was different. This concerned the Dark Guild Twilight Rain.

Nevreal would set aside his grudge any day if it would help end the tyranny of this organization a day sooner. So, when Robin contacted him and told him that Lux wanted his help in order to seize one of the Honorary Elders of the Dark Guild, Nevreal didn't hesitate and agreed to meet up with the Half-Elf and listen to his plan.

As soon as Lux left Aina's office, he put on the mask and transformed into a chubby Human once again, so that his true identity wouldn't be revealed just yet.

"I've been waiting for you," Robin said as soon as he opened the door of his room to let Lux inside. "Nevreal has already arrived. We will meet him at the Dancing Lass Inn."

The Half-Elf nodded his head and followed Robin outside of Eternal's Guild Headquarters.

Robin was wearing a hood that covered his head, and face, preventing those who were familiar with him from identifying him.

Although he was doing his best to be low profile, that didn't mean that he was safe from being targeted by Twilight Rain.

When they arrived at the Dancing Lass Inn, Robin didn't even bother to ask the Innkeeper which room Nevreal was staying in.

The Inn was one of Nevreal's properties, so he naturally had a VIP room all to himself, complete with soundproofing enchantments to prevent anyone from listening in on private conversations.

This was also one of the meeting places of the Order of the Griffin, so there were always guards on duty, who were playing the role of customer.

"Your Highness, it's good to see that you are safe," Nevreal said as soon as Robin closed the door. "I would greatly appreciate it if you didn't go anywhere on your own, especially after this incident. I hope you understand me, Your Highness."

Robin sighed before reluctantly nodding his head. "I understand. I will do as you say and no longer travel alone."

After getting Robin's promise, Nevreal then shifted his gaze to the Half-Elf, who was looking at him with a smile.

"Start talking." Nevreal snorted. "Lucius is a very influential person in the Kingdom of Gweliven. He and some High-Ranking nobles are very close friends, which makes him truly dangerous if he is really one of Twilight Rain's

agents. Are you sure you have the right information? If this is just a joke, then I'm telling you that it's not funny."

"It's not a joke, Sir Nevreal," Lux replied in a heartbeat. "This is the truth. In fact, I'm very surprised that His Majesty didn't consider something like this happening. Money makes a kingdom prosper, and it can also orchestrate its downfall. Twilight Rain was very smart to target these merchants because a single word from them and the economy of this Kingdom would crash."

"You should even be grateful that I managed to find this out early. Otherwise, it would be too late for regrets when this annoying Dark Guild decides to start a civil war."

Nevreal didn't refute Lux's words because this was indeed one of the greatest worries that he, and His Majesty, dreaded.

The only reason Twilight Rain had not made their move yet was due to the fact that they still weren't confident that they would be able to move the hearts of people, and rally to their cause.

For that to happen, they needed to make the King look incompetent when dealing with National Affairs. Unfortunately for them, King Uther was a smart and just leader. Not only did his laws make the citizens' lives better, they also ensured that they would stay loyal to the Royal Family.

"Okay, so this is what you're going to say to Lucius," Lux explained. "First, you will tell him that you want him to invest in a big project. This project involves expansion into the Savage Lands that are located in the Westernmost part of the Kingdom."

"The base of operation will be none other than Leaf Village, and you will need a huge amount of money in order to build a stronghold. In return, for his investments, he will get 20% of all the resources that will be found in the uncharted regions."

Nevreal rubbed his chin before shaking his head. "This won't work. For something like this, the one who should be making the investment will be the Royal Family. Expansion is a National Affair, so they might get suspicious if such an important matter is handed over to a Merchant."

Lux nodded. "I understand your concern, but it is exactly why this will sound appealing to a Merchant. Expansion and exploration have a high chance of

yielding unexpected results. If a Silver, Gold, or Mithril Mine is discovered, they would profit a lot, even if they will only get 20% of whatever is found in the Savage Lands. Any merchant will be unable to resist this offer, so they will definitely bite this bait."

