

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

- Chapter 808.2: The Crystal Palace [Part 2] |

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Just like its exterior, the interior of the Crystal Palace was also made up of crystals.

He knew that Dragons liked to collect treasures, as well as surround themselves with gold, but this was taking things to the next level.

A few minutes later, they finally arrived at the throne room, where Lady Augustina was waiting for them.

The one to enter first was Aur, followed by Lux, and then Gaap.

The last one to enter was Piccoro as if to make sure that the Half-Elf wouldn't be going anywhere, just like what happened in the Domain of the Fallen.

To this day, he still didn't know how the Half-Elf was able to leave the Domain without exiting through the Gate, which he had been guarding for nearly a month.

If not for the fact that Lady Augustina had informed him that Lux would be coming to the Crystal Palace, he would still be there, waiting for the Half-Elf to appear.

Piccoro had many questions, but he decided to ask these questions later.

After all, now that the Half-Elf was within his line of sight, he would make sure that the other party wouldn't be going anywhere until he got his answers.

"We finally met face to face, Lux Von Kaizer," Lady Augustina said. "You may have already heard of me, but allow me to introduce myself. My name is Augustina, and I am the Steward of the Crystal Palace. Aur will replace me as its rightful heir when he has come of age."

"Cethus has already told me about the purpose of your visit. However, I would like to hear from your own mouth, in your own words, about this request that you wish to ask of me."

The black-scaled Dragon Born, with silver streaks on the side of her face, looked at the Half-Elf with a calm expression on her face. She was waiting for Lux to say his request and see if it matched what her grandson had told her.

"First of all, thank you for granting me the time to meet with you, Your Excellency," Lux gave Lady Augustina a respectful bow. "My reason for coming here is to ask for your asylum, but before that, allow me to explain why I needed your help. You see..."

Lux told everyone in the throne room about his recent clash with the Divine Army of Light.

Aur and Piccoro, who had no idea why Lux had come to visit them, were shocked because they didn't expect the Half-Elf to somehow entangle himself with a massive organization that spanned hundreds of Kingdoms and Empires.

"Unbelievable," Piccoro commented. "So that announcement that was heard all over the world was about you becoming a Ranker and unlocking a Sacred Class? Not only that, you are a Progenitor. The first of its kind. This is truly something unexpected."

Lady Augustina arched an eyebrow after hearing Lux's explanation.

Her no-good grandson, Cethus, had only told her that Lux had gotten into a conflict with the Divine Army of Light. However, he didn't fully explain to her why the Half-Elf had managed to rub such a big organization off in a bad way.

Aur, who was just as surprised as Piccoro, looked at the Half-Elf in admiration. Unlocking a Sacred Class while becoming a Ranker was truly an amazing thing.

Not only that, Lux was a Progenitor of the Heaven's Necromancer Class, making him unique in the world.

After hearing Lux's explanation, everyone in the throne room understood why the Divine Army of Light was targeting him.

"Heaven's Necromancer..." Lady Augustina said softly. "Such an absurd and contradicting Profession... and yet, you are here, standing before me. Tell me, Lux, have you talked to the Dragon King of Karshvar Draconis about this matter as well?"

Lux nodded. "Since my Guild Headquarters is stationed in the Outer Reaches, the first person whom I asked for help was the Dragon King. Sadly, he wasn't interested in helping me."

"I see," Lady Augustina rested the side of her face over the back of her hand and eyed the Half-Elf with a critical gaze. "While I don't mind giving you Asylum against the Divine Army of Light, what can you offer me in exchange for my protection?"

"About this..." Lux scratched his head as he looked at the Steward of the Crystal Palace with a helpless smile. "Is there something that Her Excellency wants the most? You are already a Supreme and the ruler of one of the strongest Factions in Elysium. You already have everything, be it treasures, status, and power. Since that is the case, is there something that you want that I might offer in exchange for Asylum?"

Lady Augustina smiled after hearing Lux's reply. "You're quite eloquent with words. While it is true that I can get whatever I want if I wish for it, there are some things that even I didn't have the ability to get, regardless of my Rank and influence.

"Truth be told, you have nothing to offer me. However, I would like to ask you a few questions. Take note that I hate liars the most. I want honesty from you. Depending on your answers, I will consider giving you my protection. Do we have an understanding?"

Lux nodded and waited for Lady Augustina's questions.

"The first question is this," Lady Augustina said with a solemn expression on her face. "What is your end goal? The thing that you want to achieve in your lifetime."

Lux didn't answer right away as he carefully weighed his words. Inside his head, he was thinking of a way to make his answer sound less "cheesy". He already knew the answer to this question, but he was debating on how he was going to properly word it.

"I know that what I'm going to say might sound unbelievable and overly pompous, but this is the main reason why I am here in Elysium," Lux replied. "The world of Solais is dying, and I am here to find a way to save it from destruction."

The corner of Lady Augustina's curled up into a smile as she made her opinion known.

"Saving your world is well and good, but the current you can't even save yourself from the Divine Army of Light" Lady Augustina smirked. "Tell me, do you have any concrete plans for how to save your world, Solais?"

Lux shook his head. "I have no idea how to save Solais. All I know is that I will find the answer here in Elysium. This is why I needed to explore this world in search of a way to save my world. However, just as Her Excellency had said, the current me can neither save myself nor my guild from the Divine Army of Light, much less save a world.

"Even so, my goal will not change. I will do everything in my power to find the answer that I am looking for. And for that to happen, I need time to grow and become stronger, which is something that the Divine Army of Light will not allow to happen."

Lady Augustina nodded her head, sensing that there wasn't any falsehood in Lux's reply.

Piccoro, on the other hand, snorted in contempt because there was nothing special in Lux's answer.

In fact, all the Solaians that had come to Elysium had said the same thing.

They were looking for a way to save their world, so the Half-Elf's answer wasn't that special in his eyes.

Chapter 809.3: The Crystal Palace [Part 3]

"Now that I have heard your goal for coming here to Elysium, this is my next question," Lady Augustina stated. "If you were given a choice to choose between what is right and what is easy, which one would you choose?"

"That will depend on the situation," Lux replied. "And my current ability at that time."

The Half-Elf then paused before continuing his explanation.

"Let's take my current conflict with the Divine Army of Light as an example. They have one-sidedly branded me as a Heretic without taking into consideration the fact that my current Profession was something that I didn't choose on my own accord. It just so happened that I was able to meet its requirements.

"Based on this example, those who are in the "right" are only able to be right because they have the strength to back it up. I, however, don't have this ability. Because of this, if I were given a choice to fight or run away from them, I will choose to run away, which is the easiest choice to make.

"Fighting them right now is akin to suicide, and I don't want anyone in my guild to sacrifice their lives needlessly in a battle where there is no hope of winning."

Lady Augustina closed her eyes as she weighed Lux's words.

"You said that fighting them 'right now' is akin to suicide," Lady Augustina commented. "Does this mean that you will fight them eventually?"

"If the matter is not resolved between us, then yes," Lux replied. "They are the aggressor in this conflict, and I am only doing my best to survive. If they force my hand, then I will, of course, fight back. However, I will fight back on my own terms, and in a way that will allow me to survive."

"Guerilla tactics then?"

"It is one of the options that are available for those who are at a disadvantage."

Piccoro chuckled after hearing Lux's reply. For Saints like him, there was no need for guerrilla tactics. They could simply flatten an entire city if they had to, and that would become enough deterrence for anyone to stop making a move on them.

"Next question. You ask for asylum, but how long do you plan to stay under my protection?" Lady Augustina asked.

"One year," Lux answered in a heartbeat. "Please grant us protection for one year. After that, we will leave the Crystal Palace and no longer trouble you again."

Lux's answer caught everyone in the throne room completely by surprise. Even Lady Augustina didn't expect that the Half-Elf would only ask for a year of protection, instead of an entire lifetime.

"A year?" Lady Augustina lightly tapped the armrest of her throne. "Are you sure that you only need a year?"

Lux nodded. "Yes. I only need a year."

"Hah! What a joke!" Piccoro voiced his opinion out loud for everyone to hear. "How much can you accomplish in a year? Do you think you can become a Saint in a year's time?"

Lux didn't reply and simply held Lady Augustina's gaze. The one he needed to convince was not Piccoro, but the Steward of the Crystal Palace, who had the highest authority in this Domain.

Regardless of what Cethus' Uncle thought, Lux wasn't someone who wanted to hug someone's thigh forever, unless they were the thighs of his lovers.

Gaap had informed him beforehand that Dragons and Dragon Borns were a very proud race. He added that powerful beings only wanted to treat others of the same rank as equals. For someone as lowly as Lux, showing a sign of weakness would make these proud individuals look down on him.

Since that was the case, he decided to only ask his Guild Headquarters to be stationed in the territory of the Crystal Palace for a year.

He believed that in that span of time, he and his Guild Members would be able to think of a strategy to make the Divine Army of Light understand that they weren't soft persimmons that they could pinch anytime they wanted.

Even a cornered animal would bite back if left with no other choice, and Lux was willing to bite back as hard as he could to make those who wished him dead feel a world of pain.

After Piccoro's initial outburst, an awkward silence descended upon the throne room as the Half-Elf and the Steward of the Crystal Palace continued to observe each other's reaction.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, Lady Augustina finally spoke.

"I have heard your answers," Lady Augustina stated. "And I shall let you know my answer tomorrow. For the time being, you can rest in the guest rooms that we have prepared for you and your Master. One more thing, please leave your Dragon Token behind. I needed to look at it to check its authenticity. You don't mind doing that, right?"

Lux took out the Dragon Token from his storage ring and looked at it with a solemn expression on his face.

A moment later, he extended his hand, presenting the Dragon Token on the palm of his hand to the Steward of the Crystal Palace.

With a motioning gesture from Lady Augustina, the Dragon Token flew in her direction and landed on her clawed hands.

"You may take your leave," Lady Augustina stated. "Also, everyone, please leave the throne room. I need some time to think on my own."

Aur nodded and walked towards the Half-Elf.

"Please follow me, Lux," Aur said. "I will take you to the guest room."

"Understood," Lux replied.

The Half-Elf gave the Dragon Token in Lady Augustina's hand one last glance before following behind Aur.

Only when the last person had exited the throne room did Lady Augustina look at the Dragon Token in her hand with reverence.

"Your Majesty, I missed you," Lady Augustina said in a somewhat hoarse voice.

Suddenly, a sigh sounded from the Dragon Token as it glowed faintly in her hands.

"It has been hard on you, Augustina," Keoza replied in an apologetic tone. "How is she? Is she well?"

"I'm sure that she misses you as much as I do, Your Majesty," Lady Augustina stated. "Would you like to see her?"

"... Please." Keoza's voice, which was filled with longing made Lady Augustina become teary-eyed.

"Right away, Your Majesty," the Steward of the Crystal Palace held the Dragon Token with the utmost care in her hand before disappearing from her throne.

As Keoza's right-hand woman, she had been given the task to protect everything he had left behind, including his wife and child, whom he was forced to abandon for the sake of the continuation of the entire Dragon Race.

Before doing so, he had transferred all of his powers to Lady Augustina, allowing her to become a Supreme and safeguard everyone who believed in him.

This was why he was nowhere to be found on the day of his coronation, allowing the current Dragon King to take his place as a replacement.

Only a handful of people, including his wife, Lady Augustina, and Piccoro knew of the true reason for his disappearance.

Now that Keoza was back in his own Domain, he wished to see his wife, whom he hadn't seen for centuries.

Leaving the Half-Elf in the care of the Dragon Prince, who had become more friendly toward him since they had last seen each other in the Gate of Famine.

Chapter 810: Lux's Good Luck Charm

"By the way, Your Highness, aren't you supposed to be exploring the Gate of the Apocalypse right now?" Lux asked as he trailed behind Aur, who was leading him to the guest room prepared just for him.

"Calling me Your Highness after fighting side by side with me sounds stiff," Aur replied before giving Lux a smile that would make any lady swoon over him. "Just call me Aur. I've been calling you Lux, so it's only fair that you call me by name as well."

"But..." Lux glanced at Piccoro, who was walking beside them with his arms crossed over his chest.

"Since His Highness has given you permission to call him by his name, you should just obey and be honored for receiving such treatment," Piccoro replied. "Such privileges are not given to just anyone, so you better be thankful for the grace that he has given you, filthy Low Lander."

Lux wasn't offended by Piccoro's taunts and instead found it very tame.

After all, he had been stuck with Hereswith for two whole weeks. Compared to his grandmaster's profanities, the Dragon Born's ridicule felt just like a passing wind.

"You asked me why I didn't go to the Gate of the Apocalypse, right?" Aur said. "Originally, the plan was for me to go there, along with the Rankers of the Crystal Palace. However, after hearing from Aunt Augustina that you would be coming to our Domain, I decided to stay and let my subordinates handle the exploration by themselves.

"By the way, how did you manage to leave the Dungeon without appearing at the Gate of the Fallen? Piccoro waited outside the gate for nearly a month, you know?"

The black-scaled Dragon Born's lips twitched after being reminded of the wasted time that he had spent, waiting for the Half-Elf to exit the Dungeon.

Just like Aur, he was curious about how the Half-Elf was able to leave without leaving the Dungeon the normal way.

"Um, about that, after I left the Dungeon, I was teleported to a different place," Lux said with a calm expression on his face. "Since I was already outside the Dungeon, I returned to the Outer Reaches in order to handle a few things in my Guild Headquarters. Then, I returned to my home world to have a family reunion.

"Actually, I just returned from Solais, and the first thing I did was come here to the Crystal Palace to ask the Steward for protection against the Divine Army of Light."

Piccoro remained silent as Lux explained what happened on his side after leaving the Dungeon.

As a Saint, he knew that the Half-Elf only spoke half-truths. Even so, since Aur was around, he decided to no longer berate the red-headed teenager for making him wait for nearly a month.

"The name of your world is Solais, right?" Aur inquired. "What is it like? All of you Foreigners can visit our world, but we are unable to visit your world. Sometimes, I feel that it is a little unfair."

"Well, I have only seen a bit of Solais, so I can't really give you a good description of it," Lux answered. "I grew up in Wildgarde Stronghold and stayed there for 16 years. You can even say that I have seen more of Elysium than I had seen Solais. Here, I can go anywhere I want without worrying about the miasma that is spreading at the borders of our territories."

The Half-Elf then told the Dragon Prince about his life in Wildgarde Stronghold, as well as the frustrations he had in the past due to his weak body.

Naturally, he neither told Aur about the God of Games nor about how he managed to recover from his weakness. He only mentioned that he had a fortuitous encounter and that it allowed him to finally come to Elysium, where his adventure officially started.

"The Kingdom of Gweliven?" Aur pondered. "The name isn't familiar to me. But I'm a bit jealous. You can travel to different places whenever you want. As for me..."

Aur trailed off and didn't finish his explanation.

Lux understood that, as the Prince of the Crystal Palace, the places he was allowed to go to were very limited. Not only that, even if he were allowed to go out, he would always be surrounded by countless protectors that would ensure his safety.

"Your Highness, the outside world isn't as safe as you think," Piccoro commented. "As the sole Heir of the Crystal Palace, your safety is of the utmost import—"

"Enough, Piccoro," Aur stated. "I understand. You don't have to worry about me."

"Yes, Your Highness." The Dragon Born bowed apologetically to his Prince.

A few minutes later, they finally arrived at their destination.

The Half-Elf thought that Aur would leave as soon as he showed him his temporary lodgings. But on the contrary, the Dragon Prince stayed inside the room and asked Lux to tell him about his adventures in Leaf Village.

Of course, Aur didn't forget to ask Lux how he was able to acquire the Dragon Token, which he had temporarily turned over to Lady Augustina for safekeeping.

"Hahaha, you fought against Kobolds?" Piccoro laughed. "You're lucky that the Cadmus Guy didn't snap your head off. If I were in his shoes, I wouldn't think twice about doing it."

"Well, I am on good terms with the Kobold Tribe now after that incident," Lux replied. "In fact, they were one of my first Guild Members. They are even helping me gather resources for my Guild."

"That's the only thing they are good for." Piccoro snorted. "Dig, dig, and dig. They are like those Dwarves that have nothing better to do than burrow under the Earth. Um, Dwarves, as of late, have learned to explore above the ground as well. Their ability to not get lost in the places that they have traveled before is a very remarkable ability."

Lux could tell that Piccoro looked down on anyone aside from the Dragon Race, but he was fine with that.

Cethus was the same in the past, but now, the Dragon Born had become less arrogant... at least when he was with them.

"So, ever since that day you cleared the Dungeon, you have had the Dragon Token in your hands, right?" Aur asked with a calm expression on his face.

"You also said that you have summoned K-Keoza twice. That means that you can only summon him one last time?"

Lux nodded. "Yes. He said that I could call out to him three times. There was a time when he helped me of his own accord even when I didn't ask for his help. If he hadn't, I don't know what might have happened to me. Back then, I was consumed by the lust for vengeance that I don't have much recollection of what happened. All I wanted to do in my berserk state was to kill people."

The Half-Elf noticed that Aur and Piccoro were very interested in the stories about Keoza. Because of this, he told them about the times when he asked for the Crystal Dragon's help, as well as the advice he had given to him whenever he needed it the most.

"You are lucky to have received His Maje—I mean, Keoza's Dragon Token." Piccoro cleared his throat. "I'm sure that you would have long been dead if you hadn't acquired it due to how stupid and weak you are."

"Well, you're not wrong," Lux nodded. "I owe Keoza a lot. With him by my side, I feel like I have a good luck charm that will help me overcome the obstacles that stand before me."

"Hmph!" Piccoro snorted, but he didn't say anything to the Half-Elf.

Aur, on the other hand, smiled and asked Lux to continue his tale about his adventures in Solais.

Seeing how enthusiastic the Dragon Prince was, the Half-Elf decided to continue his tale until the sun had set over the horizon.

When Aur left the room, he thanked Lux for his time and promised to accompany him in exploring their Capital City, Rex Zariza, when morning came.

The Half-Elf thanked Aur and Piccoro for their hospitality before retiring for the night.

His Master, Gaap, had left the Half-Elf to talk to some old acquaintances and promised that he would be back as soon as possible.

Since the Halfling still hadn't returned, Lux thought that he might be doing a lot of catching up with the Dragon Borns who owed a lot of debt to his Grandmaster, Hereswith.

Chapter 811: Firmly Tied By The Red Strings Of Fate

Inside the Inner Palace of the Crystal Palace...

An exceptionally beautiful woman was currently sobbing as she held the Dragon Token dearly against her chest.

"My Love, I missed you terribly," the beautiful woman said through her tears. "It has been so long since I heard your voice. How long have I waited for this day? Why did you only visit me now? Can't you have returned to me sooner?"

The sadness and heartache in the woman's voice made Keoza's soul also feel heartbroken despite the fact that he currently didn't have a body.

"Forgive me, Evangeline," Keoza said softly. "I wish I could have returned sooner. But it took a while for Fate to play her hand. I'm sorry for making you wait for a very long time."

Evangeline wept as she pressed Keoza's Dragon token against her chest, wishing that it could merge with her body so that they could always be together.

Lady Augustina, who was watching this from the side, also had tears streaming down the side of her face. Just like Evangeline, she had terribly missed her Master, who should have been the one and only Dragon King of the entire Dragon Race.

"Our child has already grown so much," Keoza commented. "It must have been hard on you."

Evangeline shook her head. "If it wasn't because of your sacrifice, our child wouldn't have been born in the first place. Aur looks a lot like you when you were younger."

"No," Keoza replied. "Aur looks more like you. Only the color of our eyes is the same."

"Yes, your blue eyes that remind me of the clear blue sky from the day you confessed your love to me." Evangeline smiled as the tears in her eyes continued to flow. "It has been over a hundred years since then. My Love, how long must I wait for your return? Although your voice alleviates my pain a little, I want to hold you in my arms and be embraced by you in return."