"You sound confident. What makes you think that this will work?"

"Let's just say that I know a merchant that understands what moves them."

Nevreal pondered a bit, but he was still reluctant to use this excuse. Seeing that the middle-aged Dwarf was still not convinced, Lux decided to throw in another excuse that would help him convince Nevreal to follow through with his plan.

"If Lucius asks why the King isn't personally funding this project, just tell him that His Majesty is focusing his attention on the recent incidents that happened inside the Kingdom," Lux stated. "You can tell him that his Majesty was pooling his resources to investigate what happened in the Wolfpine Barony, and find the culprit for its destruction."

Nevreal, who was hesitating just a minute ago, became solemn after remembering what happened in Wolfpine Barony.

Truth be told, his King was truly pooling resources to hire Elites in order to find the base of Memento Morin inside his Kingdom.

Although Twilight Rain was a threat, someone who commanded a Calamity Ranked Beast was a walking time bomb that might explode at any time.

Since the excuse that Lux gave him was truly what was happening in the shadows, Nevreal finally agreed and brainstormed with the Half-Elf until they had a fool-proof story that would not have any flaws.

Chapter 727: Such A Killjoy

While Lux and Nevreal were talking in private, Lucius was inside his Merchant Guild, and checking the reports from his subordinates that were currently in other towns and cities of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

Truth be told, the Guildmaster of Twilight Rain had also ordered him to try and find a way to make Aina work for them.

However, the doll-like beauty was unmovable like a mountain. Lucius had sent many disposable pawns in order to try and negotiate with her, but her answer was always no.

This annoyed Lucius very much.

There was a saying in Twilight Rain that if they couldn't have something, they would just destroy it.

But before moving ahead with that last resort, they decided to use the age-old tactic of using Aina's sister as hostage, in order to make her submit to their will.

Just as Lucius placed the last document in his hand on the table, a knock was heard on the door of his office.

"Come in," he ordered.

A Dwarf with brown hair, who looked battle-hardened entered the room with steady steps. He was none other than Ferron, Lucius' right-hand man and bodyguard.

"Nevreal arrived in Whitebridge City half an hour ago," Ferron reported. "Are you really sure that you want to meet up with him?"

"Of course," Lucius replied. "He is very close to the King, and I want to know what he wants from me. My only concern is why he contacted that country bumpkin, Sam, instead of talking to me directly. I didn't think that they were acquainted."

"This is true," Ferron agreed. "Maybe he didn't think that Sam had what it takes to collaborate with him, so he decided to talk to someone with more experience and influence, such as yourself."

"I always like flattery," Lucius grinned. "Especially coming from you, Ferron. However, we shouldn't let our guard down. Make sure to have our Elite Guards watching the surroundings while Nevreal and I talk. I don't want surprises, especially surprises that might get me killed."

Ferron nodded. "I'll stay by your side and have Rankers surround the building. That way, we can handle any kind of unexpected surprises."

At around two in the afternoon, a messenger arrived to give Nevreal a letter that came from Lucius.

The name of the meeting place was written there. After seeing the name of the location, a smile appeared on Lux's face.

"This Tavern is one of the gathering places for the members of Twilight Rain," Lux said. "It seems that you are heading inside the Lion's Den."

Nevreal frowned, but he wasn't afraid. Although he was only an Initiate that didn't mean that anyone could bully him. As one of the individuals who had a High-Ranking position in the Kingdom of Gweliven, he possessed several artifacts that could kill Rankers.

"Draven, come," Lux ordered.

Immediately, the Half-Elf's shadow moved and transformed into the Shadow Lord, who almost made Nevreal jump in fright.

"Y-You!" Nevreal stuttered as he patted his chest. "Can you not do things that will give me a heart attack?"

"Sorry, but I want to ensure that someone can help you escape when things get messy," Lux apologized. "This here is my subordinate, Draven. He can travel using shadows. As long as he is with you, I will be able to see, and hear, everything around you.

"Depending on the situation, I will immediately conduct a raid. All you need to do, Sir Nevreal, is make sure you escape as fast as you can, so that you don't get caught in the crossfire."

Nevreal nodded. "When things get dicey, I will not hesitate to teleport back to the Capital City. When I return, I will bring High-Rankers with me and help clean the aftermath."

Once their plan had been established, Draven merged with Nevreal's shadow, making the middle-aged Dwarf feel a little safer knowing that an ally was watching over him.

"Remember, prioritize your safety," Lux stated. "All you need to do is buy me some time to encircle the place, and prevent anyone from escaping. Robin will stay here, since this is one of the safest places in the city."

Robin, who was listening quietly on the side, nodded his head in understanding. This was an operation of great importance, so he didn't want to get in the way, and jeopardize Lux's plan.

When everything was ready, Nevreal left the Inn and headed towards the Black Horse Tavern, where he was going to meet up with Lucius.

While this was going on, three adult Dwarves appeared at the Teleportation Gate of Whitebridge City. One of these Dwarves had red hair, and an intimidating face that was enough to make babies cry the moment they saw him.

He was none other than Harrus, the leader of the Rankers that tried to kidnap Princess Anastasia not long ago.

The Brawler was summoned to the city by Lucius for another matter, which concerned the Dark Guild greatly.

There had been sightings of a Seven-Headed Monster at the Northern Regions of the Kingdom of Gweliven, and Twilight Rain wanted to know if this was the same monster that had erased Wolfpine Barony from the face of the world.

If so, they would do their best to have a talk with its Master, so that they could become allies.

A powerful monster capable of destroying entire cities was something that greatly interested the Guildmaster of Twilight Rain.

If they could make it their ally then they would have a Trump Card that would make their conquest of the Kingdom of the Dwarves much easier.

"Harrus, while we're here, why don't we deal with that rude Guildmaster that rejects our Leader's good will?" One of the Rankers asked. "I'm sure that once we break her arm or leg, she will be more willing to have a proper dialogue with us."

Harrus snorted after hearing his subordinate's proposal.

"We didn't come here for that," Harrus replied. "The Slayers are already moving to make that brat submit. It is only a matter of time before she kneels and begs our Guildmaster to make her his servant."

"Tsk!" The other Ranker clicked his tongue. "Such a killjoy. I'm just saying that things will get resolved faster if we handle it on our own, rather than an Assassin that is still wet behind the ears."

Harrus ignored the Dwarf's complaint and walked with steady steps towards the Black Horse Tavern where Lucius was waiting for his arrival.

After his failed attempt to capture Princess Anastasia, Harrus received a lot of ridicule from his comrades, making him feel like killing people.

However, since it was indeed a fact that his carefully planned mission failed, he had no choice but to accept responsibilities and be demoted from his position.

Even so, the Guildmaster of Twilight Rain still held Harrus in high regard. Because of this, some of the important tasks were still handed to him.

This was the Guildmaster's way of letting Harrus redeem himself, and the red-headed Dwarf was quite thankful for the trust given to him.

Little did he know that the same person that had gotten in his way was also present in Whitebridge City, and was currently targeting one of their Honorary Elders, whom he was about to meet very soon.

Chapter 728: What If I Refuse To Leave?

"It is my great pleasure to meet you, Sir Nevreal," Lucius said as he shook hands with the Dwarf whom the King of the Dwarves thought highly of.

"Likewise, Mr. Lucius," Nevreal replied. "I hope our meeting today will be a fruitful one."

"Of course. Please, have a seat."

"Thank you."

The two were in a VIP room located in the Black Horse Tavern. The Half-Elf had already informed Nevreal that this was one of the businesses that belonged to Twilight Rain. To his credit, the middle-aged Dwarf had been to more dangerous places in the past, so he was confident that he would be fine.

"It is very rare for me to get to talk to someone as influential as you, Sir Nevreal, so why don't we talk about why you came here to see me today." Lucius smiled. "But, before that, may I ask why you were introduced to me by a good friend, Sam? Did you meet with him first before meeting up with me?"