"I wish I knew, My love," Keoza replied. "Right now, Lux can summon my soul one more time. After that, my contract with him will be over. Then I will regain my freedom."

"Can't you simply ask him to just free you instead?" Evangeline asked. "I'm sure that he will gladly do it in exchange for us allowing him to seek asylum here in our domain. If that's not enough, we can always give him treasures. Must we really wait until he has a need for you before you can return to your original body?"

A sigh emanated from the Dragon Token.

"Evangeline, although I am sure that Lux will readily agree to my request, I won't ask him to free me just yet."

"B-But why? Haven't you helped him enough? Haven't you sacrificed enough?"

Keoza's gentle voice, which Lux had never heard before, whispered in the beautiful woman's heart.

"Right now, Lux is facing individuals who stand at the Apex of the World," Keoza said. "He has just become a Ranker, and his opponents are already Saints. Even if his Guild Headquarters is to be given Asylum here in the Crystal Palace, his Fate lies elsewhere.

"He will venture to places that few people have set their eyes on.

"Challenge monsters who are above his league.

"Face obstacles that will challenge his limits.

"And meet people, who will form strong bonds with him, which will also be his strength in the uncertain future that lay in front of us."

Suddenly, Keoza's demi-human form materialized in front of Evangeline. He lowered his head and kissed his wife's forehead as he lovingly cupped her face, making her look into his blue eyes that had made her heart skip a beat centuries ago.

"My Love, I ask you to wait a little bit longer." Keoza smiled faintly before kissing her lips. A few seconds later, he pulled back and once again returned to the Dragon Token in her hand.

"When Darkness comes knocking on Heaven's Doors, the sun shall rise over darkened skies," Keoza said with a solemn voice. "With his Unholy Army, he will open the Gates of Heaven, and from there, he will descend upon the world and end the folly of the craven.

"When the Void delivers its greeting, the world's survival will be fleeting. Despite the struggles of the living, it is the Dead whose blades will do the killing.

"Looking for the Pillars of Serenity will aid a world of its Longevity. Even if you were to hold the power of Eternity, without a heart, all will fall to Depravity.

"As the final hour approaches, all hope will vanish without a trace. Only the bonds forged from countless heartaches will make both worlds a better place."

The Dragon Token glowed faintly, warming Evangeline's weeping heart. She understood that her husband had chosen to save the world in his own way, and because of this, she decided to trust her husband and wait.

Wait until his oath was fulfilled by helping the Half-Elf one last time.

The words that Keoza said, she knew them all by heart. For she was the one that had seen that grim future and almost lost her heart.

Her child back then, who was still unborn, was the one who suffered from the backlash of her vision.

And in order to save Aur and their future, Keoza decided to take matters into his own hands.

Turning his back on his responsibilities as King, he did what he thought was the right thing.

Making a pact with the one God remaining in their world, he cast aside his body and sealed his soul inside the Dragon Token.

Waiting for the day when someone would stumble upon him and free him from his hundred years of suffering.

However, after meeting Lux, he found the Half-Elf to his liking. Although he missed his family, he also wished to accompany the red-headed teenager for a little while longer.

Keoza had chosen Lux, and their meeting could only be described as a leap of Faith.

Now that their contract had been made.

His and the Half-Elf's futures were firmly tied by the red strings of Fate.

Chapter 812: Valerie's Determination

After dinner, Lux returned to his room. Sitting on his bed, he was currently looking at the four Skill Books in front of him.

These were the Skill Books that he had acquired from his previous quests. He held off using them until now.

The reason for this was simple.

Great General Sherlock had mentioned in passing that learning skills from Skill Books would give him better returns the higher his Rank when he used them.

"Skill Books are like Beast Cores, Lux," Great General Sherlock had told him back then. "The stronger the Monster, the better. This will allow you to learn rarer and more powerful skills that you won't be able to acquire when your Rank is low."

Because of this, he had held back in activating these Skill Books until he became a Ranker.

'Let's do this,' Lux thought as he picked up one Skill Book after the other, adding four new Skills to his ever growing list.

The first skill he got was Bone Spike [EX].

This skill allowed Lux to summon two-meter Bone Spikes that jutted out of the ground in a straight line, impaling those who were in its way.

The second skill was called Cripple [EX], which would randomly cripple one of the limbs of his target for ten minutes. Lux found this skill quite interesting because it could render his enemy unable to use their crippled limb effectively in combat.

The only downside of this skill was that it would only work on Humans and Demi-Humans that were of the same rank or lower than his current rank.

But the good part was that this skill would bypass any magical defenses, taking his enemy completely by surprise.

The third skill was called Chilling Touch [EX].

This skill allowed Lux to empower up to a hundred creatures with the Chilling Touch ability, adding Ice Elemental damage to their attacks.

Last but not the least was the skill called Finger of Death [EX].

Among Lux's new skills, this one made him arch an eyebrow.

First and foremost, this skill only worked on Monsters. However, it didn't work on Boss Monsters.

However, it could insta-kill Alpha Ranked Monsters that had the same Rank or lower Rank than Lux.

The skill description also mentioned that, while the skill primarily targeted Monsters, it was applicable on Humans as well. It could inflict great pain on humans of the same Rank as Lux or lower, although it wouldn't be lethal.

The Half-Elf then glanced at the Baby Slime that was sleeping on top of his pillow and smiled.

Back in the Necromancer's Ancestral Lands, Eiko had licked the Calamity-Ranked Beast Core and learned an interesting skill.

This skill was called Mind Reader [EX].

Just as the name implied, this ability allowed Eiko to hear the thoughts of people up to two-hundred meters away from her.

This skill was always active, but it didn't mean that she would hear the thoughts of everyone around her. She could choose to read the thoughts of others on her own accord, so she wouldn't suffer from needless "noise" coming from her surroundings.

The good part about this skill was that, since Eiko was Lux's Beast Companion, this skill was linked to him as well, allowing him to read the mind of others.

Also, those that bore ill will towards Eiko and Lux would have their thoughts automatically heard by them.

For the Half-Elf, this skill was an incredible ability, which made him wonder what kind of powerful monster the Calamity-Ranked Beast Core belonged to.

"Tomorrow..." Lux muttered as he lightly patted Eiko's head before laying on the bed. "Tomorrow, I will know if we can stay here in the territory of the Crystal Palace for a year, or if we need to look for some other place to go to."

The Half-Elf then closed his eyes to sleep, for he knew that in the upcoming days, he wouldn't get much rest once the relocation of their Guild Headquarters commenced.

Outer Reaches, Karshvar Draconis...

"What? This Guild Headquarters will relocate to a different location?" Valerie, who had been informed that Lux's Floating Island might leave Karshvar Draconis, suddenly felt alarmed.

She knew that her Father didn't want to give Asylum to Lux and his Guild Headquarters, but she didn't expect that the Half-Elf would decide to move his Guild Headquarters, along with the Floating Island, to another place.

"I'm afraid that we are left with no other choice," Emma said with a bitter smile. "Karshvar Draconis is at the center of the world, and it is closer to the territories that belong to the Divine Army of Light. It is only a matter of time before they get wind that Lux is staying here, and when that happens..."

Emma trailed off, not finishing her sentence. However, this was enough to make Valerie feel anxious.

'If Sir Lux's Guild Headquarters disappears from the Outer Reaches, then how am I supposed to see him again?' The Dragon Princess was very unwilling to part with the red-headed teenager forever, so she decided to return to the palace in order to convince her father to change his mind.

"Ali, Ari, let's go," Valerie ordered before placing her baby Dragon Slime, Kei, on top of her head. "We're going back to the capital."

""As My Lady wishes.""

The two maids replied in unison and trailed behind Valerie, who was in a hurry to get back home.

Cethus' Grandma, Lady Faustina, who seemed to have an inkling about what the Dragon Princess was thinking, sighed in her heart.

'I just hope that she won't sneak outside of the Palace in order to visit Lux in the Crystal Palace,' Lady Faustina thought. 'I guess I better pay close attention to her over the next few days.'

After seeing the way Valerie looked at the Half-Elf, the wise Dragon Born immediately figured out that the Dragon Princess might have developed a crush on Lux.

This was very normal for girls her age, but she wasn't an ordinary girl.

She was the daughter of the Dragon King, and only those who had the qualifications to match her status would have the chance to marry her.

Although Lux had his own achievements, she was worried that it wasn't enough to impress the Dragon King, whom she was sure would crush anyone who dared to court the daughter he treasured with all of his heart.

Chapter 813: Father Is A Very Just, And Righteous King

"No," the Dragon King said firmly. "I already said that I won't help him. I will not change my mind now."

"B-But Father, he really needs your help right now," Valerie insisted. "How can you be so heartless?"

"Valerie, why do you insist on speaking up for that boy?" the Dragon King asked. "Don't tell me that you like him?"

"Yes!" Valerie replied. "I like him, and I want him to stay here in Karshvar Draconis!"

"Not happening," the Dragon King replied and raised his hand. "Guards! Take the Princess back to the Inner Palace and make sure that she doesn't leave that place unless I give her my permission!"

Lady Faustina visualized this scene inside her head as she followed the determined Princess who was marching toward the Royal Palace.

Although Lady Faustina wasn't sure if this was the exact scene that would play out later, she knew to a certain extent that reality wouldn't be far from what she had imagined.

'I better handle this properly, or else, Valerie might develop a rebellious attitude,' Lady Faustina thought.

When they were nearing the gates of the Royal Palace, the right-hand woman of the Dragon King stood in front of the Princess, blocking her way.

"What's wrong, Lady Faustina?" Valerie asked. "I need to see my father."

The Dragon Born smiled before making a few hand seals, sealing the place where she and Valerie were, preventing anyone from seeing or eavesdropping on their conversation.

"Princess, tell me. Why are you going so far for Lux?" Lady Faustina asked in a kind and gentle tone. "Do you perhaps like him?"

"L-Like him?!" Valerie immediately turned beet red after hearing the Dragon Born's question. "I-It's not like I like him or anything. He just told me that he will take responsibility countless times in my dreams."

"Um? In your dreams?"

"I-I mean, he said that he would take responsibility for Kei. Isn't that right, Kei?"

"Zi zi zi!"

The baby Dragon Slime snickered instead of answering Valerie's question, showing his mischievous side.

Lady Faustina sighed as she pressed her hand over her forehead.

"Listen to me, Your Highness," Lady Faustina said. "I can understand that you think fondly and highly of Lux, but your father doesn't feel the same for him. In fact, I think he dislikes Lux very much."

"N-No way...", Valerie felt as if cold water was poured over her head. "That can't be right. Father is a very just and righteous King."

"Of course, he is," Lady Faustina replied. "But, this only applies to the Dragon Race as a whole. In the end, Lux is a Half-Elf and belongs to the Lower Realm. Your father's righteousness and justice doesn't extend to him."

Valerie's face paled as she looked at Lady Faustina in disbelief. However, she knew that the Dragon Born wouldn't lie to her because she had cared for Valerie during her younger years and treated her like a granddaughter.

"Then what should I do?" Valerie asked. "I don't want to be separated from Sir Lux."

Lady Faustina didn't give the other party an answer right away. She closed her eyes and pondered for a few minutes before opening them again to look at the despairing princess, who was still looking like a plain girl.

"I have an idea that will allow you to see Lux from time to time," Lady Faustina said. "But, you have to promise me one thing. You will not tell your father that you like Lux. Trust me when I say that your Father would pose a far greater

threat to Lux than the Divine Army of Light if he came to know that you fancy the Half-Elf."

Truth be told, Lady Faustina had no obligation to help Lux. However, her grandson, Cethus, had become a better person after becoming part of his Guild.

Since that was the case, the doting grandmother decided to extend her help to the clueless Half-Elf, who had no idea that he was so close to being pinched to death by the Dragon King, who ruled over Karshvar Draconis.

"If I listen to you, Aunt Faustina, will I be able to see him?" Valerie asked. "Can I see him even if he goes far away?"

"The possibility exists," Lady Faustina answered. "I can help you pull some strings, and I will even accompany you when you go and see him. All I ask of you is that you keep your feelings safe inside your heart, and don't let your father know about them."

"T-Then, how about my mother?" Valerie asked. "I don't want to lie to her."

"Actually, we will need your mother's help with this," Lady Faustina replied. "I alone will not be able to keep this secret. If she is on our side, our chances of making the Dragon King not hurt the Half-Elf once he finds out about this are higher."

The Dragon Born then shifted her gaze to the two maids, who both had a determined look on their faces.

"I'm sure that I don't need to tell the two of you to keep this a secret as well," Lady Faustina said to Ali and Ari. "If you value your oath to protect the princess by all means, then you will keep this secret and help her if need be."

"We hear and obey, Your Excellency," Ali replied.

"We will keep this secret safe with everything we have," Ari stated.

Lady Faustina nodded before cupping Valerie's face.

"Go back to the Inner Palace for now and wait for my visit," Lady Faustina said. "Also, don't tell your mother anything yet. I will talk to her first and relay

your feelings to her. Also, you must also behave and listen to your father's words so that he won't suspect a thing."

Valerie nodded and promised to do what she was told. She then took Ali and Ari to the secret passages that led directly to the Inner Palace, leaving Lady Faustina alone with her thoughts.

'For the time being, I need to contact my sister,' Lady Faustina thought. 'As long as she agrees, I will have an excuse to take Valerie to the Crystal Palace.'

The Dragon Born sighed in her heart as she thought about what needed to be done.

She fully understood that love blinded people, making them unable to think properly.

However, if this matter wasn't handled carefully, the Princess and the Half-Elf, who didn't know that the Princess of Karshvar Draconis had developed a crush on him, might suffer terrible consequences if things got out of hand.

In order to prevent this unwanted future, Lady Faustina cooked up a plan inside her head.

A plan that would rekindle the connection between Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace, who had broken their ties with each other due to circumstances that happened many years ago.

Chapter 814: Hah! If You Become A Saint, I Will Be The One To Call You Uncle

In the throne room of the Crystal Palace...

"After careful consideration, I decided to accept your request," Lady Augustina said. "You can relocate your Guild Headquarters here for a year. However, after a year has passed, all of you have to leave. Also, remember this. I will only protect those who are within my territory.

"If you were to meet the Divine Army of Light outside my area of jurisdiction, it is no longer my concern. Flee or fight, the choice will be yours and your Guild

Members'. Just remember that outside my Domain, you are no longer under my protection.

"When the Divine Army of Light comes here to inquire about you, I will give them that answer. Do we have an understanding?"

Lux nodded. "Thank you, Your Excellency. I am fine with this arrangement."

"Good. As long as you understand, then our talk is over." Lady Augustina then glanced at Piccoro, who was standing beside Aur.

"You will oversee their relocation procedure, Piccoro. If the Divine Army of Light makes an appearance while the boy's Guild Headquarters is on its way to our Domain, make sure to tell them that if they don't want me to demolish their Divine City, they'd better mind their own business."

"As you command, My Liege." Piccoro pressed his closed fist over his chest and bowed respectfully. "As long as I am around, not even a rock from that floating island will be touched."

Lady Augustina smirked after hearing Piccoro's words. Among the Saints of the Crystal Palace, the black-scaled Dragon Born was known for being the most hot-tempered. If the Divine Army of Light really got in Piccoro's way, then a battle would certainly take place.

"Allow me to accompany him as well, Aunt Augustina," Aur stated. "Since Piccoro will be there, I'm sure that I'll be safe no matter what."

Lady Augustina pondered for a while before nodding her head.

"Just to be safe, I'll ask six more Saints to accompany you as your guardians," Lady Augustina replied. "Make sure to conduct yourself properly as the Prince of the Crystal Palace, and don't go wandering anywhere without your guards."

"I understand." Aur nodded before shifting his gaze to Lux. "I'll be in your care for a while, Lux. I'm also very curious about your Guild Headquarters."

"Mmm, I'll give you a tour," Lux promised. "Although it's not as grand as the Crystal Palace, it's not too shabby either."

Five minutes later, Lux left the throne room, accompanied by Aur and Piccoro. As they were headed toward the Teleportation Gate located inside the Palace's grounds, they found Gaap, who had been waiting for them.

"Well, did the Steward agree to your request?" Gaap asked.

"Yes, Master," Lux replied. "Are you also finished with your business in the city?"

"Something like that." Gaap smiled showing his complete set of teeth, which had grown back after the Halfling received a part of the World's Blessing that Lux had imparted to him. "Are we going back to the Outer Reaches now?"

Lux nodded, and Gaap stepped aside to allow his Disciple to enter the portal first.

He had already added the coordinates of their Guild Headquarters while waiting for Lux.

Gaap already knew Keoza's identity, so if the Crystal Palace didn't agree to Lux's request, he would certainly look down on the Crystal Dragon, whose soul was residing inside the Dragon Token.

Lady Augustina still hadn't returned the Dragon Token to Lux and simply told the Half-Elf that she would be keeping it for a month as compensation for agreeing to the Half-Elf's request.

The red-headed teenager didn't mind this condition since it was only for a month.

Aside from relocating his Guild, the only place he intended to go was Agarth. The key in his possession allowed him to teleport two more people alongside him to the Legendary City near the Core of Elysium.

However, aside from his Master, he didn't intend to bring anyone else with him.

Just like Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace, the Kingdom of Agarth was an SSS-Ranked Kingdom.

This meant that there was a Supreme guarding it. Since Lux and Gaap had their ways of escaping on their own, the Half-Elf deemed it best to not bring anyone else for their own safety.

A minute later, Aur and Piccoro gazed at the unfamiliar scenery in front of them.

The black-scaled Dragon Born frowned, seeing that the place was not up to his standards.

Although he had to admit that the Palace made up of white marble looked impressive, there was nothing else that caught his interest.

The construction that was going on at the base of the mountain did not pique his curiosity either. For Piccoro, every Low Lander city looked the same, even if it were being built on a floating island.

At that moment, a familiar voice called out to the Dragon Born Saint from the Sky.

"Uncle Piccoro!" Cethus shouted before landing on the ground a few meters from his uncle. "What are you doing here?"

"I am here to supervise your Guild's relocation, obviously," Piccoro snorted in disdain. "Still, I never thought the day would come that you'd become a Ranker. I thought you'd be stuck in the Initiate Rank all your life."

This time, it was Cethus' turn to snort. "How can that even be possible, Uncle? A genius like me is bound to soar to greater heights. Just you wait, in a few years, I'll also become a Saint."

"Hah! If you become a Saint, I will be the one to call you Uncle." Piccoro sneered. "You dumb brat can only be a High-Ranker at most."

"Hahaha! Very well. I'll make you call me Uncle, Uncle Piccoro," Cethus replied. "This only makes me want to reach that rank sooner. Just imagining you calling me Uncle is already giving me goosebumps."

Without any warning, Piccoro bumped his fist on Cethus' head, making the arrogant Dragon Born cry out in pain.

"The only bump you are going to get is a bump in the head." Piccoro scoffed.

Lux and Aur watched this scene with smiles on their faces. Although it seemed like Piccoro was looking down on his nephew, Cethus, one could feel how close the two of them were despite the rude words that both of them were hurling at each other.

Chapter 815: Leaving Karshvar Draconis

Gaap stood on the top of the mountain, looking toward the East.

After getting Lady Augustina's permission, the only thing he was waiting for was Lux's signal to start the relocation process.

Currently, the Half-Elf was talking to Bentley about moving the entire island, thinking that it might inconvenience the Merchant Guild if they changed locations.

"Master, Bentley said that there is no problem," Lux said through their Guild Chat. "We can go anytime you're ready."

"Very well," Gaap replied. "Have you said goodbye to everyone? Including Valerie? That girl seems to have taken a liking to you, my boy."

"Please, don't tease me, Master. I'm sure that Valerie just kissed me out of gratitude. Also, she was not here when we arrived," Lux answered. There was a hint of disappointment in his voice that didn't escape Gaap's senses, but he didn't say anything about it.

"Do you know why she left?"

"Emma said that she returned to the capital in a hurry after finding out that our Guild will move to a different place."

"Is that so? That's too bad then." Gaap smiled before raising his hand. "Tell everyone that we are moving. I will now order the Earth..., no, Sky Turtle to start flying in the direction of the Crystal Palace."

A minute later, the entire floating island shook as the giant head of a turtle, its flippers, and its tail jutted out of the island.

It roared once, as if to announce its presence, making the Guards of the nearby City of Pygmalion look in its direction.

"Full speed ahead, Rafael," Gaap ordered. "Onwards to the Crystal Palace!"

The Sky Turtle roared a second time to acknowledge its Master's order. It then moved its flippers, and with it, the floating island started to move as well.

"By the Dragon God! The Island is moving away?" One of the Guards of the City of Pygmalion gasped in shock.

"Is it being carried by a turtle?" another Guard asked. "No. It looks like the island itself is a turtle. Since when did this happen?"

"Someone, go and call the Mayor!" the Captain of the Guards ordered. "Report what is happening to the island right now!"

While the Guards of the City of Pygmalion looked at the floating island that was getting further and further away, the Dragon King of Karshvar Draconis glanced in the direction of the Outer Reaches.

"Not a bad move," the Dragon King commented. "I guess you managed to find someone else to babysit you and your lot."

If someone were to ask if the Dragon King was annoyed because one of his floating islands was moving elsewhere, then his answer would be yes.

However, since that island currently had a troublemaker that might involve his Kingdom in the conflicts of the Lower Realm, he decided that it would be better if they just went away.

News of the Floating Island leaving immediately spread like wildfire to the other cities in Karshvar Draconis.

Several Dragons and Dragon Borns even took off to the skies in order to see if the news was real.

The Outer Reaches was located at the very edge of Karshvar Draconis, so Lux's floating island passed by the other floating islands at a steady pace, like a tourist doing some sort of sightseeing.

This had never happened in the past, so the denizens of Karshvar Draconis found this event very interesting.

Some of the Dragons and Dragon Borns even landed on the island to ask about what was happening.

When Lux and his Guild Members explained that they were planning to relocate to a different place, the Dragons and Dragon Borns thought that this was a very novel idea.

Dragons liked to travel, and they would often go to places that others had not set their sights on.

This was true for Dragon Borns as well, so most of them wandered the "Lower Realms" in search of something that might catch their interest.

It took the floating island two days before they finally passed the last floating island that belonged to the Dragon Kingdom.

However, they met someone along the way, which gave Lux a very pleasant surprise.

Valerie, who was accompanied by Ali, Ari, and Lady Faustina, was standing on top of a Golden Dragon that was at least ten meters long.

The Dragon then landed on the floating island, and Valerie jumped off of its back.

She was still wearing her plain-looking disguise, and she looked at the Half-Elf whom she liked with a calm expression on her face.

Faustina had warned her that for as long as they were within the territory of Karshvar Draconis, she mustn't do something that might make the Dragon King angry.

Lady Faustina had a heart-to-heart talk with Valerie's mother, Saphira.

She explained that the Dragon Princess had developed a crush on Lux and asked Saphira for her help in allowing Valerie to visit the Crystal Palace as a representative of Karshvar Draconis.

Their goal was to smooth out the relationship between the two sides and promote a peaceful co-existence.

Saphira was against the idea at first, but she still reluctantly agreed in the end.

She understood that Valerie was still too innocent to understand the ways of the world, but she also knew that keeping her caged in the Inner Palace would do her more harm than good.

Although she still didn't think that Lux was a good match for her daughter, she decided to let things take its course.

If Valerie's feelings for Lux waned during her short visit to the Crystal Palace, then that only meant that what she felt for the Half-Elf was merely a short-term puppy love—one that wasn't strong enough to be taken to the next stage.

Piccoro eyed the High Ranker with a solemn expression on his face. Since Lady Faustina and Lady Augustina were twins, he didn't dare to say any rude words to her, fearing that it might come back to bite him at a later time.

Also, even though Lady Faustina's strength was that of a High-Ranker, Piccoro knew that it was just a ruse to make other people lower their guard.

How could the right-hand woman of the King of Karshvar Draconis, who had fought countless battles against the Void as well as the other races who dared to attack the Dragon Kingdom, be an ordinary High-Ranker?

Actually, Lady Faustina was a very powerful Saint.

Her special ability was Shock Waves.

She was so powerful that she could injure anyone just by simply standing a distance away from them. Because of this, she had sealed her powers, making herself regress to that of a High-Ranker.

That way, the shock waves that would suddenly pulse around her without warning and hurt those around her would go away.

"Lady Faustina, it has been a while since I last saw you," Piccoro said in greeting. "Are you well?"

"As well as I'll ever be, Piccoro," Lady Faustina replied. "We'll be reaching the Crystal Palace in a few days. I already talked to my sister about visiting, and she gave her approval."

"Since my Liege has already given her approval, then all is well," Piccoro nodded. "We will give you the best hospitality during your stay in our humble kingdom."

Piccoro then glanced at the plain-looking girl beside Faustina and frowned. Since he was a Saint, he had detected that the girl was using a disguise to hide her real face.

'Could she possibly be?' Piccoro thought before shifting his gaze back at Lady Faustina, who was also looking at him with a smile.

Cethus' grandmother gave Piccoro a brief nod, which confirmed the Saint's assumption.

Aur frowned after seeing Valerie. Although the girl had a plain-looking face, he could tell that it wasn't her real face.

Also, he noticed the gaze that Valerie was giving Lux. Although she had tried hard to hide it, Aur wasn't able to miss the admiration and affection in her gentle gaze.

'Just who is this girl?' Aur thought. 'Lady Faustina, who is the twin of Aunt Augustina, is also with her. Clearly, she is not an ordinary lady.'

The Prince of the Dragon Borns placed his hands behind his back and stood tall, befitting of someone with his standing.

Even though he didn't know who Valerie was, he was certain that the person in front of him was a member of the Royalty of Karshvar Draconis, just like him.

Valerie had completely ignored the handsome Dragon Prince who was standing beside Lux.

In her heart, there was only room for one handsome guy, and it was already taken by the red-headed teenager, who was looking back at her with a gentle smile on his face.

Chapter 816: Strong Bonds That Would Endure The Test Of Time

"Sir Lux, I've heard from Lady Faustina that you are relocating your Guild Headquarters to the Crystal Palace. Is that true?" Valerie asked the Half-Elf, who was standing beside her.

"Yes," Lux replied. "Are you perhaps one of Lady Faustina's servants?"

"E-Eh? Ah! Yes! I am one of them!" Valerie stuttered. "She asked me to accompany her to the Crystal Palace."

"I see." Lux nodded. "Actually, I'm happy to see you again. I planned to properly bid you farewell, but when I returned to the Outer Reaches, you were no longer there."

Valerie lowered her head, hiding her face, as she tried to calm her heart that was wildly beating inside her chest.

When she heard Lux say that he was happy to see her again, she felt incredibly happy as well. However, when he got to the part about him bidding her farewell, she felt a stinging pain in her heart, which she didn't like.

Although she had only known Lux for a short period of time, she wanted to know more about him.

She wanted to see his expressions that she had never seen before and talk to him a lot more.

"Sir Lux, you don't need to say goodbye to me since I will be regularly visiting your Guild Headquarters even if it is at the Crystal Palace," Valerie replied. "Kei also wants to visit the place where he was born. Isn't that right, Kei?"

"Zi zi zi," the baby Dragon Slime snickered in reply.

After being with the baby slime for a while, Valerie already knew that this was Kei's way of communication. Even so, she could tell that Baby Slime was agreeing with her, which made her smile.

"Will Lady Faustina allow it?" Lux asked in a worried tone. "I know that she holds a high rank in Karshvar Draconis, and fewer restrictions are upon her and those under her, but she might not always allow you to visit me here."

Valerie nodded. "She will. I'm sure of it."

Ali and Ari, who were standing a few meters away from them, exchanged glances with each other.

It had been an hour since the Floating Island had left Karshvar Draconis, and only at this moment did the Dragon Princess approach Lux to talk to him.

Lady Faustina deemed that they were far enough away to not be seen by the Dragon King, so she allowed the "plain-looking girl" to finally talk to the person whom she wished to see.

While Lux and Valerie were talking, Aur and Piccoro gazed at them from a distance.

"Your Highness, do you already know that the girl talking to Lux is wearing a disguise?" Piccoro asked in a tone that only Aur could hear.

"Yes," Aur replied. "Since Lady Faustina is accompanying her, it is safe to say that she is a High-Ranking noble of Karshvar Draconis. Also... she might also be a member of their Royal Family."

Piccoro smirked. "I talked to Lady Faustina a while ago, and she said that her purpose in coming here was to rekindle the relationship between Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace."

"Is that so?" Aur smiled. "Are they feeling anxious because we rejected the continuation of the Non-Aggression Pact we signed decades ago?"

"Perhaps. I'm sure that the arrogant Dragon King is not able to sit peacefully on his throne, knowing that the rightful King can take back his throne anytime."

"Let him be arrogant for a little while longer. The moment my Father returns, he can kiss his Dragon Throne goodbye."

The smile on Piccoro's face widened in response, as this was something that he was looking forward to the most.

However, Lady Augustina had told everyone that even if Keoza returned, he might not take the throne away from the current Dragon King.

The Crystal Dragon was someone who looked at the bigger picture. He neither cared about such a position nor the power that came with it.

What he wanted the most was the survival of the entire Dragon Race as a whole and the continuation of Elysium's prosperity for years to come.

"Say, Your Highness, I'm just making a conjecture here," Piccoro said. "What if that girl is actually the Dragon Princess? How should we treat her when we arrive at the Crystal Palace?"

Aur didn't reply right away as if he was pondering the answer to this question. Two minutes later, he made his opinion known, which didn't surprise Piccoro.

"Treat her as a guest, just like we treat Lux," Aur replied. "We are not narrow-minded, and we certainly don't need to bully the weak. Also, my mother once told me that my Father believed in a saying."

"A saying?" Piccoro arched an eyebrow. He was very interested in anything related to Keoza, so he no longer talked and waited for Aur to say the Crystal Dragon's favorite quote.

"What you do in life echoes through eternity," Aur said softly. "Even if no one sees the hardships and sacrifices that you are making, it doesn't matter. All the good things you do will return to you in some other way or form. This also goes for the bad things.

"That's why, we shouldn't be petty, Piccoro. The doors of the Crystal Palace will never be closed to those who wish to enter its gates."

Piccoro chuckled after hearing Aur's explanation. He was quite impressed that the Dragon Prince was more understanding than he originally expected.

"It is a good saying, Your Highness," Piccoro replied. "I'll make sure to keep it in my heart."

Aur nodded before shifting his gaze back to Lux and Valerie, who were standing side by side.

Although he had a calm look on his face, he was feeling a little envious due to how close the two were from his point of view.

'Does he really not know who she is, or is he just pretending not to know?' Aur thought as he eyed the red-headed teenager with a critical gaze.

Looking at Lux's body language, Aur could tell that the Half-Elf was at ease around Valerie, which was quite different from how he acted whenever he was with him.

Although Lux acted casually whenever he talked to him, the former only did so due to his request, and he could tell that the Half-Elf still had reservations about treating him as a friend.

'Things like this take time,' Aur thought to himself. 'Actually, how do Dragons make friends?'

Aur had been protected his entire life by his mother, Aunt Augustina, as well as the other Saints like Piccoro.

He never had the time to make friends with anyone, so he was feeling a little anxious when it came to befriending the Half-Elf, whom their family secretly treated as a benefactor.

Ever since Keoza had appeared to save him in the Gate of Famine, Aur knew then and there that he finally found the person he was looking for.

While he had never seen his father in his lifetime, there were still strong bonds that tied the two of them together.

Although it was fleeting, Aur recognized who Keoza was, and with that, he also recognized who Lux was.

The Half-Elf was the one his father had chosen, and because of this, Aur intended to deepen his relationship with Lux and create a strong bond with him that would endure the test of

Chapter 817: Erasing Herewith's Legacy From The Face Of The World

"Are you certain about this news?" the High King of Lunaria asked one of the followers of the Divine Army that came to talk to him in private. "If you are lying to me, I'll make you regret it."

"Your Majesty, both of us are on the same side," the man who was wearing merchant's clothes replied with a smile. "Also, I'm a businessman. Trust is one

of the most important things in business, and you know that I take this matter very seriously."

The High King of Lunaria nodded his head, knowing that the man in front of him was indeed a very trustworthy person.

"You have to forgive me for my stubbornness, but this is a very important matter to our Order," the High King of Lunaria stated. "How did you know that the Half-Elf is in Karshvar Draconis?"

"Ah, this is an easy matter," the Merchant replied. "You see, I am one of the handful of merchants who were privileged enough to gain access to the outermost city of Karhsvar Draconis, which is the City of Pygmalion.

"Once, when I went there during one of my business trips, a rancid mist fell over the city that almost made me feel as if my throat was burning. It was not only me that suffered such hardships, but the entire city.

"Naturally, the Guards and even the Mayor came to investigate the cause, and they found out that the one responsible for it is a Half-Elf named Lux. That boy earned quite a reputation in the City of Pygmalion, and everyone refers to him as 'He who must not be annoyed.'"

The Merchant chuckled because this was one of his unforgettable moments in the Outer Reaches.

"Of course, while I am not a hundred percent certain that the Half-Elf you are looking for is the same Half-Elf that I know, the possibility exists," the Merchant added. "Yesterday, I even showed the guards one of the drawings that the Divine Army had been spreading across the lands.

"They confirmed that the person in the drawing was the same Half-Elf that made their lives difficult in the past. But there is just one problem."

The High King of Lunaria arched an eyebrow after hearing the Merchant's words.

"Problem?" the High King asked. "What problem?"

"Your Majesty, the Half-Elf had built a Guild Headquarters in one of the floating islands in the Outer Reaches," the Merchant explained. "However, two days ago, the island started to float away, heading East. After bribing a few

guards for more information, they said that the Half-Elf decided to move house and relocate his Guild Headquarters for reasons that no one knew."

The High King of Lunaria stood up from his throne, knowing well why the Half-Elf decided to leave the Outer Reaches. Since he was already convinced that the red-headed teenager that the Merchant was describing was the same Half-Elf that they were looking for, he had no plans to waste any time and wanted to capture him as fast as he could.

"Are you sure that they were heading East?" the High King of Lunaria inquired.

"That is what the guards told me." The Merchant shrugged. "I am only relaying the answers that I got from them."

The High King nodded. "Thank you. I promise that you will be greatly rewarded once we confirm this news to be true. I will go talk to the others about your discovery."

"May the Light shine upon us all," the Merchant said before giving the High King of Lunaria a polite bow.

"May the Light shine upon us all," the High King returned the Merchant's oath, which all the members of the Divine Army use when parting with, or greeting, each other.

A few minutes later, he went to the special teleportation gate that was exclusive for the High-Ranking members of the Divine Army, which allowed them instant access to their Organization's Capital City.

"East of Karshvar Draconis...", the Oracle of the Divine Army muttered before waving her hand in front of her.

A second later, a projection appeared showing the map of the Center of Elysium, which the followers of the Divine Army of Light had painstakingly made over the course of many years.

"East of Karshvar Draconis are several Kingdoms and Empires that we have good relationships with," the Oracle said as she looked at the map. "I'm sure that they would be willing to help if we asked them. Also, although that floating island is flying high in the sky, there is a high chance that some people will spot it when it passes by their cities."

"Can't we pursue it with the Arc?" the High King of Lunaria asked. "With it, we can catch up to them in just a few days."

The Oracle shook her head. "The Arc was seriously damaged when I used it to save you and the others. We barely managed to return to the capital, so it will be impossible to chase them using our Flag Ship."

"How long will it take for it to be repaired?"

"A month. The materials needed to repair it are quite rare, and it will take some time to gather them all. It is also a Divine Artifact, so it is not something that can be repaired easily. For now, we have to make use of what we have."

The High King of Lunaria frowned, but he understood that there was nothing he could do about this matter.

"So, how do we intercept them?" The High King asked. "You have a plan, right?"

The Oracle nodded. "Although it will take time, we will have to travel using teleportation gates, as well as fly in the sky. If we are lucky, we might be able to catch up to them within a week."

"A week..." the High King muttered before nodding his head. "As long as that heretic is killed, waiting for a week means nothing."

The Oracle also nodded her head in agreement.

"I will talk to the Sovereign and report your findings," the Oracle stated. "This time, we will bring a dozen Saints with us. No matter where he runs, we will come to find him. We can't let that Heretic escape our grasp a second time."

An hour later, the High King of Lunaria, as well as the Oracle of the Divine Army, entered a teleportation gate alongside twenty other Saints, who had been called to assist them on their manhunt operation.

The Oracle originally wanted only a dozen Saints to accompany them, but their Sovereign insisted that adding a few more would not hurt.

With the additional manpower to ensure the success of their mission, the High King of Lunaria was feeling confident that he would finally erase the last remnants of Herewith's Legacy from the face of the world.

Chapter 818: Do You Want The Normal One, Or The One With A Happy Ending?

Several days had passed since the Floating Island had left the Dragon Kingdom of Karshvar Draconis.

Lux had spent a lot of time with Valerie and Aur, and the three of them were often seen chatting together, as well as dining together.

The Half-Elf noticed that even though Valerie and Aur talked to each other from time to time, there seemed to be some kind of distance between them.

He didn't know if he was just overthinking things, but whenever the plain-looking girl and the handsome Dragon Prince talked to each other, they used formal tones and words, unlike how they talked to him.

Even so, that didn't stop them from doing things together.

Even Kei, Valerie's baby Dragon Slime, would often accompany Eiko, Holly, and Glee, in their Blast Bomb making sessions, making Lux feel pity for the newly born baby.

(A/N: Holly is Leah's baby slime. She is Great General Garret's youngest daughter.)

Gaap, Lady Faustina, and Piccoro were almost always together discussing random things like the geopolitical states of the warring Kingdoms near the center of Elysium.

For Lux, these were carefree and relaxing days that allowed him to think more about the future of his guild. Back then, he just wanted to create a guild because he wanted to break free from the restrictions that would've been placed on him in Wildgarde Stronghold.

If Nero hadn't been part of the Storm Dragon's Guild, Lux would have joined in order to help the place that raised him collect resources in Elysium.

Sadly, it wasn't meant to be, so he decided to make another Guild just to stand on his own.

However, he never expected that the Guild he would create would transcend all the other Guilds in the world, classified as a Mythical Guild.

A Guild that was currently trying to escape those who wished to harm it before it could grow to its fullest potential.

Just as the Half-Elf thought that these carefree days would last until they arrived at the Crystal Palace, a nagging feeling started to stir at the back of his mind yesterday.

He didn't know what caused it.

The only thing he knew was that something was going to happen, and that something wouldn't be good.

"They say that Progenitors develop a very sensitive spiritual instinct when it comes to things that wish to harm them," Gaap said to Lux when the Half-Elf shared his concerns with his Master.

"Your spiritual self can probably sense that a danger that you can't handle on your own is on its way to you. Although I don't know what is causing it, I will order the Sky Turtle to increase its speed so that we can reach the Crystal Palace earlier."

True to his word, the floating island did increase its speed, but the anxiety that Lux felt only decreased by a bit.

Because of this, he was always on edge and regularly checked the map of his Soul Book, looking out for any possible red dots on the map that might be heading in his direction.

Currently, he couldn't see any red dots on the map. However, he saw countless yellow marks, which were considered "neutral" beings.

"Sir Lux, is something wrong?" Valerie asked. "You seemed to be on edge today. Is there something that is bothering you? Or the tea I made isn't good?"