"Sam?" Nevreal frowned. "Sorry, I don't know who this Sam fellow is. I just asked one of my subordinates to look for a Merchant who had the ability to carry out the request that His Majesty asked of me."

"Oh?" Lucius arched an eyebrow. He already knew that Nevreal was on good terms with the King, but he didn't expect the middle-aged Dwarf to be currently doing some tasks from the King as well. "Well then, did Sam not fit the requirements for the King's request?"

Any merchant would jump at the opportunity to create a connection with the Dwarf King. In fact, some of them would be willing to go above and beyond their means to carry out whatever tasks the King would ask of them if need be.

"Well, if he did, I wouldn't be here in front of you right now," Nevreal replied as if this was the only natural thing to do. "Now, since both of our time is precious, let's talk about business. Currently, His Majesty is thinking about expanding the territory of the Kingdom.

"Because of this, he tasked some people to head to the Westernmost Region of our Kingdom, to a small village called Leaf Village. From there, they would head to the Savage Lands and create a stronghold, serving as a base for the expedition forces that would venture further West."

The corner of Lucius' lips rose because expansion and exploration was a great opportunity to call first dibs on some resources that could only be found in unclaimed, and unexplored, regions.

"This sounds like a grand undertaking," Lucius commented. "And, what kind of assistance can this humble merchant do for His Majesty?"

"We need funds," Nevreal replied. "And supplies. We need a lot of them."

"Funding, and Supplies?" A look of understanding dawned on Lucius' face after hearing Nevreal's explanation. However, he kept his face as calm as possible, so the middle-aged Dwarf didn't notice the greed that appeared briefly at the depths of his eyes.

Nevreal nodded. "Yes. We are looking for a Merchant who has the funds, as well as the resources to ensure that the newly built Stronghold can become operational as soon as possible. Aside from you, we are looking at other candidates as well to take the job. You're just the first that I visited, and I'll probably be visiting others as well.

Lucius smiled, but this smile was the smile of someone who didn't plan on letting others get a share on what he had set his eyes on. But, in order to close the deal, he needed to better understand why the King was looking for a merchant to share the profits of the expedition with.

"I understand that venturing into the unknown is filled with uncertainty," Lucius stated. "But, as a merchant, I don't see why His Majesty would want to let others take a percentage of future profits. If he funded this expedition, wouldn't that mean that all the resources that could be discovered in the exploration would belong to the Royal Palace's Treasury?"

"That is true," Nevreal admitted. "Unfortunately, His Majesty is preoccupied with a few things, so he needs an experienced Merchant to handle the Logistics of the Expedition."

"Just what could be more important than expanding the territory of our Glorious Kingdom?" Lucius inquired.

Nevreal didn't answer right away. As a merchant, Lucius was able to see the conflicted expression on the middle-aged Dwarf's face.

He was certain that Nevreal was fighting an internal battle or sorts, which meant that the reason why the King was delegating this task to others was due to something more important than territory expansion.

As a Merchant, he had seen this face countless times, and it was at this moment when he knew that he should stay silent, and allow the other party to take the initiative to disclose important information that was not known to the general public.

"I'm sure that you've already heard about what happened in Wolfpine Barony, right?" Nevreal asked.

"Yes." Lucius nodded. "It is truly a tragic incident. I even lost a few of my acquaintances when the city was destroyed."

Lucius sighed deeply because the task given to them by the Guildmaster of Twilight Rain was a very difficult one. He had used a lot of manpower to track the whereabouts of the monster that destroyed the Barony.

However, all the people that he had sent to look for answers, never returned. Some of those people were even promising subordinates that he had been training for years.

"Since you already know about this matter, I will disclose a few things to you," Nevreal stated. "His Majesty is currently focusing his attention into tracking the Monster that destroyed the town. Such threats cannot be ignored, so he had spent considerable resources hiring specialists to do the job for him.

"Because of this, I am now looking for Merchants to continue the proposed expansion of the Kingdom, while his Majesty focuses on other things."

Lucius nodded his head in understanding. The spies of Twilight Rain, who had been watching the King's every move had said something similar, which gave credibility to Nevreal's words.

Now that he understood the gist of the story, he just needed to close the negotiation with the middle-aged Dwarf in order to get a share of the resources that would be discovered once the exploration of the Savage Lands started in full.

However, just as he was about to do that, the door of his office abruptly opened, and a Dwarf with red hair entered as if he owned the place.

"I was looking for you, Lucius," Harrus stated. "You were not in your Merchant Guild, so I came here to meet you."

"Harrus...", Lucius said with a displeased look on his face. "Didn't Ferron tell you that I am talking with a very important guest right now? What's the meaning of this?"

"Important guest?" Harrus snorted as he gave Nevreal a side-long glance. "Which is more important? Your guest or me?"

Lucius glared hatefully at the arrogant Ranker, who was making things difficult for him. Just as he was about to shout and ask the red-haired dwarf to leave, his right-hand man, Ferron, entered the office and stood between Harrus and Lucius.

"Get out of this office," Ferron said coolly. "You purposely ordered your subordinates to rough up my men, forcing me to deal with them, while you come here uninvited. Leave while I'm still being nice."

"Hoh~" Harrus eyed Ferron who was a peak B-Ranker, making him a Pseudo-High Ranker.

After his failed attempt on kidnapping the Princess, Harrus trained, and spent all of his resources so he could raise his rank as much as possible. The reason why he did this was to ensure that those who were eyeing his position would back down.

Just like Ferron, Harrus was now a peak B-Ranker. If the two of them really fought for real, no one would know who would emerge victorious between the two.

"What if I refuse to leave?" Harrus asked as he moved his face closer to Ferron. "What are you going to do about it?"

A tense atmosphere descended inside the room, as Harrus and Ferron confronted each other.

Meanwhile, back at the Inn, Lux opened his eyes, and a look of surprise flashed inside its depths.

"It's him," Lux thought. "There's no doubt. That's the same Ranker that tried to kidnap Princess Anastasia."

Since Draven had hidden himself inside Nevreal's shadow, the Half-Elf was able to see and hear everything that was happening inside the room.

He had already confirmed that Lucius was being protected by several Rankers, and had already dealt with half of them.

However, after Harrus' appearance, the Half-Elf was forced to put Lucius' abduction on hold, and just watch to see what was going to happen next.

He didn't know why the red-haired dwarf had appeared in Whitebridge City. But, whatever the reason, he had to ensure that this wasn't related to Colette and Aina, who would be powerless to fight against a High-Ranker, who had tried to kidnap a member of the Royal Family in the past.

Chapter 729: Don't Worry, Everything Is Under Control

Nevreal eyed the red-headed Dwarf with a solemn look on his face.

He had read the report of Princess Anastasia's abduction. King Uther had even asked a master painter to draw the sketches of the people who tried to kidnap his daughter, so that his agents would be familiar with their faces.

The middle-aged Dwarf understood then and there that this was indeed the same person that had tried to use the Princess as a hostage against the King, which made his blood boil.

What many didn't know was that Nevreal was actually one of King Uther's Sworn Brothers. This was why he was given unconditional trust by the King, and even awarded him his seal that the middle-aged Dwarf could use in times of emergencies.

Perhaps sensing Nevreal's gaze, Harrus shifted his attention to the middle-aged Dwarf and gave him an annoyed look.

"What?" Harrus asked with annoyance. "You have a problem with me?"

"No," Nevreal replied. "Carry on."

Lucius, who saw Harrus disrespect his guest, wanted to punch the red-haired Dwarf so badly.

However, he was only an Apostle, and the one standing in front of him was a High-Ranker.

If he really smacked Harrus out of anger, the one who would end up getting hurt was him. Since that was the case, he merely glared at the annoying Dwarf, who could potentially ruin the negotiation that was supposed to take place.