"Your tea is delicious as always, Valerie," Lux replied as he placed his cup on top of the table. "I'm just thinking about a lot of things as of late, which makes me feel overwhelmed."

"Is that so?" Valerie looked at the Half-Elf with a worried gaze. "How about a massage? Ali and Ari always give me a massage whenever I feel stressed. They are very good at it, you know?"

"A massage?" Lux pondered for a bit. "That sounds like a good idea, but I don't want to impose on them that much."

"Don't worry!" Valerie patted her chest with confidence. "As long as I ask them, the two of them will not refuse! Am I right, Ali, Ari?"

"Yes, My Lady," Ali replied. "If that is your wish, we will give Sir Lux a massage."

"Sir Lux, what kind of massage do you want?" Ari asked. "Do you want the normal one, or the one with a happy ending?"

Lux blinked once then twice after hearing Ari's words. This was the first time he had heard of a massage with a happy ending, and he was wondering what kind of massage it was.

"Um, then can I get one with a happ-"

Lux was unable to finish what he was going to say, having suddenly received a notification sound inside his head.

Upon hearing the warning, his face immediately turned grim. He stood up from his chair and summoned his Soul Book.

At the edge of the map, he saw several blinking red dots that were headed in their direction.

The Half-Elf had placed a special setting on his Soul Book, which allowed him to gauge how strong the Monsters were in his surroundings.

This also applied to Humans and Demi-Humans. The bigger the red dot, the stronger that creature was.

And currently, in Lux's Soul Book, there were over a dozen big red dots, letting him know how powerful his incoming enemies were.

"Saints," Lux said through gritted teeth. "Master, we have company!"

Gaap, who was currently having his usual chat with Lady Augustina and Piccoro, paused and glanced to the West, where Lux had detected several strong enemies heading in their direction.

Noticing the changes in the Halfling's expression, Lady Faustina and Piccoro also gazed in the direction Gaap was looking.

A moment later, their expressions turned solemn, as they, too, sensed the presences that were slowly catching up to the Floating Island.

"It seems like we have company," Lady Faustina said before putting her tea cup on the table. "And there's a lot of them."

Piccoro nodded before standing up from his chair. "I've been thinking that things were proceeding too smoothly these past few days, which was too good to be true. I guess all of that was just a prelude for this moment."

The three most powerful beings in the Floating Island exchanged glances with each other before nodding their heads at the same time.

They had already discussed several countermeasures if such an event were to happen. Now, these countermeasures would be put to the test.

If their methods didn't work, then there was only one thing left to do, and that was to let Lux escape the Floating Island, while they handled his pursuers who were eager to nip his wings in the bud.

Chapter 819: You Will Have To Get Past Through Me First

"There it is!" one of the Saints riding a Giant Roc pointed in the distance. "I can see it now!"

The High King of Lunaria, as well as the Oracle of the Divine Army squinted their eyes to look in the direction where the Saint was pointing at.

At the edge of the horizon, a tiny black speck that could easily be missed by the naked eyes was flying in the sky.

After spending many days traveling through countless cities and kingdoms, the Saints of the Divine Army had finally caught sight of their target, invigorating them.

Along the way, they had asked countless people if they had seen a floating island fly past their cities.

Their inquiries bore fruit, and those that had witnessed the floating island had told the Saints of the Divine Army where it was headed.

Their journey also alarmed the rulers of the Kingdoms that they had passed through.

For a moment, the rulers thought that the Divine Army of Light was about to invade their lands, making them feel as if their hearts were about to leap out from their chest.

When they found out that the Saints were just passing through and wanted to use their Long-Distance Teleportation Gates, the Kings didn't bat an eye and gave them full access to the ones supposedly only the members of the Royal Families could use.

For these Kings, the sooner these Saints left their domain, the better.

Naturally, the High King of Lunaria, the Oracle, as well as the other Saints knew what these rulers were thinking.

If they were in the same shoes as them, they would also feel anxious, so they didn't stay in one kingdom for a long time.

After several minutes, they were getting closer and closer to the floating island.

When their target was only two miles away from them, a lone figure flew in their direction and stood between them and the floating island.

"Halt!"

Piccoro blocked the path of the Saints of the Divine Army of Light with his hands behind his back.

"State your affiliation and the reason why you are pursuing the floating island," Piccoro demanded in an arrogant tone. "I am Piccoro, one of the Four Elders of the Crystal Palace. You Low Lander scums better answer me or else."

The High King of Lunaria and the Oracle of Light frowned as they looked at the black-scaled Dragon Born in front of them.

Just as they were about to reply, several of the Saints under their command ignored Piccoro and flew past him.

They had traveled many days just to kill that Heretic. They wouldn't stop even if the one blocking their path was someone from the Crystal Palace.

Piccoro, who didn't expect that several of the Saints would ignore him, shouted in anger.

"You bastards dare ignore me?!" Piccoro roared as he unfurled his Draconic Wings, flying after the Saints that went past him.

The High King of Lunaria and the Oracle glanced at each other and nodded their heads in unison.

They understood why their comrades acted the way they did.

As long as they killed the Heretic, they were willing to compensate the Crystal Palace at a later time!

"It seems that the authority of the Crystal Palace had waned over the years," Lady Faustina chuckled before glancing at Aur, who was standing several meters behind her. "They didn't even bother to answer Piccoro's inquiries."

Aur didn't say anything and simply looked at the approaching Saints, who had ignored the authority of his faction.

Deep down, he was seething in anger, but he didn't want to give Lady Faustina the satisfaction of seeing him lose control of his emotions.

Cethus' grandma smiled before flying towards the air in order to face the Saints that were nearing the island.

Without even giving any warning, the Dragon Born unsealed her powers, making her Rank instantly jump up to the Saint Rank.

A loud cracking sound reverberated in the surroundings as Lady Faustina unleashed a shock wave that pushed back the Saints that were about to descend on the island.

Since she knew that Valerie wouldn't allow the Divine Army of Light to capture the Half-Elf, she was duty-bound to at least put some effort into protecting him.

The Saints who had been pushed back by the right-hand woman of the Dragon King frowned, not expecting that another Saint was on the floating island.

However, they weren't too worried. Even if there were two Saints blocking their way, it was not enough to contain all of them that numbered over twenty.

"I am Faustina," Faustina declared. "I am one of the Ministers of Karshvar Draconis, serving directly under the Dragon King. State your business, or face the wrath of my Lord."

Just as she finished saying her speech, the Dragon Born unleashed another shock wave that was meant to seriously injure anyone who got hit by it.

This forced the Saints to take a defensive stance in order to block the incoming attacks that were coming from the front.

However, they didn't know that behind their backs was a very mad Piccoro, who had also unleashed a barrage of black flames that contained his fury.

Even so, the Saints of the Divine Army of Light weren't pushovers. They had fought many wars together, so they already knew how to handle such situations.

Some of them blocked Faustina's attack, while the rest blocked Piccoro's. This prevented any of them from getting injured, which made Piccoro and Lady Faustina frown.

"I will not ask again," Piccoro declared. "If any of you filthy Low Landers dare to ignore my question once again, the Steward of the Crystal Palace will erase your kingdoms from the face of the world!"

The Oracle of the Divine Army motioned for her comrades to not do anything before confronting the fuming Dragon Born, whose wings were now covered with dark flames.

"You already know who we are, so why ask this question, Piccoro?" the Oracle inquired. "Or have you forgotten that all of us fought side by side when the denizens of the Void invaded our world?"

"I don't remember the faces of filthy Low Landers, especially ugly ones like you," Piccoro snapped at the Oracle with bloodshot eyes. "I asked you a question, and you will answer it. Why are you here?"

The Oracle who had just been called ugly had the strong urge to slap the Dragon Born because of his aesthetic taste.

Currently, her appearance was that of a lady in her mid-twenties, and she was extremely beautiful.

If not for the fact that she was the Oracle of the Divine Army, countless men would have already lined up to profess their wish to marry her.

"Then let me jog your memory," the Oracle replied with a determined look on her face. "We are the Divine Army of Light, and we have come to capture the Heretic who goes by the name Lux Von Kaizer. We already know that he is on that floating island, so there is no use lying to us. All of us are Saints, so it will be best if you don't waste our time."

Piccoro snorted and crossed his arms over his chest.

"So what if there is a dumb and stupid Half-Elf that has the name Lux Von Kaizer on that floating island?" Piccoro asked back. "This floating island is currently headed to the Crystal Palace because our Steward had decided to give it asylum. If you insist on creating trouble, you will have to get through me first!"

The Saints of the Divine Army glanced at each other and nodded their heads in understanding.

Without even saying a word, all of them spread out in different directions.

Their Sovereign had said that their Supreme had almost recovered from his injuries.

He added that even if they antagonized another Supreme, the Divine Army could handle the aftermath.

Because of this, they ignored the Dragon Born for a second time and focused on attacking the floating island where the Half-Elf was hiding.

This act made the already angry Piccoro roar so loud that it resembled the pealing of thunder.

Being ignored once, he might still accept it. But being ignored twice felt like a step on his dignity.

Seeing that the Saints were so adamant to belittle him and his faction, the arrogant and proud Dragon Born flew towards the Saints of the Divine Army of Light with the intention to kill.

Chapter 820: Well, Let's Get This Party Started Then

'It seems that the Divine Army of Light is serious about killing that boy,' Lady Faustina thought as she unleashed more powerful shock waves in order to push back the three Saints that attempted to get past her. 'Do they really not care about my sister's retaliation if Lux dies?'

Lady Faustina knew about Keoza's relationship with Lux. However, she didn't fully understand how important the Half-Elf was to the Crystal Palace.

First and foremost, her priority was Valerie's safety, and the only reason why she was trying to help defend the Half-Elf was because of the Dragon Princess.

Piccoro, who was now truly angry, didn't hold back with his attacks. Each of his blows was meant to kill, making his targets defend themselves with everything they had.

Even so, Lady Faustina and Piccoro understood that it was impossible for only the two of them to block all of the Saints of the Divine Army of Light at once.

The Saints knew this as well, so they made sure to spread out in different directions, preventing the two Dragon Borns from stopping them in their mission.

As a dozen Saints were about to approach the Floating Island, six Dragon Borns appeared beside Aur in a protective formation.

All of them were the additional guards that Lady Augustina had sent to protect him, and just like Piccoro, they were all Saints as well.

"Your Highness, your orders?" one of the Saints asked the Dragon Prince, who was looking at the Divine Army of Light with a calm expression on his face.

"Don't let them come near the floating island," Aur ordered. "Kill if you have to."

"Yes, Your Highness!" the leader of the Saints replied. "However, we must leave one Saint to stay and protect you, Your Highness. This is non-negotiable."

Aur nodded in understanding.

After getting the Dragon Prince's affirmation, the five other Saints of the Crystal Palace flew into the sky in order to intercept the Saints that had managed to get past Lady Faustina and Piccoro.

Lux, who was standing near the Gate of his Guild Headquarters, was also paying close attention to the battle that was taking place in the distance.

Valerie was standing several meters away from him with Ali and Ari, who were both ready to protect her at any moment.

"Master, it seems like we have no choice but to fight," Lux said in a voice filled with determination.

"Foolish boy, what can you do against those Saints?" Gaap replied before cracking his knuckles together. "Just stand back and let the adults handle this. At times like this, you don't have to hesitate. Call upon those that can help you overcome the current situation. There is no shame in asking others for help."

Lux nodded because he understood that his Master was right. In times like this, he should rely on the adults who had more experience than him in fighting against people of such ranks.

The High King of Lunaria, who had already spotted Lux in the distance, pulled back his arm and summoned a flaming spear in his hand.

A moment later, he threw it with all his might, with the intention of ending the Half-Elf's life, whom they had pursued for the past few days.

However, the flaming spear he threw was blocked by a barrier of water that appeared out of nowhere, making the High King of Lunaria frown.

When the barrier of water disappeared, a man with long blue hair that fluttered in the breeze appeared before him.

"Why don't you pick someone your own size?"

The Headmaster of Barbatos Academy, as well as Lux's stepfather, Alexander, hovered in the air, with his arms crossed over his chest.

Before the red-headed teenager left for Elysium, Alexander had told him that he may call upon him during his time of great need. Since they were family, Lux didn't reject his stepfather's help.

Before the High King of Lunaria could even reply, a familiar scene appeared in front of him, making his face turn grim.

Countless puppets spread throughout his surroundings as a silver-haired lady, whom he had met in the Necromancer's Ancestral Lands, hovered in the air above Lux's Guild Headquarters.

"You saved me the trouble of looking for you," Vera said with a cold and deadly voice. "Since you came here to die, allow me to personally take your life."

Not far from her, an old man, who was wearing tribal attire, laughed as he looked at the Saints who had momentarily stopped their advance on the floating island.

"It has been a while since I went all out," Maximilian stated with a fearless smile on his face. "I've heard that the Saints of the Divine Army of Light are strong. Now, it's time to put the hearsay to the test."

The Patriarch of the Rowan Tribe then pressed his clenched fist over his chest as he prepared to fight.

"Thirteenth Gear," Maximilian declared. "Wakmanganchi Aragondi!"

Immediately, the Patriarch of the Rowan Tribe transformed into a thirty-meter-tall Black Boar with flames rising up from its snout.

Its glowing red eyes held so much rage in them, so intense that even Piccoro felt intimidated by them.

"Puppet Master Vera and the Mad Boar," the Oracle of the Divine Army narrowed her gaze. "These two are trouble."

Just like Vera, Maximilian was also well-known in the circles of Saints. They call him the Mad Boar, for he truly fought like a madman every time he transformed into this colossal beast.

Some even referred to him as the Calamity Boar, because the destructive power he possessed was equal to those of Calamity Beasts.

Alexander was not as well known as Vera and Maximilian because he mostly stayed in Solais to handle the affairs of Barbatos Academy.

Even so, the High King of Lunaria and the Oracle of the Divine Army could tell that he wasn't a simple Saint either.

"Oi, oi. Are you guys forgetting about me?"

Gaap, who was standing in front of Lux, asked in a teasing tone.

"Partial Manifestation," Gaap said as he raised his arm.

At that exact moment, a gigantic fist materialized out of nowhere and smashed one of the Saints who had tried to sneak onto the floating island, while everyone's attention was focused on the newcomers.

"How can we forget you?" the High King of Lunaria snorted. "Just like that brat, today will be your Death Day, Gaap the Deserter."

"Are those your last words?" Gaap asked. "Well, let's get this party started then."

The Saints of the Divine Army of Light didn't expect to face such staunch resistance when they set out on their mission to eradicate Hereswith's successor.

However, since they were already here, they would definitely carry out their mission, even if they had to destroy the entire floating island to accomplish it.

Chapter 821: Bom Bom Bakugan!

"Your Highness, it will be best if we distance ourselves from the Half-Elf for the time being," the Saint who was left to protect Aur said. "It is too dangerous here."

"No," Aur replied in a determined tone. "I am not going anywhere. If you really care for me, then you will do everything in your power to protect Lux. The Crystal Palace needs him alive."

"But, your Highness..."

"Don't make me repeat myself."

"... Understood."

The Saint gritted his teeth as he extended his senses, covering a wide area around Aur and Lux.

If any attacks that came from the Saints were to enter it, he would immediately move to protect the red-headed teenager, as well as the Dragon Prince, even if he had to put his life on the line to make it happen.

"This sure is a high-level battle we have here, Lux."

"Thank you for coming on such short notice, Barca. I am left with no choice but to once again ask for your help."

The Vice-Chieftain of the Blackrock Clan, Barca, who was clad in Legendary Equipment from head to toe, appeared beside Lux.

He was an Empyrean-Ranked Alpha Monster, and with the equipment he currently wore, he was capable of facing off against a Saint without worry.

The Half-Elf only summoned Barca because he was the only one among the Blackrock Clan who had a chance of surviving the attacks of a Saint.

Although he needed a lot of help, he didn't summon those who were unable to fight a battle of such magnitude. He didn't want to be responsible for such needless sacrifice.

"Eiko, prepare to use our Plan B," Lux said. "Wait for my signal to use it."

"Un!" Eiko nodded. "Bom Bom get ready!"

Eiko's Named Creature, Bom Bom, was a living cannon that could move.

Currently, the cannon was stationed on top of Lux's Guild Headquarters, ready to fire at any of the Saints that its Master wished to attack.

Loud explosions reverberated across the skies as the floating island continued to move toward the East, in an attempt to distance itself from the battle.

However, doing so was not simple.

Even with Lux's reinforcements, the combat-ready personnel on his side that could fight against Saints only numbered around thirteen.

They were facing twenty-two Saints, who came ready to fight.

After several minutes of duking it out with each other, the Saints of the Divine Army decided to unleash attacks on the floating island itself, with the intention to make it fall from the sky.

Fortunately, these attacks were blocked by Vera, Gaap, Maximilian, and Lady Faustina, who were capable of defending a large area.

Dragons and Dragon Borns were inherently stronger than Humans, and this fact proved itself on the battlefield.

Piccoro and Lady Faustina were capable of dealing with two to three Saints at a time, making the High King of Lunaria and the Oracle of the Divine Army frown.

"Is it really worth it to antagonize the Divine Army for the sake of a Heretic?" the Oracle of the Divine Army asked Piccoro after blocking one of the giant black fireballs that were hurled in her direction.

"You're asking the wrong question, girly," Piccoro snorted as he unleashed a barrage of black fireballs that forced the Oracle to distance herself from the angry Dragon Born.

"The question you should be asking yourself is whether it is worth it to antagonize the Crystal Palace for trying to kill someone who had sought our protection. You and your stupid organization are courting death!"

The Oracle of Light spread her hands wide, and several runic letters appeared around her, creating a barrier of light that held back the black flames that were fired in her direction.

"We are fighting for the sake of the world!" the Oracle of the Divine Army insisted. "What we do is for the good of all!"

"Save your bullsh*t for your stupid believers, stupid girl," Piccoro replied. "I wasn't born yesterday, Low Lander. You and your organization don't dictate what's right or wrong. You're just a group of fanatics who want to bring the world of Elysium under your thumb.

"But guess what? The other Supremes aren't as dumb as the Saints who decided to lick your boots and joined your cause. If your cause is truly right and just, then you wouldn't be targeting the person whom even Heaven acknowledges as a Progenitor."

The Oracle of Light scoffed as several swords of light circled around her.

"This time, the Heavens have made a mistake," the Oracle stated. "And it is up to us to rid this world of that mistake."

"This is why I hate Low Landers." Piccoro sneered as he also created dark flaming swords around him. "All of you are just a different breed of Monkey. It doesn't matter how you dress or how you present yourself. In the end, Monkeys are Monkeys, weak and stupid. And so far, you are one of the ugliest Monkeys I have seen in my lifetime."

"Shut up, Reptile." The Oracle sneered back. "I eat lizards like you for lunch."

After exchanging barbed words, the Oracle and the Dragon Born unleashed their attacks at the same time, causing powerful explosions and bright flashes of light that could be seen from miles away.

While this battle was being waged in the sky, Lux noticed that eight Yellow Dots that had the same rank as Saints were headed in their direction.

Perhaps, sensing the high-level battle that was happening above their heads, the Saints of the Various Kingdoms, who were within the vicinity of the battleground, decided to investigate what was happening.

Right now, the battle is currently at a stalemate.

Any outside interference could tip the scales either way, which was something that made Lux feel anxious.

Perhaps sensing that similarly ranked individuals were approaching them, the Divine Army of Light, as well as the Saints that were protecting the Floating Island, all backed away for the time being as they assessed the current situation.

"Who are you people, and why are you creating a ruckus in someone else's backyard?" One of the Saints that had arrived on the battlefield asked.

"We are the Divine Army of Light, and we have come to kill a Heretic," the Oracle of Light replied. "I would appreciate it if you could lend us a hand in apprehending our target. You will be greatly rewarded by our organization once we complete our mission."

"The Divine Army of Light?" The Saint that had asked the question earlier looked at the beautiful Oracle from head to foot before giving a smile. "Since a beauty from the Divine Army had asked for assistance, it is only natural that we extend our help. Am I right, gentlemen?"

The other Saints, who had also arrived at the scene, were very eager to form a connection with the Divine Army, whose influence had spread far and wide within the center of Elysium.

"Hahaha! You dogs are so eager to have your own kingdoms wiped out from the face of the world?" Piccoro laughed. "I didn't know that the Saints of the Reika Kingdom, Jumon Dynasty, and Spada Empire were so eager to die. Have you forgotten who I am?"

The Saints who had arrived earlier didn't look properly at who the members of the Divine Army of Light were fighting.

Now that they had seen that the arrogant Dragon Born, who would usually treat them like lowly dogs, was the one that the Divine Army was fighting against, their will to fight increased even further.

"I've always wanted to smash my fist into your arrogant face, Piccoro," one of the Saints said. "Treating us like trash and calling us Low Landers every time we meet makes me want to skin you alive."

"Good! Good! Good!" Piccoro grinned. "After this battle, all of your kingdoms will be reduced to dust. Do you really think that our Steward will not take action once you've chosen the wrong side?"

"Do not be afraid," the Oracle of Light, who had seen the Saints waver after hearing the threat of a Supreme's retaliation, said with a smile. "Our Supreme has almost made a full recovery. As long as you help us, we will ensure that your Kingdoms will be safe from harm."

After hearing the Oracle's assurance, the Saints who had arrived on the battlefield became emboldened and started to openly curse Piccoro calling him a snot-nosed reptile.

"You sure are popular aren't you, Piccoro?" Lady Faustina smiled. "Can you not keep on making enemies left and right? You brought us more enemies to fight."

"If one comes, then I'll kill one," Piccoro scoffed. "If a dozen come, then I'll kill a dozen. That is all that matters."

Just as everyone was about to fight again, Lux's words reached everyone's ears, which made the Saints on his side momentarily stop their charge toward their enemies.

"Everyone, return to the island!"

After hearing his words, Vera, Alexander, Maximilian, Lady Faustina, and Gaap, all backed away in a hurry, leaving Piccoro, and the other Saints of the Crystal Palace behind.

This made the corner of Piccoro's lips twitch, which made him curse the Half-Elf internally.

However, seeing that they were currently facing off with more Saints than they could fight, he ordered his men to retreat to the island as fast as they could.

"Hahaha! It seems like they've finally understood that they have no chance of winning!" the High King of Lunaria laughed. "The tables have turned, it's time to end that Heretic's life!"

The other Saints of the Divine Army of Light also nodded their heads in agreement as they prepared to charge at the floating island.

Now that their enemies had decided to retreat, it would be easier to bring the battlefield to their home turf.

However, what they didn't know was, on top of Lux's Guild's Headquarters, Bom Bom, the cannon, was already aiming in their direction.

"Bom Bom Bakugan!" Eiko, who was perched on top of Lux's head, gave the order to her subordinate.

A second later, the Living Cannon fired a rocket made up of bones at where the Saints had gathered.

This rocket was the Heat-Seeking Missile that Glee and Eiko had made together.

Loaded inside it was the concentrated tactical nuke that the two Bombardiers had made in Leaf Village, which Gaap had shrunk with the help of Anteros.

The High King of Lunaria who saw this flying projectile sneered, and smugly watched as one of his comrades advanced forward to slice the rocket in half in order to destroy it.

Lux and Eiko, who saw this stupid move by their enemy, sneered at the same time.

For the first time in the history of the Divine Army of Light, they would witness the might of a weapon of mass destruction that could completely annihilate two entire cities in one blaze of glory.

Chapter 822: A Very Dangerous Individual

'Father and Grandpa Maximilian, protect us!' Lux said through the guild chat, which immediately notified the three Saints to take action.

Immediately, Alexander created a dome of water that enveloped Lux and his Guild Headquarters.

He didn't know why the Half-Elf called them back, but he was sure that the latter had his reasons. Maximilian, who was currently in his boar form, stood behind the barrier that Alexander had made, protecting those that were behind him.

Perhaps thinking that Valerie was a frail young lady, Lux subconsciously wrapped his arms around her before using his body to shield her from whatever was going to happen next.

"Corpse God, come!"

"Come!"

Lux and Eiko both activated their primary defensive guardian, which summoned an eight-meter-tall Skeleton with twelve arms.

The Corpse God immediately used the two shields in its hands to defend the Half-Elf from anything that might get past the defenses of the two Saints.

Ali and Ari, who felt that Lux was genuinely trying to protect their Princess, also hid behind the Skeleton Monster and braced themselves for what was about to come.

Meanwhile, the Saints of the Divine Army of Light, as well as the other Saints who had decided to help them, looked at the incoming projectile without any worries.

Seeing that a Saint that belonged to the Divine Army had made the first move to intercept it, the Six Saints that came from the Reika Kingdom, Jumon Dynasty, and Spada Empire simply watched with smiles on their faces.

At the exact moment that the Saint from the Divine Army used his sword to slice the Bone Missile in half, an earth-shaking explosion detonated right in front of his face.

The Floating Island also shook as the Sky Turtle groaned in pain after being pushed back by the explosion. However, it still managed to keep the entire island afloat and endured the brunt of the destructive force behind its back.

Piccoro, as well as the Six other Saints from the Crystal Palace, who had retreated from the front lines, were still blown away by the explosion that took them all by surprise.

The black-scaled Dragon Born cried out in pain as he and his comrades crashed into Alexander's water dome, which now had giant cracks in its surface.

The water dome held for several seconds before shattering completely, causing the shockwaves to descend upon them in full.

Fortunately, the monstrous Black Boar, Maximilian, was there to shield everyone, but the force was so strong that his hooves shattered the ground beneath his feet.

He knew that he should hold firm, or else, the people behind him would be blown away by the powerful force that threatened to even blow him away.

Valerie wanted to scream so badly, but due to Lux holding her firmly in his embrace, she was able to control her emotions, burying her head in his chest.

Ali and Ari, who feared for the Princess' safety, also hugged Valerie from behind, making them hug Lux as well.

After what seemed like an eternity, the strong winds and shock waves that were blowing in their direction stopped.

What followed next was an eerie silence.

It was as if all the sounds in the world vanished, replaced by a silence that made everyone's ears start ringing.

Lux, then unsummoned the Corpse God so that he could see the result of the secret weapon that Eiko and Glee had made in preparation for this day.

However, he saw nothing.

The Saints who were confidently hovering in the distance just a while ago were nowhere to be seen.

Because of this, Lux summoned his Soul Book to check their whereabouts.

The moment he opened his Soul Book, he saw several blinking red dots scattered all over the place.

'They must have been blown away by the explosion,' Lux thought as he endured the ringing in his ears, which prevented him from hearing anything.

The Half-Elf then glanced around his surroundings and saw that most of the allies on his side were safe.

Although Piccoro and the other Saints of the Crystal Palace were lying face first in the middle of craters that were a few meters wide, the Half-Elf was sure that the injuries they received were nothing compared to what the Divine Army of Light had suffered after being exposed to Eiko's tactical nuke at nearly point-blank range.

Vera, Alexander, Maximilian, Gaap, Lady Faustina, and the Saint who was protecting Aur looked at the Half-Elf with dumbfounded looks on their faces.

They didn't expect the red-headed teenager to have such a trump card in his hands, which made even the courageous Maximilian shudder.

He was confident in his ability to receive powerful attacks from Saints, but he wasn't too certain about his chances of not getting seriously injured after getting hit by Eiko's tactical nuke.

"Are they dead?" Alexander asked Lux.

However, the Half-Elf didn't respond due to the fact that he was unable to hear anything at the moment.

In fact, everyone was unable to hear properly due to the lingering effects of the explosion. Fortunately, Alexander remembered the Guild Chat, which made the Half-Elf look in his direction.

'Out of the 28 Saints, I can only see 19 of them in the surrounding area,' Lux replied in the Guild Chat. 'Maybe some of them got blown farther away since they are at the center of the explosion.'

Alexander nodded his head in understanding before taking out a potion from his storage ring and drinking it.

A few seconds later, he was finally able to hear properly again due to the effects of the healing potion he consumed.

Lux did the same and gave Eiko, Valerie, Ali, and Ari some healing potions as well.

Soon, all of them regained their hearing and began to discuss what their next course of action would be.

"What are we going to do about the Saints of the Divine Army?" Gaap asked. "Should we kill them all?"

Gaap was someone who had a vendetta against the Divine Army of Light, so he wouldn't bat an eye if he were to kill a few Saints that belonged to the powerful organization.

They were already at odds with each other, so killing them wouldn't make them any less angry than they already were.

Lux's only concern was that, if he gave the order to kill the surviving Saints, Vera, Alexander, and Maximilian would be dragged into the conflict as well.

If it were only Gaap and him, he wouldn't mind going for the kill because he and his Master had no love for the Divine Army of Light.

Perhaps, seeing his hesitation, Gaap smiled and nodded his head in understanding.

"I'll go on my own," Gaap said before shifting his gaze to Vera, Alexander, and Maximilian. "Protect Lux for the time being."

The three Saints nodded in understanding. Although they seemed to have won the battle, it was still too early to think that their enemies had been soundly defeated.

"Master, please take this with you," Lux stated as he presented his Soul Book to Gaap, showing him the location of the Saints that were within the range of his map.

"What a very convenient thing you have here," Gaap commented. "I'll be off then. I'll catch up later."

Without another word, Gaap summoned his thirteen Named Creatures, who flew alongside him to deal with the weakened Saints of the Divine Army of Light.

'It's a shame that I don't know which of these 19 blinking dots is the High King of Lunaria,' Gaap thought as he eyed the closest blinking red dot around the floating island. 'I guess I'll have to check them one by one.'

The High King of Lunaria was the one responsible for hunting Hereswith down and had even used Gaap as a hostage to make her unable to run away.

If there was someone within the Divine Army of Light that he wanted to torture to death, it would definitely be the arrogant High King, whose advances his Master had rejected.

As Lux gazed at Gaap's fleeting figure, Piccoro and the other Saints of the Crystal Palace had finally regained their senses.

The first thing that the black-scaled Dragon Born did was grab Lux's clothes and raise him high up in the air.

"You bastard! Why didn't you tell us to retreat sooner?!" Piccoro roared in anger as he shook the red-headed teenager with a vengeance. "Do you want to kill us, huh?!"

"C-Calm down, Your Excellency," Lux replied. "Y-You are choking me!"

Blood flowed down from Piccoro's ears, making him unable to hear anything. He had seen Lux's lips move in order to reply to him, but it took him a while to understand that he was unable to hear any sound in his surroundings.

With an angry huff, the Dragon Born tossed Lux to the side before drinking a potion to recover his injury.

However, before he could even put the contents of the potion inside his lips, a puppet appeared in front of him and smacked his face, sending him flying.

"You bastard dared to hurt my grandson in front of me?" Vera said in a cold tone filled with killing intent. "You court death, Dragon Born."

Piccoro, who had just been smacked, roared in anger and flew in Vera's direction in order to fight her to the death.

The anger he felt towards the Divine Army of Light was rekindled after getting hit by the silver-haired lady, who had raised Lux since he was a baby.

However, before the two could come to blows with each other, Aur ordered the Saint protecting him to stop Piccoro's advance.

The other Saints of the Crystal Palace had also recovered from their injuries after drinking some potions, so they helped their comrade restrain the fuming Dragon Born, who was struggling with all of his might.

Lady Faustina watched all of this from the side with a calm expression on her face.

Even so, deep inside her heart, she was completely shaken by the things that she had seen during the battle.

Although the Half-Elf was only a Ranker, he had plenty of strong allies who were willing to protect him during his time of need.

Not only that, but he also had a very deadly weapon that could destroy entire cities if he used it without caring about the consequences of his action.

'Princess, looks like you developed a crush on a very dangerous individual,' Lady Faustina sighed in her heart.

When the Divine Army called Lux a Heretic, she didn't think much about it.

However, now that she had witnessed what the Half-Elf was capable of, she was starting to understand why one of the biggest organizations in the world of Elysium wanted to kill the Half-Elf so badly.

If Lux was given enough time to grow, and maybe acquire more weapons of such magnitude, the Half-Elf would probably stop running away, and instead,

run after those who tried to hunt him in the past... and blow them and their organization to oblivion.

Chapter 823: I Guess You Are Fated To Suffer For Your Sins

When the Oracle of the Divine Army opened her eyes, she found herself lying at the base of a mountain.

Pain wracked her body, and several wounds and bruises could be seen on her once smooth and radiant skin. Her clothes were also in tatters, and the life-saving talismans that she carried to protect her were all gone.

If she had not used up all of those artifacts, she might have suffered injuries far worse than the ones she had at the moment.

It took her a moment to recall what had happened to her, and when she did, she realized that they had been so stupid to look down at the unknown projectile that came from the floating island.

"I'll kill that Heretic..." the Oracle of the Divine Army said through gritted teeth before inspecting her body, checking the severity of her injuries.

Her clothes, which looked more like rags, were dyed with her own blood. However, when she tasted blood on her lips, she subconsciously touched the base of her nose.

Feeling something wet and warm on it, the Oracle then looked at her fingers and saw blood on them.

Hastily, she summoned a mirror to look at her beautiful face, whom she was very proud of.

There, she saw that her nose and ears were bleeding. Aside from that, there was also a three-inch cut on the side of her face, which made her eyes widen in shock.

Without wasting any time, the Oracle took out a High-Quality Elixir from her storage ring and drank half of it. The rest, she poured over the injuries on her beautiful face, hoping that it would help to heal them faster.

For the Oracle, her beauty was very important. Even though she had several injuries on her body, taking care of her face was her top priority over anything else.

It wasn't easy to injure Saints. However, once they were injured, ordinary healing potions wouldn't work on them. Only Elixirs with the highest quality would have an effect on them.

Seconds later, the bleeding on her nose and ears stopped, and the wound on her face slowly recovered.

However, seeing that the effect of the Elixir wasn't enough, the Oracle drank four more to remove the visible injuries on her body.

The Oracle knew that even though her injuries looked healed, that was only on the surface and her internal injuries would take time to recover.

"Should I escape first or look for the others?" the Oracle muttered to herself before slowly propping herself up off the ground.

All the members of the Divine Army of Light had a crystal that would allow them to instantly teleport back to their Headquarters.

However, the Oracle was unwilling to use it. Although she had clairvoyance, she understood that it would not always tell her where the Half-Elf was currently located.

Although unwilling, the Oracle of the Divine Army wasn't stupid. Since she had received fatal injuries during the explosion, it was only natural to think that her comrades had suffered the same because they were close to each other when the tragedy struck.

Her body subconsciously shuddered when she thought of the High Templar who had slashed the Bone Rocket in order to destroy it.

Although he was also a Saint, just like her, and had several life-saving artifacts on his body, the Oracle wasn't confident of his chances of surviving that kind of destructive power.

She even thought that the High Templar might have lost a limb or two since he was the one closest to the center of the explosion.

'He got us good,' the Oracle sighed in her heart. 'Really good.'

They had tried to kill Lux twice, and in both instances, the ones who lost out and suffered more were the Divine Army of Light.

They had lost one of their Saints in the Necromancer's Ancestral Lands due to Vera, and they had probably lost another one today.

It was also possible that they might have lost more than just one Saint in this mission to kill the Half-Elf.

After making up her mind, the Oracle decided to look for her comrades first.

She had also decided to halt their mission for the time being and take her comrades back to their Headquarters, where they could recover.

Using her power of Clairvoyance, she found the location of one of her comrades that was nearest to her.

She hoped beyond hope that her comrades were only seriously injured and not dead.

If they were injured, they could still recover from their injuries.

But if they were dead...

The Oracle shuddered for the second time because she was dealing with a Necromancer. If her fallen comrades were to fall in his hands, the chances of fighting the Undead version of them in the future were already set in stone.

"Damnit!" the High King of Lunaria cursed inwardly as his subordinates flocked in his direction with expressions of shock and disbelief.

When he regained consciousness, he was lying on the side of a riverbed, covered with his own blood.

His left arm was broken, and his armor had cracks all over it. Just like the Oracle, the life-saving talismans that were meant to protect him from death had all been used up, making him feel bitter inside.

Knowing that the possibility of being found in his weakened state was high, the High King of Lunaria didn't hesitate to use the teleportation crystal that

allowed him to return directly to his own Kingdom, where his subordinates would ensure his safety.

As his people applied first aid to his injuries, the High King who was very eager to end Hereswith's Legacy gritted his teeth in anger and frustration.

'We should have brought more people.' the High King of Lunaria clenched his teeth. 'We shouldn't have underestimated that thing!'

Just like the Oracle, he had severely underestimated the Half-Elf's ability to protect himself from their assault.

He also didn't expect that the Saints of the two Dragon Kingdoms would be there to act as Lux's bodyguard.

Originally, he thought that only Vera and Gaap would be there to defend against their attack, which would make it an easy victory for them.

However, aside from these two, several more Saints were there, all of which were no pushovers.

He thought that with the addition of the six Saints that agreed to help them, they would finally chop off Lux's head and present it as a trophy to their Sovereign that was waiting for them in their Headquarters.

While the Oracle was looking for her comrades and the High King of Lunaria was being treated for his injuries, Gaap arrived at the location where one of the blinking red dots was located.

"Heh~ so, you're still alive, huh?" Gaap sneered at the High Templar of the Divine Army of Light whose entire body was like a charred corpse. "I guess you are fated to suffer for your sins."

Similar to the High King of Lunaria, the High Templar was one of the Hunters that had hounded his Master when she was still alive. Seeing his pitiful state, the Halfling felt satisfaction in his heart, knowing that his enemy was now under his mercy.

The High Templar's dominant right arm was missing, which the Halfling assumed to have been instantly obliterated by the power of Eiko's tactical nuke.

The injuries that the High Templar received were so severe that it would have been better if he had died already, ending his misery.

Fortunately or unfortunately, his life-saving artifacts kicked in at the last moment, preserving his life.

While Gaap was thinking about what to do, Blackfire suddenly appeared out of nowhere and nudged the Halfling's body, as if asking him for permission to take the body in.

"Blackfire?" Gaap blinked in confusion before laughing. "So you've become autonomous now after being upgraded to a Divine Artifact."

Blackfire nodded its head as if to confirm Gaap's hunch. Lux didn't order Blackfire to follow his Master, but knowing the possibility of retrieving the Corpses of Saints, the Black Coffin decided to tag along with the Halfling without its Master's permission.

Even when Lux first received Blackfire, the black coffin was already a sentient artifact. After being upgraded to a Divine Artifact, it could now move autonomously and appear near the members of Heaven's Gate.

"Go ahead," Gaap replied. "He's yours."

The Black Coffin then opened its lid and sucked up the dying High Templar, storing it inside its body.

Now that it could store more creatures inside it, the Black Coffin could now automatically create new servants for his Master.

Servants that would protect the Half-Elf for the rest of his life.

Chapter 824: Your Day Of Reckoning Will Come

After taking the body of the High Templar, the Halfling went to the next location. There, he saw one of the Saints who had decided to join the Divine Army of Light in attacking them.

Unlike the High Templar who was nothing more than a charred body, the Saint from the Reika Kingdom only suffered serious injuries. Because of this,

Gaap would have no trouble subduing him, and the Saint also knew this as well.

"P-Please, have mercy on me," the Saint from the Reika Kingdom pleaded. "I was wrong. I shouldn't have been blinded by their offer."

"Sure," Gaap replied. "Antero, eat him for now."

The head of the Golem of Destruction materialized above Gaap's body as it let out a devilish chuckle.

"Noooooo! Don't! I beg you! I'll do anything! Don't eat meeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"

As if enjoying the Saint's despair, Antero laughed one more time before gobbling the helpless man, who had no means to defend himself.