"Leave, now!" Lucius growled. "If you stay here for even a minute, I'll make sure to let HIM know that you're getting in the way of my business! Let's see if you'll feel good after that!"

Harrus frowned after hearing Lucius' threat. Although the person in front of him was someone whom he could kill with a single slap of his hand, he couldn't do that because the Merchant was an Honorable Elder of their guild.

No matter how arrogant Harrus was, he knew that making Lucius his enemy would not give him any benefits. Also, his reason for barging into Lucius' office was to make sure that the merchant had no choice, but to talk to him.

In the past, Lucius had ignored Harrus' presence, and even refused to meet with him personally.

The merchant would always use a middle-man, like Ferron, when dealing with him, which annoyed the red-haired Dwarf in the past.

"Sure, I'll leave, but let me clarify something," Harrus stated. "I didn't do anything to your subordinates, so don't accuse me of anything I didn't do. I'll wait for you at the inn I'm staying at. Make sure to personally come, or else..."

Harrus no longer said anything and turned around to leave. When the troublemaker was finally gone, Lucius was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief before sitting back on his chair.

"I'm sorry you had to see that," Lucius said apologetically. "That person was an acquaintance of mine, but we're not that close. I apologize for any inconvenience he may have caused you."

Nevreal waved his hand as if what happened earlier was not a big deal to him.

"I understand," Nevreal replied. "Things like this happen, so don't worry about it."

Lucius smiled and nodded his head. He then shifted his gaze to his right-hand man, who seemed to be pondering something.

"What's wrong?" Lucius asked.

Ferron moved closer to Lucius and whispered something to his ear.

"Earlier, I felt a strong presence in the area so I went to investigate," Ferron whispered. "Half of the Rankers we have assigned to protect the perimeter have all been knocked unconscious.

"I thought the one who did it was Harrus and his subordinates, but he said that he didn't do anything to our people before he left. Although I don't know if his words can be trusted, it is best if we return to the Merchant Guild to ensure your safety."

Lucius was surprised to hear such a thing and a suspicious thought came to his mind.

'Am I just overthinking things?' Lucius thought as he glanced at Nevreal, who was calmly sipping the tea that he had been served earlier.

As a Merchant, he was always thinking a few steps ahead of his competition, allowing him to reap the profit before others could lay their hands on them. However, he found the timing of his men being attacked, and Nevreal's appearance to be a mere coincidence.

His suspicious nature that allowed him to survive for the past few years was on high alert, so he decided to play it safe and heed Ferron's warning.

"Since I already caused you great discomfort for the day, why don't we end our meeting here," Lucius said. "I've already heard Sir Nevreal's proposal, so I'll carefully consider it. I will let you know the answer in a few days."

"Okay." Nevreal nodded. "I look forward to a favorable reply."

The two shook hands and after that, then the middle-aged Dwarf left the Tavern and returned to his Inn where Lux and Robin were waiting for his return.

"He clearly became suspicious," Nevreal stated. "Although he tried to hide it by keeping a calm demeanor, I have faced many nobles in my life that I can tell what they are thinking with a glance. He has raised his guard. So, now what?"

"Don't worry, everything is under control," Lux replied before looking at his Shadow Lord who now stood beside him. "Draven, did you manage to place your Mark on Lucius?"

Draven nodded. "Yes. Master. I have placed a mark on his shadow. Although I am unable to see his surroundings, I am able to know his location, as well as hear the things around him."

"Good." Lux sighed. "What bad timing. Now, we have no choice but to play the waiting game and see if we can continue our operation tonight."

Nevreal glanced at Robin who was keeping his silence, and asked the Prince what was on his mind.

"Would you like to return to the Royal Palace with me, Your Highness?" Nevreal asked.

Robin shook his head. "I'll stay here. I won't be able to rest easily until I know the outcome of Lux's operation. Also, that Ranker... he was the leader of the one that tried to kidnap my sister, right?"