Although Gaap had ordered Antero to eat the Saint, it was more like imprisoning him inside the Golem's body.

Saints weren't simple to deal with, and if Gaap were to underestimate them, they might manage to escape, or worse, launch a sneak attack on him.

Since that was the case, he decided that letting Antero keep them inside his body was the most optimal choice.

Unlike the Divine Army of Light, he didn't have much hatred for these people. Also, using them as hostages and asking their respective Kingdoms for ransom was also a good thing.

A Kingdom or Empire without a Saint is like an army without weapons. If their neighboring Kingdoms were to find out that their rival had lost its teeth, they would not hesitate to mount an attack in order to gain more lands and expand their domain.

Such was the reality in the Central Continent of Elysium.

Only the strong would survive, and the weak would be killed or forced to become their underlings.

Gaap knew that he had more to gain by keeping these Saints alive. Although killing them was also an option, his Master had forbidden him from killing needlessly before she drew her last breath.

Since then, Gaap had refrained from wantonly killing people and only focused on his revenge against the Divine Army of Light.

'I can also force them into a contract of servitude,' Gaap thought. 'Letting them spread rumors about the Divine Army of Light will help tarnish that blasphemous organization as well. Saints are very useful for these kinds of tasks.'

Saints were very influential people, and their words carried a lot of weight. If they were to say bad things about the Divine Army of Light, the people would think of this as truth, weakening the Divine Army's influence.

When he arrived at his next destination, he found one of the Saints belonging to the Divine Army of Light.

However, unlike the High Templar and the Saint from the Reika Kingdom, this Saint was in better condition, and he immediately used his teleportation crystal in order to escape as soon as he saw Gaap.

Gaap continued to visit the red blinking dots on the map and found the other Saints that belonged to the Reika Kingdom, Jumon Dynasty, and Spada Empire.

Just like what he did with his first captive, he ordered Antero to eat them as well.

Of course, Gaap also got lucky and found a Saint from the Divine Army of Light that was terribly weakened from the injuries he received.

Before this Saint could even use his teleportation Crystal, a black knight, who was one of Gaap's Named Creatures, took the initiative to cut off the Saint's hand, rendering him unable to escape.

"Just kill me, Fiend!" the Saint from the Divine Army shouted. "I will eagerly wait for you in Hell!"

"Fool," Gaap replied with a devilish smile on his face. "Who said that I will give you a swift death? I'll torture you until you beg me to die. Antero, eat him as well. But make sure to separate him from the others.

Antero's giant head once again appeared and laughed at the foolish Saint who thought that Gaap would give him a swift, and painless death.

After capturing one of his enemies, Gaap checked his map again and frowned.

Several blinking red dots were grouped together and were headed to the last remaining red dot on the map.

"It seems that they managed to regroup faster than I expected," Gaap muttered. "It must be because of that Oracle."

Gaap was then faced with a hard decision. He could go and attack the Saints while they were injured, or he could retreat and return to the floating island.

The Halfling pondered a bit, and after careful consideration, he decided to retreat for the time being.

Right now, he was only an Apostle.

Even with Antero's protection, one mistake will be the end of him.

Also, using Antero to fight would decrease the lifespan that Lux had gifted him during his breakthrough in the Necromancer's Ancestral Lands.

'Taking a gamble now isn't worth it,' Gaap thought before looking at the West one last time. 'Your day of reckoning will come.'

Since Gaap was a member of Heaven's Gate, he used the Guild's Teleportation ability to return to the floating island, which had already traveled several miles away from the battlefield.

Although he felt that it was a waste, he already did his best and managed to capture two Saints from the Divine Army of Light.

The Halfling knew that his enemies were feeling very bitter about their defeat, and that was enough to make him have a good night's sleep when evening came.

"Are there no other survivors?" one of the Saints of the Divine Army asked the Oracle, who had changed into a new set of clothes and tended to her wounds.

"No," the Oracle replied. "There should have been two more, but I lost my connection with them a while ago. It's likely true to say that our enemies managed to capture, or worse, kill them if they hadn't already died from their injuries."

The Saints quieted down after hearing the Oracle's explanation. They then glanced at each other, before shifting their gaze to the beautiful woman, who had painstakingly gathered them together.

If it weren't for her and the Elixirs in her possession, the chances of them being captured by the enemy were high.

"What now?" another Saint of the Divine Army asked. "Are we still going to continue our mission?"

This was the question that everyone was thinking of right now, and the only one that could give them an answer was the Oracle of the Divine Army.

"No," the Oracle said with a bitter face. "Continuing the mission in our current state is just plain suicide. All of us should return to our Headquarters and recover properly. The others like the High King of Lunaria might have also returned there as well."

All the Saints sighed internally due to the relief they felt when the Oracle declared that they would stop pursuing the Half-Elf.

After experiencing what he was capable of doing firsthand, a seed of fear had planted itself in their hearts.

Although this was a very ironic thing, considering that their target was a mere Ranker, it didn't change the fact that they had lost to that same youngster, and even lost all of their life-saving artifacts after one attack from him.

"Let's go," the Oracle ordered as she took out the teleportation crystal from her storage ring. "I will personally discuss with the Sovereign and explain the reason for our loss."

All the Saints nodded and also took out their teleportation crystals that would send them back to their Headquarters.

The last one to leave was the Oracle of the Divine Army. But before she used her teleportation crystal, she looked to the East, where the floating island was currently headed at.

"The next time we meet, I promise I will no longer underestimate you," the Oracle vowed. "Enjoy your victory while you still can, Heretic. You won't be rejoicing for too long."

Without another word, the Oracle used her teleportation crystal, transforming her into particles of light.

This defeat against the Half-Elf was something she took personally, and because of this, she vowed to devise more concrete plans in the future in order to prevent the Heretic from having the last laugh.

Chapter 825: All Good Things Should Belong To The Family.

"All of you were so arrogant earlier, even mocking me," Piccoro said in contempt. "Where is that arrogance of yours now, huh?!"

"I-I'm sorry! I made a terrible mistake!" one of the Saints from the Reika Kingdom replied as the Dragon Born stepped on his head, grinding it on the ground.

"Sorry?" Piccoro laughed. "Do you think that your apology is enough for me to forgive you? Fool. Do you think the Crystal Palace would easily forget those who tried to backstab them?"

The black-scaled Dragon Born increased the weight he put onto his foot, making the ground under the Saint's head shatter.

"Wow, he's playing the part of the bad guy really well," Lux muttered as he glanced at Cethus, who was looking at his uncle with admiration. "You look quite happy right now. Does seeing your uncle step on a Saint's head turn you on?"

"Hah~ this is but a small thing, Lux," Cethus replied. "Our family's motto is to step on others while they are down! Unlike those weaklings who can only bully the weak and fear the strong, our Clan treats everyone equally. As long as they are our enemy, and as long as they are not a Supreme, we will trample on them, especially when they are at their weakest!"

"...Wow." The corner of Lux's lips twitched after hearing Cethus' family motto. "As long as you're not facing a Supreme, everyone is fair game, right?"

"Of course," Cethus replied. "Are you silly? Supremes can kill me with just a sneeze. As for my Uncle, a single slap would turn him into meat paste. Why

would we go looking for trouble with them? As long as they are Saints and below, my Uncle and Grandmas can step on them as many times as they like. They're just Saints, you know?"

Cai's Grandpa, Maximilian, laughed out loud after hearing Cethus' words.

"I like this Dragon Born," Maximilian said. "My hobby is also stepping on others while they are down."

"Um, for a Low Lander, you sure know what you're talking about," Cethus looked at Maximilian as if he found a kindred spirit. "Fortunately, both of us are on the same side. I like strong people like you."

"Hahaha! What a coincidence. I like strong people too."

"We will get along, old man. By the way, just call me Cethus."

"I'm Maximilian, Cai's Grandpa."

Lux watched as the old man and the Dragon Born shook hands. The two then laughed together as Piccoro stepped on the head of the Saint, whom Gaap had temporarily released to be interrogated.

The other Saints were present, and all of them were bound by Antero's power, preventing them from escaping.

"P-Please, what can I do to compensate for my mistake?" the Saint from the Reika Kingdom begged. "I'll do anything! Also, please, spare my Kingdom of my sins. I did it on my own accord."

Piccoro laughed like the second-rate villain that he was and kicked the Saint's body until he was facing upwards.

"I like the rings on your fingers," Piccoro said. "Give them to me. Of course, you can refuse. I'll just pry them off of your dead body. By the way, you already know that this kid over here and that Halfling over there are Necromancers, right? I'm sure that they will make good use of your corpse once you're dead."

Faced with the threat of death, the Saint from the Reika Kingdom, as well as the other Saints that were held captive, all shuddered internally.

Since they only had one option for survival, losing the possessions inside their storage rings was far better than losing their lives.

The Saint from the Reika Kingdom handed all the rings he possessed to Piccoro, making the Dragon Born smirk.

The Saint of the Reika Kingdom thought that the worst was over, but he was dead wrong in his assumption.

"Now, please sign this contract of servitude," Piccoro handed the Saint a magic scroll. "Don't worry, this is not a slave contract. You will just have to run a few errands for the sake of our Crystal Palace and do whatever we tell you for a year. After that, you will regain your freedom. I repeat, this is not a slave contract, but a contract of servitude, okay?"

The hands of the Saint shook as he read the contents of Piccoro's "Contract of Servitude".

"S-Sir, you said that I will only run a few errands for a year," the Saint of the Reika said in a trembling voice. "But, here it said 10 years. Is there some kind of mistake??"

"10 years?" Piccoro arched an eyebrow. "Oh, I must have written that incorrectly. However, since it's already written as 10 years, then we'll go with that. You're a Saint, aren't you? You have a very long life ahead. 10 years is nothing to you, right?"

"B-But..."

"So you would rather die? Okay. Good. We can do that as well."

"I-I'll sign it!"

Lux, who was watching this, couldn't help but wonder why Piccoro always seemed to have Contracts of Servitude with him. Perhaps, the black-scaled Dragon Born had this hobby of forcing others to become subservient to him.

Suddenly, Lux's body shuddered when he remembered something.

Piccoro had been waiting for him outside the Gates of the Fallen for a month. Had he exited the Dungeon the normal way, would he have also been forced to sign this Contract of Servitude as well?

'He wouldn't have done that, right?' Lux thought as he looked at the Saint of the Crystal Palace anxiously.

At that exact moment, Piccoro also looked in his direction and smiled.

'It's really a shame that I didn't catch this brat back at the Gate of the Fallen,' Piccoro thought. 'If I made him my servant, wouldn't I be enjoying the benefits of having him as my underling?'

What Piccoro didn't know was that Eiko was able to automatically hear the thoughts of other people who had bad intentions towards her and her Papa.

This ability was also shared with Lux, so the Half-Elf was able to hear the Dragon Born's innermost thoughts.

'Looks like I managed to dodge a bullet.' Lux sighed internally. 'Cethus' uncle is a very troublesome character.'

After the first Saint was forced to sign the contract, the other Saints also surrendered their possessions and agreed to serve the Crystal Palace for 10 years.

Lux was fine with this arrangement because the Crystal Palace had helped him a lot this time.

"Uncle, can you give me some of those rings you got?" Cethus asked Piccoro with a smile on his face. "Don't be stingy, okay? If you do, I'll tell Grandma about this. I'm sure you will forget to tell her the part about you securing resources for the Crystal Palace."

"Huh? Just who do you think I am?" Piccoro smacked Cethus' head making the latter cry out in pain. "My loyalty is only to Crystal Palace. But, since you are my nephew, I'll give you this ring... Um, this ring has a lot of resources in it. This is too good for you. Let me look at the others and see which one had the least items inside it..."

Piccoro then scanned all the storage rings that he had extorted from his new servants before handing one to Cethus.

"Make sure to not tell your Grandma about this, okay?" Piccoro whispered in Cethus' ears. "All good things should belong to the family. Let's just keep this side hustle under wraps, okay?"

"I want some Legendary Equipment. My lips would be sealed."

"Tsk, you brat. When did you learn to be shameless? Okay, have these Legendary Shoes. They have decent attributes. Make sure to keep your lips sealed as you promised, okay?"

"Uncle, you really are the best!"

The other Saints from the Crystal Palace, who had seen and heard the shameless Uncle and Nephew pair, averted their gazes in shame.

Piccoro had managed to get the possessions of Saints, which wasn't a small thing.

However, seeing his attitude, it seemed that he was serious about keeping all of them for himself instead of adding them to their Palace's treasury.

"Y-Your Highness, this...", one of the Saints whispered in Aur's ears.

"Don't worry," Aur replied. "I'll tell my Aunt later."

The other Saints then looked at Piccoro with laughter in their eyes. None of them dared to tell their Steward about Piccoro's extortion. However, if it were their Prince who did it, even the arrogant Dragon Born would have no choice but to surrender the "confiscated goods" he'd collected to be added to their Kingdom's treasury.

With this, the Six Saints who had sided with the Divine Army of Light were under the control of the Crystal Palace.

Now that their pursuers had retreated, their journey continued without any more mishaps.

Vera, Alexander, and Maximilian stayed on the Floating Island until it reached the territory of the Crystal Palace before returning to their duties.

Now that Lux's safety was assured, they could focus on their own tasks without worrying about a powerful organization hunting down their family member, who carried many burdens on his shoulders.

Chapter 826: Arrival At The Domain Of The Crystal Palace

"I am glad that you and your Guild Headquarters have arrived safely, Lux," Lady Augustina said as she personally welcomed the arrival of the floating island at the border of her Domain. "Once again, I welcome you and your Guild Members to the territory of the Crystal Palace. This welcome also extends to you, dear sister of mine."

"You still have your sense of humor, sister," Lady Faustina replied with a smile. "It's good to know that you acting as the Supreme Leader of the Crystal Palace didn't make your head any bigger."

"Of course not. If it became any bigger, then I would have kicked your Master off his throne long ago."

"Very funny, sister. Very funny."

Although they couldn't see any sparks flying between Lady Faustina and Lady Augustina, the Dragon Borns who were watching from the side could feel the tension in the air.

The Kingdom of Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace had an unsteady relationship. Although they had signed a non-aggression pact several years ago, the terms of their contract had already expired.

Because of this, the people of both kingdoms were expecting the two sides to go to war with each other in order to formally decide the One-True-Ruler of the Dragon Race.

Little did they know that both Lady Augustina and Lady Faustina were just acting to make it look like they were hostile against each other.

They were twins and grew up together. It was simply impossible for them to hate each other, even if they were on opposing sides.

But because both sides didn't know this, they simply thought that the two sisters were making their stance known for everyone to see.

"That's Lady Augustina for you! Even when facing her sister, she doesn't pull back her punches."

"The Dragon King isn't that big of a deal. If Lady Augustina gets serious, she would certainly step on his head."

"Right! I can't wait to see that showdown happen soon!"

The Dragon Borns who had escorted Lady Augustina to welcome Lux and his Guild muttered enthusiastically with each other.

Seeing their reaction, Valerie, who was beside Lux, and her two maids felt anxious.

'It seems that they really hate us here,' Valerie thought. 'Was coming here a mistake?'

Because the Dragon Princess was thinking about these things, she had subconsciously grabbed hold of Lux's arm, as if using it as a support.

The Half-Elf then glanced at the plain-looking girl beside him and noticed that her face had become a little pale.

"Are you worried about those who speak ill of Karshvar Draconis?" Lux asked with a smile. "Don't be. Lady Augustina is a fair and righteous person. She will not bully you or your maids during your stay here."

"I hope so," Valerie replied in a doubtful tone.

"If you don't believe me, just look at Cethus." Lux pointed at the Royal Guard who was proudly wearing the insignia of Karshvar Draconis on his armor.

Valerie shifted her gaze on the Dragon Born who was standing tall and proud with his arms crossed over his chest.

The Border Guards and the Royal Guards of the Crystal Palace were glaring in his direction, with some of them even badmouthing him loudly.

"Stupid Royal Guard of Karshvar Draconis! You don't belong here, so scram!"

"What are you looking at, you ugly Dragon Born? Go back to where you came from!"

"Brothers, his face annoys me. How about we beat him up together?"

Cethus stood firm and even smiled at those who were cursing at him from a distance.

Seeing how the Royal Guard of her Kingdom was able to withstand such abuse, Valerie managed to gain a bit of courage.

Just as Valerie was feeling a little better knowing that a countryman was holding his ground even in the face of hostile forces, Cethus chose that time to open his lips and make a declaration.

"You lowly peasants, who do you think you are?" Cethus asked in an arrogant tone. "Do you still not know who I am? I am Cethus! Your Steward is my Grandma! You dare curse me in front of my Grandmother? Simply courting death. Are you all tired of living?"

The Dragon Borns who heard this became silent before roaring loudly in laughter.

"Hahaha! Did you hear that? He said that he is Lady Augustina's grandson! The nerve of this ugly bastard. Does he have no shame?"

"If you are Lady Augustina's grandson, then I am her son! Fool! It is you who is courting death. Are you so tired of living?"

"This Royal Guard is really making my fists itch. Who is with me? Let's beat the crap out of him!"

"I'll join you, Brother! It's time to show the Royal Guards of Karshvar Draconis who is boss!"

"Same here! Let's go!"

"Fight!"

Just as the Border Guards and the Royal Guards were about to fly to the floating island in order to beat Cethus to a pulp, Piccoro stepped forward and glared at all of them.

"Stand down, men!" Piccoro ordered. "Although this dumb boy was dropped when he was still inside his egg, he is without a doubt Lady Augustina's grandson. Cease your actions at once!"

All the Guards, who were out for Cethus' blood, stopped in their tracks when they heard Piccoro's words. They then glanced at their Steward, who didn't even bother to look at them.

However, Lady Augustina did nod her head in acknowledgment of Piccoro's words, making those who ridiculed Cethus, including the one that said that he was Lady Augustina's son, feel as if cold water was splashed on their heads.

"Um, now that I've taken a good look at you, you're actually quite good-looking."

"I never thought I'd see the day when I would see someone as majestic and amazing as you. Although you are from Karshvar Draconis, your charm oozes from your persona. How about becoming my sworn brother?"

"I have always been loyal to Lady Augustina, and seeing that you are related to her means that I am loyal to you as well. Why don't we go grab some drinks and food later to celebrate your arrival here in the Domain of the Crystal Palace?"

Cethus, who was now being showered with praises and good tidings, raised his chin a little higher. Clearly, he was enjoying the benefits of being part of a powerful Clan that extended to both kingdoms.

"Come. I'll take you to the place where you and your Guild Headquarters will be residing from now on," Lady Faustina declared before flying towards the North.

Gaap then ordered the Sky Turtle to follow the Steward of the Crystal Palace, so they could finally settle down and take a breather from their long journey.

Aur, who was paying close attention to Lux and Valerie during the entire journey, narrowed his gaze.

He had confirmed that the Half-Elf wasn't aware of the plain-looking girl's real identity, which made him wonder what Valerie's real reason was for coming with them to the territory of the Crystal Palace.

Although he wouldn't go as far as thinking that the Dragon Princess was a scheming lady, he didn't trust her fully.

More than anything else, he wouldn't allow someone who had a hidden agenda to stay beside the Half-Elf, whom he considered to be their family's benefactor.

If Aur deemed that Valerie had evil intentions toward the red-headed teenager, he wouldn't hesitate to teach her a lesson.

Even if she was the favorite Princess of the Dragon King of Karshvar Draconis.

Chapter 827: Preparation For The Journey To Agarth

"Be honored, Half-Elf," Piccoro said. "Because I'm very generous, I'm letting you pick three of the five storage rings that I extorted from those Saints. Um, you're not allowed to check the contents of each ring. Just pick three at random, and that's that."

While Lady Augustina was escorting the floating island to their new home, Aur spoke to her telepathically and snitched to her, letting her know about the things that Piccoro did after the battle ended.