"It is him," Lux said firmly. "If not for his unexpected appearance, our plan would have proceeded more smoothly. Still, since Lucius is still in the city, that means that he only suspects Sir Nevreal.

"But, since the offer we gave him was very tempting, he will definitely find it hard not to bite our bait. All we need to do is wait for two things to happen. Either Lucius comes to find us on his own will, or we wait until Harrus leaves the city.

"I have something in mind for what to do with Lucius, so I don't want any member of Twilight Rain to get wind of it."

The Half-Elf then glanced at Draven who had the ability to transform into anyone whom he had personally killed.

There were many ways Lux could achieve the goal he had in mind.

If his hands were forced, he would not hesitate to take the Merchant's life, and replace him with someone else.

Someone whom he could trust that would follow his orders faithfully.

Just like the Undead under his command, that would not hesitate to jump in a sea of fire as long as he wished for it.

Chapter 730: Let Him Go On A Wild Goose Chase

"You shouldn't have done what you did earlier," Lucius complained as soon as he sat down on the couch. "Do you have any idea who that person was?"

"No, and I don't care," Harrus replied. "I only came here for the information regarding the Monster that attacked the Wolfpine Barony, as well as the funds that are needed for our expedition."

"... People like you are the worst," Lucius snorted.

However, the merchant still tossed a storage ring towards the red-headed Dwarf that contained everything that he was looking for.

Harrus checked the contents of the storage ring before nodding his head in satisfaction.

"I got what I came here for," Harrus stated. "But, I'll still be staying here in Whitebridge City for two days. I hope you don't mind."

"As long as you don't interfere with me, you can stay here for as long as you like," Lucius replied. "Don't barge into my office again, especially when I am meeting with important people."

"Remember this, I am an Honorary Elder of our Guild, so you had better behave yourself in front of me, or I'll tell our Guildmaster about this incident. I'm sure that he would like to speak with you once he knows who I was talking to earlier."

Harrus scoffed. "You still haven't moved on from this incident? How about you focus more on the one responsible for knocking out your guards? All of them may be Low-Rankers, but they are still Rankers. Did you perhaps offend some people? Are you being targeted?"

The red-headed Dwarf gave the merchant a mischievous smile, making the latter feel more annoyed about what happened earlier.

Not only did his meeting with Nevreal get interrupted, some of his elite guards were also taken out without his notice.

Ferron stated that this attack happened simultaneously, preventing any of the guards from sounding the alarm.

Clearly, there was someone, or some people, who had the ability to cause trouble for him inside Whitebridge City.

This greatly alarmed the Merchant because he had indeed made enemies in the past. If one of those people were targeting him then Harrus' appearance was perhaps a blessing in disguise.

'There is still a possibility that they are Nevreal's people,' Lucius thought.

Since Nevreal was one of the King's men, it was quite possible that they had discovered that Lucius was one of the undercover agents of Twilight Rain in Whitebridge City, which was one of the Major Cities of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

However, he had no way of confirming this. The only thing he could do was keep a low profile and let Ferron and the remainder of his guards protect him, while the culprits for knocking his men unconscious were still at large.

"Tell you what," Harrus said. "I'll help you find those who are responsible for what happened today. However, I want proper compensation for my troubles."

The red-headed Dwarf was in need of more resources so he could keep breaking through the Ranks and become a true High-Ranker, which would make his position immovable within Twilight Rain.

Even though he had failed in the past, as long as he was one of the strongest members of the Dark Guild, his critics would not openly taunt him face to face, in fear that he would retaliate.

"You will?" Lucius asked.

"Why not?" Harrus shrugged. "At the end of the day, you're still an Honorary Elder of the Guild. Helping you is the same as helping the guild."

"You're right." Lucius nodded. "Regardless of our differences, we are still on the same side. Very well, I accept this proposal. Find the one responsible for attacking my guards, and you will be compensated."

"Now we're talking." Harrus grinned. "But, before I do anything. Let's talk about the compensation first."