Because of this, the Steward of the Crystal Palace ordered Piccoro to give Lux half of what he had collected from the Saints, making the Dragon Born feel embarrassed.

Although he did help in defending Lux against the Saints of the Divine Army of Light, the one who ended the battle was still the Half-Elf, who had used a weapon that he had never seen before.

Since he had been caught red-handed, Piccoro had no choice but to share his ill-gotten wealth with the red-headed teenager, who was now looking at the five rings on the palm of his hand.

"Since His Excellency is being generous, I will not stand on ceremony," Lux smiled as he chose three rings at random.

He really didn't care what was inside them, but they still belonged to Saints after all. He thought that he might get something good from them.

Piccoro felt like his heart was bleeding after losing half of his gains in a heartbeat. Even so, he had no choice but to smile and nod his head, as if he really was a very generous person.

Seeing this look on his uncle, Cethus chuckled from a safe distance away.

Piccoro had already given him a storage ring, and he had no plans on giving it back. Naturally, Lady Augustina turned a blind eye to the ring that her grandson gained from Piccoro, making the Royal Guard very happy.

An hour later, they arrived at a mountainous area that had a lake in its center.

A glance was enough to tell Lux that this was the location that Lady Augustina had chosen for their Guild Headquarters.

Since the floating island was hovering in the sky, Lux was able to see a town that was at least a mile away from their new home.

Lady Augustina had already informed the Mayor of Vesperia, Nidus Novario, of Lux's arrival, so he and his men went to greet their Steward, as well as their new neighbors, with smiles on their faces.

"Greetings Your Excellency," Nidus said in a respectful manner. "It is our honor to see you in our humble domain."

"Don't stand on ceremony, Nidus," Lady Augustina replied with a smile. "I trust that you will take good care of your new neighbors for me."

"Of course, Your Excellency," Nidus promised. "As long as I am able to help them, I will lend them my aid."

Lady Augustina nodded. "Good."

The Steward of the Crystal Palace then shifted her gaze to the Half-Elf, who was standing in front of his Guild Members that were currently present on the floating island.

"Lux, you already have the coordinates of the Teleportation Gates of the Royal Palace," Lady Augustina stated. "Feel free to visit me anytime if you need anything else. Of course, even if you simply want to chat, you are free to come as well."

Seeing that their Steward was treating the Half-Elf in a special manner, Nidus and his men confirmed that their new neighbors were true VIPs whom they must form a good relationship with.

"Thank you, Lady Augustina," Lux replied. "You've already done me and my Guild a great honor by inviting us into your Domain. I wish that our Guild and the Crystal Palace will be able to forge a stronger relationship in the future."

Lady Augustina smiled after hearing Lux's statement.

After being briefed by Keoza, the Steward of the Crystal Palace knew that Lux's Guild wasn't an ordinary one.

In fact, it was the one and only Mythical Guild in the world that transcended all Guilds.

Although the Half-Elf was still a Low Ranker, she had high hopes for him. But, for the sake of his subjects that were around her, she decided to act in her role as the Supreme Ruler of the Crystal Palace.

"Whether we will be able to forge a stronger relationship or not in the future will depend on your abilities, Young Lux," Lady Augustina replied.

"Remember. You can only stay in our Domain for a year. Within that year, I will protect your Guild Headquarters from any hostile attacks that are coming from outside our borders.

"Of course, this protection will not extend if you choose to leave this place, or if your Guild Members choose to travel outside of my territory.

"Even if the Divine Army of Light were to hunt you down, if they were to do it outside my territory, I will not lift a finger to help you. Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes, Your Excellency," Lux replied as he bowed respectfully to one of the most powerful Supremes of Elysium.

Lady Augustina nodded before shifting her gaze to her sister, Lady Faustina.

"Sister of mine, there are a lot of things that we need to talk about," Lady Augustina stated. "How about you accompany me back to the Royal Palace?"

"Sounds like a plan." Lady Faustina smiled.

The right-hand woman of the Dragon King of Karshvar Draconis then gazed at Valerie before looking at the Half-Elf with a solemn expression on her face.

"I will be leaving Valerie in your care for a while, Lux," Lady Faustina stated. "Make sure that she doesn't get into trouble while I'm away."

"Of course, Your Excellency." Lux nodded. "I'll make sure that people look after her while you are away."

Now that his Guild Headquarters had safely arrived at the territory of the Crystal Palace, Lux could finally leave with some peace of mind.

He had put his journey to Agartha on hold for the entirety of the trip because he was very worried about the safety of his people who were on the floating island.

Bentley and his members had temporarily stopped their construction of Lux's town because of the possibility of being attacked by the Saints from the Divine Army of Light.

During their battle, several structures that had already been built were destroyed due to the aftershock of Eiko's tactical nuke.

Naturally, Lux promised to increase the budget for the town's construction and compensate the Merchant Guild for their troubles.

'Eiko, I need you to ask Glee a favor for me,' Lux said through telepathy.

After telling the Baby Slime of what he wanted to be done, Eiko happily went to find her best friend and pass along her Papa's message.

After seeing firsthand how powerful the Homing Tactical Nuke was, Lux decided to ask the two Bombardiers to make him one before he went to Agartha.

He didn't know what kind of people he would be meeting there, and he also didn't know if they would be hostile or not.

For the sake of their own safety, he planned to bring a nuke with him to use as deterrence, just in case something unexpected happened.

However, he truly wished that there wouldn't come a time when he needed to use it, especially in a Kingdom that was located thousands of meters under the ground, near the Core of Elysium.

If he were to use such a destructive weapon in a very sensitive place, he didn't know what kind of repercussions would take place above ground.

Above ground where people were living their lives in peace, and unaware of the existence of the Legendary Kingdom, which was said to be as old as the first ever World Tree of the High-Elves who currently resided in Espoire Frieden.

Chapter 828: Why Are You Wearing A Disguise?

"Sir Lux, will you be leaving your Guild Headquarters in a day or two?" Valerie asked the Half-Elf with a sad expression on her face.

"Yes," Lux replied. "Actually, I should have left a long time ago. But since my Guild needed to be relocated first, I had to postpone it for the time being. Now that my Guild Headquarters has found a new home, I can leave without any worries."

Valerie was very disappointed after hearing that Lux had to leave, but after thinking about it, she understood that the Half-Elf was a very busy person.

Also, her main agenda had already been achieved, which was to accompany the red-headed teenager on his week-long journey toward the Domain of the Crystal Palace.

Having thought of this, Valerie no longer felt too disappointed.

Besides, she could now use the Teleportation Gate to travel to Lux's Guild Headquarters whenever she wanted to, which meant that she would be able to see the Half-Elf more often, instead of being separated forever.

Now that she was able to get over her disappointment, Valerie became curious about where the red-headed teenager planned to go next.

"Sir Lux, where will you be going?" Valerie asked.

"A place called Agarthia," Lux replied. "I don't know if you've heard of it, but it is a very ancient kingdom found deep under the ground. It is located near the Core of Elysium, so very few people can visit it."

"N-Near the Core of Elysium?" Valerie stuttered. "How deep underground is that?"

Lux pondered for a bit before answering Valerie's question.

"At least several thousand meters underground," Lux made a rough estimate.

"T-That deep?!" Valerie's eyes widened in shock, making the Half-Elf chuckle.

"Yes. It's very deep."

"Sir Lux, will you be able to return from such depths? It seems like a nearly impossible task to get there."

Lux smiled before giving Valerie a thumbs-up.

"Don't worry, I already got that covered," Lux stated. "Also, I can return here to my Guild Headquarters anytime I want, so I'll be fine."

Aur, who was secretly paying attention to Lux's and Valerie's discussion, was shocked upon hearing the Half-Elf's revelation.

As someone who had studied history during his spare time, he also knew a thing or two about the Legendary Kingdom of Agarthia, which was said to be the protector of the Core of Elysium.

"Sir Lux, if you don't mind me asking, how are you going to travel to Agarthia?" Aur had suddenly appeared beside Lux asked, making Valerie almost jump back out of fright due to how sudden his appearance was.

"I'm afraid that I can't tell you how," Lux replied.

For now, he didn't know if there were other means to travel to Agarthia aside from the key that he received as a reward inside the Sacred Dungeon.

Since something so precious was in his possession, the less people that knew of it, the better.

Although he and the Crystal Palace were now allies, there were just some things that he couldn't share with them, and the way he'd travel to the Kingdom of Agartha was one of them.

The Half-Elf then excused himself and went to whisper something in Cethus' ear.

"Cethus, can you look after Valerie for a while?" Lux asked. "I need to talk to Emma and Garret for a bit."

"And why would I babysit that Ugly Duckling?" Cethus asked back.

"Because she is your Grandma's subordinate," Lux answered. "Didn't you see how she treated Valerie a while ago? If anything happens to her, you will be held responsible."

The Dragon Born snorted but didn't say anything to deny Lux's statement.

Seeing that Cethus had reluctantly agreed to look after Valerie for a while, Lux asked Garret and Emma to follow him into the conference room for a short meeting.

After being left alone, Valerie looked at the handsome Dragon Prince, who was looking back at her with a calm expression on his face.

A moment later, Aur broke the silence and asked Valerie a question.

"Can I ask you a question, Valerie?" Aur asked.

"Okay," Valerie replied.

Aur then moved closer to Valerie and asked her at a volume that only she could hear.

"Why are you wearing a disguise?" Aur inquired. "Are you hiding something from Sir Lux?"

Contrary to what he expected, Valerie didn't seem to be too surprised that Aur knew that she was using an artifact to hide her true appearance.

"I have my reasons," Valerie replied. "How about you? Do you also have your own reasons?"

Aur smiled after Valerie returned the question to him.

"My apologies," Aur stated. "It is wrong for me to pry into the secrets of others. Since this is your business then I will not say anything. However, know that if you have malicious intentions against Sir Lux, I promise you that I will make you regret it."

Valerie narrowed her eyes after hearing Aur's threat.

She carefully thought about her reason for accompanying Lux on his journey to the Crystal Palace and weighed it with her conscience if what she was doing was malicious.

After thinking for a while, she came to the conclusion that it wasn't malicious, which made her smile.

"Worry not, I have no malicious intentions," Valerie replied. "I am only here because Sir Lux is here. Once he is gone, I will also leave the territory of the Crystal Palace."

"Then before you leave, how about you and I have some tea together?" Aur proposed. "There are questions that I would like to ask you—questions in regard to our two Kingdoms."

"I'm sorry, but I have to decline your offer," Valerie answered in a heartbeat. "I am not a very intelligent person, and I might say words that might offend people. Right now, I am one of Lady Faustina's subordinates. If you want to talk about the state of both our nations, it will be best if you talk to her instead of me."

"I see..." Aur nodded in understanding.

The Dragon Prince then walked away without giving Valerie a second glance.

To be honest, Aur learned a lot from this simple exchange with the plain-looking girl. Based on Valerie's choice of words, Aur understood that although she sounded innocent, she wasn't completely dumb either.

Because of this, the Dragon Prince was very tempted to remove her disguise so that he could see what she really looked like.

However, doing so would be inappropriate.

At the very least, he had to create a situation where Valerie would remove her mask on her own accord.

What Aur didn't know was that, the moment he succeeded with his plan, his opinion of Valerie would change forever.

Chapter 829: Are We In Agartha?

"Is it time for us to go?" Gaap asked.

"Yes, Master," Lux replied. "Sorry to keep you waiting."

Two days after they arrived at the territory of Crystal Palace, Lux finally decided to leave his Guild Headquarters and go to Agartha.

He didn't leave right away since there were a few matters he needed to discuss with the Mayor of Vesperia, Nidus Novario, such as the supplies they needed for the construction of the town that Bentley and his Merchant Guild were taking care of.

Due to the attack from the Divine Army of Light, several of the structures that they had built had been destroyed.

Fortunately, the foundations of these structures were still intact, so they did not have to start all over again. The only problem was that the raw materials they had would not be enough to cover the project to completion.

Nidus agreed to supply Lux with the materials needed to complete the construction of his town for a fair price.

Since the Half-Elf was a guest who had been personally escorted by their Steward, Lady Augustina, he deemed that taking advantage of them would definitely be a bad move.

Not only would it create a bad impression, but it would also draw the ire of the Supreme who ruled over the territories of the Crystal Palace.

"Have you said your goodbyes?" Gaap asked in a teasing tone. "You did, right?"

Lux nodded. "I bade everyone goodbye."

"Good." Gaap smiled. "Let's be off then."

The Half-Elf and the Halfling were currently at the top of the mountain, overlooking their new home. Lux took a deep breath before taking out the Key of Agartha, which would take them to their next destination.

"Gate, open!" Lux stated as he activated the key in his hand.

A moment later, he, Eiko, and Gaap turned into particles of light as they were transported to the Legendary Kingdom of Agartha, which was said to be located deep under the ground.

When the light receded, Lux and Gaap looked at their surroundings, wondering if they were really underground.

"Did you perhaps use the wrong key?" Gaap asked as he stared at the clear blue sky that was above their heads.

There were also animals grazing from a distance, which looked like bison and wild horses.

Lux was just as confused as his Master, so he immediately took out his Soul Book in order to check if they were brought to the wrong place by the Key of Agartha.

This was not the first time he experienced teleporting to a different place from the destination he had in mind.

When he was in the Sacred Dungeon, he found himself in Zangrila after entering the Gate of Famine, where he met his Master, Gaap.

Seeing that they were in a place that had a sky, Lux wondered if something similar happened this time around.

However, after checking his Soul Book, he confirmed that he was in the place where he wanted to be.

< Terrel Plains >

— The Terrel Plains is home to many creatures that are native to this land. It is also a popular trade route for merchants who travel to the different cities within the Kingdom of Agartha.

— It is the home of the Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss known as the Red-Eyed Honey Badger. The locals treat it as the Guardian of the Terrel Plains. It is very easy to anger, so it would be best if you stay out of its way if you happen to see it traveling in your direction.

"So, are we in Agartha?" Gaap asked Lux for confirmation.

"Yes, Master," Lux replied. "We are in the Terrel Plains, which is part of the Kingdom of Agartha."

"Interesting," Gaap commented. "Seeing the sky deep underground broadened my horizons. Now, where do we go next?"

"According to my map, if we head North, we will arrive at Rishi City," Lux replied as he gazed at the map in his Soul book. "It is the closest city near our location."

"How far is Rishi City?"

"Forty miles, Master."

Gaap nodded. "Since that is the closest city, we'll head there first. Just to be clear, what is our goal in coming to Agartha?"

"I'm here to find a girl named Aurora and take her with me to the surface world," Lux replied. "I don't know if she is imprisoned, but she is all alone in a very dark place. It is so dark that even my Dark Vision cannot see anything."

"Aside from her name and the location she was in, do you have any other information that might help us?" Gaap inquired.

"Sorry, Master," Lux answered. "That is the only thing that I know. Originally, I planned to come to Agartha to explore it. But, after meeting Aurora, I know that I need to get her out of that dark and lonely place."

Gaap pondered for a bit before nodding his head. "Although we have very few clues, perhaps we can find more when we meet the locals of this kingdom."

For the time being, make sure to not do anything to antagonize them. Be on your best behavior, and more than anything else, do not fight with anyone, okay?"

"Yes, Master." Lux smiled.

He wasn't someone who actively sought trouble.

Trouble was the one who always came looking for him!

Lux then summoned Jed to allow him and his Master to travel more swiftly to their next destination.

As the Thunder Warg King ran through the sky, the Half-Elf, and the Halfling made sure to observe their surroundings and see if there was something amiss.

So far, they hadn't seen anything out of place, aside from the Beasts that they were seeing for the first time.

Lux was also monitoring his Soul Book in order to avoid the strong monsters that were inhabiting the Terrel Plains.

Although fighting these monsters was not a big deal with their fighting ability, Gaap told his Disciple to not engage any Monsters for the time being.

As someone who had traveled with Hereswith when she was still alive, Gaap had a vast knowledge of the traditions and cultures of different places.

Some of them worshipped certain Beasts, and killing these Beasts was akin to the gravest of sins. There were even times when these monsters would put a life-long curse on those who attacked them, making the offender regret his decision for life.

Chapter 830.1: Advent Of Highlanders [Part 1]

It didn't take long for Lux and Gaap to reach Rishi City.

They didn't enter the town right away, observing it from a safe distance. As foreigners who came from a different land, they first wanted to know if the inhabitants of the city were very different from them.

Contrary to their expectations, Rishi City looked like every other city in the surface world. What surprised Lux the most was the variety of races that were inside the city.

There were Humans, Dark Elves, Beastkins, Gnomes, and even Dwarves.

Even their clothing wasn't too different from what they wear on an everyday basis. From every angle, Lux and Gaap both agreed that they were no different from them.

If there was one thing that concerned Gaap the most, it was the language.

The Agarthans used a different language with a unique system, which he hadn't heard in the past.

However, what surprised him was that Lux was able to understand what they were talking about.

This made him wonder if all Solaians like Lux were given the ability to understand all the languages in Elysium, making him feel a little envious of this useful ability.

"Master, I think I have a way to let you understand their language," Lux said with a smile. "Eiko, allow one of your clones to accompany Master."

"Un!" Eiko nodded and summoned one of her clones, which automatically appeared on Gaap's head, making the baby slime giggle.

"Master, Eiko has a special ability that allows her to communicate with any sentient being," Lux explained. "It doesn't matter what kind of language it is. As long as there is a means to communicate, she would be able to understand them."

Eiko's clone then shared its senses with Gaap, which would automatically translate things for him, similar to subtitles when watching a show in a different language.

If Gaap wanted to communicate with someone else, the baby slime would translate his words for him, allowing him to talk to the locals in Agartha.

When the two of them were ready, they entered the Gate of the City.

However, when they were only a hundred meters away from the Gate, those who were already in line looked in their direction and began shouting.

"Highlanders!"

"Highlanders!"

"Highlanders!"

Within half a minute, Lux and Gaap were surrounded by dozens of people wearing light-armor, with their weapons drawn.

The Half-Elf and the Halfling recognized them as the Guards of the City. What surprised the two of them was how the Agarthans were able to tell that they were Foreigners from the get-go.

"It will be best if the two of you don't do anything funny," One of the Guards that was wearing red armor stated. "As long as you cooperate, I will guarantee your safety. Don't worry, we will just ask you some questions. As long as you didn't come to our domain with ill intentions, we will deport you back to the Surface World with your memory intact."

Lux and Gaap glanced at each other before raising their hands in surrender.

They were not aware of the customs of the land, so for the time being, they decided to cooperate and understand how Highlanders like them were treated in Agartha.

Seeing that the two of them didn't plan to resist, the Guard Captain ordered that both of them be chained and brought inside the city under heavy security.

Along the way, the people of Rishi City all looked at them with wonder, as if they were looking at some exotic animal that they were seeing for the first time.

More guards appeared in order to make sure that the onlookers wouldn't do anything funny to their captives, who were looking at everything around them like country bumpkins.

'Master, the Ranks of the people here are quite high compared to the Surface World,' Lux talked to Gaap via their Guild Chat, which couldn't be detected by any kind of magic. 'Even the baby that the woman holding over there is a Grade-D Apostle.'

'True,' Gaap commented. 'Except for the children who are all Apostles, the teenagers and adults are either Initiates or Rankers. I can tell that the majority of the people here are non-combatants, but if they were to take up arms, their Ranks alone can fight off against a Beast Tide.'

Half an hour later, Lux and Gaap were taken to what seemed to be a barracks. Just like the Guards that had surrounded them earlier, everyone around them was Rankers, which greatly impressed Lux and Gaap.

'If there are so many combat-ready personnel in this city, I'm very sure that they must have a Saint somewhere,' Gaap stated. 'This would make this place an S-Ranked City due to its high combat power. The only places I know that have the same standards are Karshvar Draconis, the Crystal Palace, and Espoire Frieden.'