While Harrus and Lucius were negotiating the compensation for the High-Ranker's services, Lux was pondering what his next move would be.

Truth be told, he wasn't afraid of Harrus or Ferron. Far from it, he was confident that he would be able to deal with them if he truly wished for it.

However, there was one problem.

They were inside Whitebridge City.

If a battle suddenly took place inside the city, innocent bystanders might get hurt. Although it was understandable that property damages were inevitable, the loss of lives was something that Lux wanted to avoid no matter what.

Also, Robin, Nevreal, and the Dwarven King, would be disappointed in him if he used the city as the battlefield between him and Twilight Rain.

"Large scale battles are a No, so how about assassination attempts?" Lux glanced at the middle-aged Dwarf who was smoking a pipe, while looking outside of the window. "Will the City Guards protect Lucius if he asks to be protected by them?"

"The possibility exists," Nevreal answered after blowing a white smoke from his lips. "He is one of the most influential people here in Whitebridge City. Since the Guards are here to protect the people, they might agree to his request. So, what are they talking about right now? Also, did you put a tracker on me too?"

Nevreal didn't know how Draven did it, but the Shadow Lord managed to put a tracker on Lucius' shadow when the two of them were talking in private. This made the middle-aged Dwarf wonder if Lux had also ordered his subordinate to put a tracker on him, so that he could monitor his every move.

"I didn't ask Draven to put a tracker on you, Sir Nevreal," Lux answered. "You are an ally, and I know you value your privacy."

"That's good to know. I was feeling restless earlier because I thought you also planned to monitor me."

"Don't worry. I have no interest in the daily routines of middle-aged Dwarves."

Nevreal didn't know if he should be happy or feel insulted by Lux's slight jab at his age. Even so, he still waited for the Half-Elf's answer to the question he asked a moment ago.

"Right now, he is negotiating with Harrus," Lux replied. "The one that tried to kidnap Princess Anastasia wants to get some resources in exchange for hunting down the person responsible for knocking Lucius' guards unconscious."

"Oh?" Nevreal. "Then, what do you plan to do about it?"

"What else?" Lux narrowed his gaze. "Let him go on a wild goose chase, while we target the one person that truly matters."

Lux knew that sooner or later, Harrus and him would fight against each other. But, he chose not to do that now.

He had limited time to stay in the Kingdom of Gweliven, and he planned to use his time wisely.

"Tonight, we're going to strike," Lux stated as he pressed his palms together.

"Aren't you afraid that he has a life saving artifact that will allow him to escape?" Nevreal inquired.

"It doesn't matter," Lux replied. "Whether he escapes tonight or not, our objective will be met regardless of the result. Twilight Rain will surely focus their attention on the one that is targeting their Honorary Elder."

"I also asked two Assassins to deal with the other Merchant that Sam spoke of. Since this attack will happen on the same day, they will think that they are dealing with the King's undercover agents that even the King himself, and the spies of Twilight Rain around him, are not aware of."

Nevreal emptied his pipe before glancing outside the window of his inn.

It had been more than a year since he first met Lux in Leaf Village, and in that span of time, the Half-Elf was no longer the same person who had

desperately tried to survive inside a Kobold's Nest, while trying to save his friends.

Nevreal would be lying if he said that he wasn't looking forward to what the Half-Elf would achieve a year from now.

Especially after the red-headed teenager received the World's Blessings, and stepped onto the path of becoming a True Ranker.

(A/N: I will be posting the different rankings of things in this chapter, and the s to refresh your memories. Some of you don't read the author's notes where I post the rankings of Skills, Equipments, Guilds, and Power Rankings of mortals and monsters. So, here are the rankings to give you guys a better idea of what the power scaling is.)

Let's start with Skills first.

Normal Skills -> [EX] Skills -> [SSR] Skills -> [Epic] Skills, and [Divine] Skills.

For Equipment, we have the following Rankings.

Rare, Unique, Mythical, Legendary, Demigod, Divine

In order to not increase the word count, I will be posting the rest in the .