Lux nodded in agreement. When he was still in the Outer Reaches, all the Guards of the City of Pygmalion were all Rankers.

Dragons and Dragon Borns in general were already born powerful, so it wouldn't be fair to compare ordinary people to them.

The same could be said for High-Elves, who had very pure magical powers flowing through their bloodlines.

"Both of you stay in this room for the time being," the Guard Captain said. "I have already sent one of my men to the Mayor. He will be the one to decide what to do with the two of you."

After saying those words, the Guard Captain left, leaving Lux, and Gaap inside the room. Although they weren't thrown into prison, the magical chains that bound their arms were still in place.

'Lux, do you feel it?' Gaap asked after the Guard Captain had left.

'Yes, Master,' Lux replied. 'From the moment we got chained, I already sensed two beings paying close attention to us. I believe that if we made any suspicious moves, they would not hesitate to use force to restrain us again.'

After being around Saints, Lux could tell that the two beings that were observing him were definitely of that Rank.

He never expected that in the first city that they had decided to go to, they would already be captured by the natives and monitored by two Saints.

Lux was very tempted to say that "things couldn't get any worse than this, right?" but he refrained from doing so.

He knew that the moment he said those words, he'd plant a flag and things would definitely get worse, which would make his first time visiting Agartha a very memorable experience that he would remember for the rest of his life.

Chapter 831.2: Advent Of Highlanders [Part 2]

"I am the Mayor of Rishi City, Bartolomeo Pham," a man with light-brown hair, who looked like a bodybuilder, said with a smile. "Now before I begin the interrogation, may I know your names first?"

"Lux Von Kaizer," Lux replied.

"Gaap," Gaap answered.

Bartolomeo nodded in acknowledgment. When he received a report from one of the City Guards that two Highlanders had appeared, he set aside everything he was working on in order to meet them as soon as possible.

This was his first time seeing Highlanders and, similar to Lux and Gaap, he was surprised that they didn't look any different from the people living in Agartha.

Aside from Bartolomeo, there were two other people who were also standing behind him.

Lux and Gaap knew in an instant that the people that came with Bartolomeo were Saints.

"Since you look the oldest between the two of you, I'll ask you a few questions, Gaap," Bartolomeo said with a smile. "First question. How did you manage to arrive at this place?"

Gaap, who was seated beside Lux, suddenly frowned after hearing this question. The Halfling then gazed at the Catkin that was looking back at him with a smile.

(A/N: If you are not familiar with Beastkins, they are the Cat Girls, Fox Girls, and Bunny Girls you see in anime. I'll just refer to one of the Saints as Catkin because he is a Cat Boy. Kekeke.)

(E/N: If he's cute/handsome, he's mine.)

"Your ability is good, but sadly, it won't work on me," Gaap replied.

The Catkin arched an eyebrow after hearing the Halfling's words. He didn't expect that a Grade-A Apostle would be able to negate his Truth Seeker ability, which would force most people to tell the truth in his presence.

"Are all the Apostles in the Surface World like you?" the Catkin asked. "You are quite formidable for your Rank."

Gaap only smiled and didn't bother to answer the Catkin's question.

'Lux, I am telling you now that it's impossible for you to lie in front of these people,' Gaap warned the Half-Elf through their Guild Chat. 'Once a question is asked, you will automatically answer it once that Catkin looks in your direction. I am able to resist it, but I don't know if you can.'

'If you think that you are going to spill your inner secrets, focus on something profound that will allow you to answer in half-truths.'

'Understood, Master,' Lux replied as he steeled himself for his turn in the interrogation.

Bartolomeo smiled before shifting his gaze to Lux. Since the Halfling was able to resist the Saint's ability, it was useless to ask him another question.

"I'll ask you the same question," Bartolomeo stated. "How did you manage to arrive at this place?"

"We flew here," Lux automatically replied before he could even think of an answer inside his head.

The Half-Elf's eyes widened in shock because he didn't expect that this was what his Master meant when the Halfling said that he would automatically answer the questions that they ask him.

"You flew?" Bartolomeo smirked. "Let me change the question then. How did you manage to arrive in our lands?"

"K-Key," Lux stuttered as he forcefully tried to seal his lips from answering.

"Key? What key."

"The Key of Agartha."

Bartolomeo frowned after hearing Lux's answer. He then glanced at the Catkin behind him to confirm if the Half-Elf was telling the truth.

"He's not lying," the Catkin replied as if there was no need to confirm whether Lux was lying or not. "What is this key that you are talking about?"

"The Key of Agartha."

"Show it to me."

Lux's hand trembled before summoning the Key of Agartha from his Storage Ring as if it was a puppet that was being manipulated by a Puppet Master.

Gaap, who saw this, narrowed his gaze as he shifted his attention to the woman that was standing beside the Catkin, who was the second Saint that was behind Bartolomeo.

'One has the power to compel the truth, and the other has the power to compel action,' Gaap thought. 'These two are certainly trouble.'

Lux held the Key of Agartha for Bartolomeo and the two Saints to see.

When the Mayor of Rishi City reached out his hand in order to grab the key, a bolt of red lightning shot out from it, making the Mayor immediately pull back his hand while wincing in pain.

The two Saints, who saw this, moved a little closer to take a good look at the key in Lux's hand.

The Key of Agartha was a bronze key and had the runes of the Kingdom of Agartha transcribed on its body.

"So you used this key to get here, right?" the Catkin asked.

"Yes," Lux replied automatically.

"How did you get it?"

"I got it after clearing a dungeon."

The Catkin then glanced at the woman beside him, as if asking her for confirmation if she wanted to ask the red-headed teenager a question.

The woman had long blonde hair and gray eyes and could be said to be an exceptional beauty.

However, after being exposed to his Grandmaster, Herewith, Lux's standards of beauty had been raised so high that even the beautiful Saintess in front of him paled in comparison.

"What is your purpose for coming here to Agartha?" the woman asked.

"I came here to find Aurora," Lux replied. "She seems to be imprisoned in a very dark place, and I am here to take her back to the Surface World."

"Aurora? You mean THAT Aurora?" Bartolomeo momentarily forgot the pain he was feeling as he gazed at Lux in surprise. "How did you even know about her? Is she well-known in the Surface World as well?"

"I don't know if it was a dream or an illusion, but I did meet her, so I came here to see her," Lux replied. "Do you know her?"

After answering Bartolomeo's question, the Half-Elf finally regained his own ability to talk and asked Bartolomeo a question of his own.

Bartolomeo snorted after Lux asked him a question.

"So you are one of those men who were lured in by her beauty, and wished to save her like a Prince Charming, eh?" Bartolomeo smirked. "For your own good, It will be best if you return to the Surface World and forget about her."

"Nothing good happens when you associate with the Misfortune's Beloved. Trust me, I know. My son was one of those helpless men and women who thought that they would be able to overcome her curse due to the love they felt after seeing her once.

"Now, they live in the Azmarin Monastery along with the other cursed people, whose luck turned bad after merely being around her for a minute.

"They have to cleanse themselves for a decade before Misfortune's Curse could be lifted from their bodies. You might be a Half-Elf, and your lifespan is longer than most. However, spending 10 years in seclusion is not worth it."

Lux blinked in confusion because he didn't expect that the reason for why Aurora was all alone in the darkness was due to her curse.

Even so, the Half-Elf's determination to take the lonely, and pitiful girl from the place where she was locked up was firm.

"Can you tell me more about her?" Lux asked. "I want to know more about Aurora."

Bartolomeo eyed the Half-Elf as if he was crazy.

However, after being reminded of his pitiful son who had been inside the Monastery for five years, he decided to humor Lux and told him a tale that spanned nearly two decades ago.

Chapter 832: Misfortune's Beloved

"It happened nineteen years ago," Bartolomeo said with a solemn expression on his face. "In this world, there will always be two blessed people. However, while one is blessed with Good Luck, the other is blessed with Bad Luck. The two of them are always girls because only girls are able to carry this blessing or curse inside their bodies.

"One of them possesses Extreme Good Luck, and the other possesses Extreme Bad Luck. Every time one of these two ladies dies, their successor will be born exactly a year after."

Bartolomeo paused in order to see if Lux was paying close attention to what he was saying.

When he saw that the Half-Elf was listening to him attentively, he nodded his head before continuing his story.

"When the world was still young, both of those ladies were born in Agarth. But ever since the world above the surface prospered, the Lady of Good Luck had always been born in the Surface World.

"All those who we call Misfortune's Beloved are born here in Agarth. Every time they are discovered, they are immediately sent to the Sanctuary of Atos, where they are left to live their lives as comfortably as possible.

"In the Sanctuary, people are able to visit and even talk to them up close if they want to. This was to ensure that the Lady of Bad Luck will retain her sanity and live a life surrounded by people who care for her.

"This has been the tradition that has been passed from generation to generation. However, this time, the lady that carried all the Bad Luck in the world was a bit special. Her curse not only affected herself but also spread to others like a plague.

"This was why she was asked to leave the Sanctuary of Atos and was transferred by our King to the Pantheon of Exile. Of course, there were people who believed that they could overcome the curse and went to see her in the Pantheon of Exile. However, the people who went to that place were never seen again."

Bartolomeo sighed after finishing his tale.

Since the Saint had confirmed that Lux was telling the truth, he decided to spare the Half-Elf and the Halfling from being tortured and locked up in prison.

Lux, who had deemed that Bartolomeo was done talking, cleared his throat before asking a question.

"Where is this Pantheon of Exile located?" Lux asked.

Bartolomeo and the two Saints looked at the red-headed teenager in a weird manner, wondering if Lux failed to understand a word that Bartolomeo had said.

"Didn't you hear me earlier?" Bartolomeo asked back. "Those who see her will be affected by her curse and will receive bad luck for the rest of their lives unless they cleanse themselves in the Azmarin Monastery for a decade.

"Also, those that have gone to the Pantheon of Exile were never seen again. Are you sure you still want to see Aurora?"

Lux nodded firmly. "Yes. That is why I came here."

"You are courting death, Junior," the Catkin commented. "Then again, there are fates that are far worse than death."

"A hopeless romantic." The woman smiled. "And a very stupid one at that."

Bartolomeo also looked at the Half-Elf with a disapproving look on his face. However, since he could tell that the boy was serious, he decided to make things difficult for him.

"Let's set aside your reasons for coming to Agartha for the time being," Bartolomeo stated. "Now, we will talk about how we will handle the two of you."

The tension in the room suddenly changed as the two Saints that were behind Bartolomeo smiled.

"Any and all Highlanders that are discovered in Agartha are to be immediately taken to the Capital City and await His Majesty's ruling," Bartolomeo declared. "This is the law that has been set in stone since the founding of Agartha, and since you're here, the same laws will apply to the two of you.

"According to our history books, there have been no more than twenty Highlanders that have managed to sneak inside Agartha for the past hundreds of years. Fifteen of them suffered the same fate and had their memories erased before being deported back to the Surface World.

"The remaining five were spared from having their memories erased and were simply put under a powerful contract, preventing them from spreading any information about Agartha in any form.

"The two of you should pray that our King is in a good mood on the day you see him. Perhaps, he will be benevolent and choose the second option to let you keep your memories of this place intact."

Lux and Gaap glanced at each other before nodding their heads at the same time.

Since they had no idea where the Pantheon of Exile was, visiting the Capital City of Agartha was also an option.

They had already met the Dragon King of Karshvar Draconis and the Steward of the Crystal Palace. The two were very curious about what kind of Supreme the King of Agartha was and wanted to see him at least once in their lifetime.

"Okay. Please take us to the Capital City of Agartha," Lux said. "Since we are already here, I would like to see it once before the King makes his judgment."

"Heh~ you are handling this pretty well, Junior," the Catkin commented. "Do you have any idea who our current King is?"

"No?" Lux replied.

"His name is Septimius Vi Agartha III," the Catkin stated. "He is also the father of this generation's Misfortune's Beloved. Truth be told, I'm very curious about how he will react after knowing that you suddenly appeared in our kingdom because you saw his daughter in a dream or a vision."

"If you can pull it off, maybe—just maybe, he will allow you to go to the Pantheon of Exile and meet with the lady who has brought despair to countless people... people who once loved and cared for her. Now, all of them hate her with every fiber of their being."

Bartolomeo, who was listening quietly to the side, spoke up as he looked at the Half-Elf, whose stance remained the same.

"Boy, I will tell you now. You will regret it if you continue with this nonsense," Bartolomeo stated. "It's not too late to turn back. If you promise to not see Aurora, I will put in a good word to our King so that he will return both of you to the Surface World with your memories intact."

"Sir Bartolomeo, I don't want to regret the choices that I didn't make," Lux replied. "I thank you for your concern, and although I might look like someone who actively looks for trouble, know that this is not the case. It is just that I won't be able to sleep peacefully at night, knowing that I didn't at least come to see her once."

"Ah, youth and all of its foolishness," the Saintess chuckled. "Well, it is not up to us to decide what should be done with the two of you. His Majesty will be the one to give the verdict."

The Saintess then took a step forward with a mischievous smile on her face.

"Bartolomeo, I'll be the one to take the two of them to the capital," the Saintess declared. "It has been a while since I last saw His Majesty. This might be a good opportunity to go for a visit."

Bartolomeo nodded. "I have no objections. Make sure that the two of them will not be able to escape from you or else..."

The Saintess chuckled after hearing the Mayor's threat.

"Don't worry. If a Grade A Apostle and a Low Ranker were able to escape my grasp, I'd run around the city naked." the Saintess smiled.

She didn't know that within Lux's Guild Chat, Lux and Gaap were planning how to escape their captors if the King decided to erase their memories and send them back to the Surface World.

Chapter 833: So, We're Like Rare Animals In Your Eyes?

"It will take us two days to reach the Capital City of Shambala," the Saintess, whose name was Cleo, told Lux and Gaap, who were currently seated inside her carriage. "Don't try anything funny, or I'll make the two of you regret it."

Lux and Gaap only nodded their heads and behaved themselves as the carriage, which hovered four meters above the ground, journeyed toward the capital city of the Kingdom of Agartha.

The carriage was being pulled by an Air Bison, which was the Agarthians' favored Beast when it came to long-distance travel.

Although each City had its own Teleportation Gates that allowed them to travel to other cities, no Teleportation Gate could instantly teleport them to Shambala.

Aside from that, the Teleportation Gates in the Capital City were strictly controlled by the Royal Family, and only those who had their approval would be able to use it.

Because of this, Cleo decided to take Lux and Gaap to the nearest city to their Capital and travel the rest of the way using a carriage.

"Lady Cleo, can you tell me more about the King of Agartha?" Lux asked.
"What is he like?"

"Our king?" Cleo smiled. "The only thing I can say about our king is that he's a bit stubborn when it comes to things. Simply put, there has been a notion being passed within the High Council that we should send more agents to the Surface World.

"We do this to remain updated with the events that are happening above ground. If there were to be a worldwide calamity, the Agarthians would make a move to stop it from spreading."

Gaap, who found this news interesting, arched an eyebrow and joined the conversation.

"Originally, I thought that Agarthians did not care about what happens on the Surface," Gaap commented. "But, it seems like you have already sent people to infiltrate our society and know more about us."

"But of course," Cleo stated with pride. "As one of Elysium's first children, Agarthians have a role to play to ensure that the world will not be destroyed. But, do not misunderstand. We do not care even if all the nations in the world were to declare war and wipe each other from the face of the land.

"The only time that Agartha will move is when something terrible befalls this world like the invasion from the Void hundreds of years ago. Only something of that magnitude will force us to leave our Underground Kingdom and rise to the surface."

Cleo found Lux and Gaap to be good conversational partners, so she decided to tell them stories about the things that had happened in Agartha many years ago.

Since the journey was long, and there was nothing else to do, the three shared stories of their own exploits, making the journey bearable.

"The Divine Army of Light?" Cleo frowned. "Those guys have tried to send people here a decade ago with the excuse of cultural exchange. However, our King put his foot down and rejected their request."

"Eh? The Divine Army of Light knew about Agartha as well?" Lux was quite surprised by this information.

He was simply sharing his story with Cleo on how the Divine Army of Light had tried to capture him because they believed him to be a Heretic.

"Silly boy, don't you know?" Cleo smirked. "Many people from Agartha have gone to the Surface World and established their own Kingdoms and Empires with our blessings.

"Because of this, knowledge about our kingdom had spread far and wide. However, while they might know of our existence, they do not know the location of the hidden passages that we use to travel to the Surface World and back.

"The only way for other strong factions or powerful organizations to communicate with us directly is through the Kings and Emperors of the nations that had been founded by Agarthians."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. "So, the Agarthians and the Divine Army of Light don't get along?"

"Those guys are religious fanatics," Cleo replied. "Agarthians worship the Earth Goddess, Cybele. We do not care about other Gods—especially the God that the Divine Army of Light follows.

"As for our relationship, they are neither friends nor foes. To this day, they still try to worm their way into the hearts of the Agarthian Rulers in the Surface World, but they will not succeed. Why? Because these Kings and Emperors will only follow the will of the Agarthian King.

"That is the rule established since their kingdoms were built, and it is the law that they will follow until the end of time.

"Ah, just to be clear. We don't only have Human Kings and Emperors in the Surface World. We have Beastkins and Dwarves as well. The other races like the Gnomes and Halflings aren't interested in ruling any kingdoms, so they just go with the flow and live their lives to the fullest."

Gaap smiled after hearing Cleo's words which were filled with pride.

"It seems that our knowledge of Agartha was wrong from the beginning," Gaap stated. "We thought that it was only a kingdom that existed underground. To think that you have also built kingdoms above ground. This is certainly a fascinating discovery. Might you tell us the names of those Kingdoms, so that we may visit them in the future?"

Cleo giggled. "Sorry, but no can do. Agartha exists in the Surface World based on myths and legends. This is also true for you, Highlanders. Although the majority of Agarthians knew that Highlanders exist, you will still be viewed as Mythical Creatures, beings that only exist in story books.

"In short, the chances of meeting one of you during our lifetime are very small. Unless something unexpected happens... just like how the two of you appeared in Rishi City."

"So, we're like rare animals in your eyes?" Lux asked in a joking manner.

"Yes," Cleo replied. "So, be careful, Lux. A rare animal is precious because it is rare. You're quite good-looking. Any bold or daring Agarthian Lady would not hesitate to take the risk in order to give birth to the child of a Highlander."

"Um, sorry, but I already have two fiances," Lux stated.

"And yet, you come here to Agartha because of a damsel in distress," Cleo smirked. "Men are foolish creatures. Once they behold a beauty, they do their best to catch her fancy. Even if they already have wives and fiances."

Lux was unable to mount a counterargument, which made Gaap laugh.

It was definitely true that he came to Agartha without a plan, and it was also true that Aurora was an exceptional beauty that could bring the downfall of a nation.

Although his intention of helping her was not anything romantic, he already knew that Cleo and his Master, Gaap, wouldn't believe him no matter how many times he tried to explain himself.

Because of this, he decided to change the topic and ask about the popular attractions and delicacies that the Kingdom of Agartha had to offer.

Cleo, on the other hand, was more than happy to inform Lux and Gaap about many details about her Kingdom.

The reason why she was sharing this information with her two captives was due to the fact that she didn't believe that their King would show mercy to the two people that illegally trespassed inside their hidden kingdom.

Chapter 834.1: Audience With The King of Agarthia [Part 1]

Two days later, Cleo's carriage finally arrived at the majestic city of Shambhala.

As one of the Saints of the Kingdom, her carriage didn't have to enter the Gate that was meant for commoners. She was given a free pass to the city without too much hassle, and a contingent of guards even escorted her carriage toward the Royal Palace, where their King resided.

"Follow behind me," Cleo stated. "The hallways of the Royal Palace are like a maze. One can get lost in them easily if they are not familiar with the layout of the building."

Lux and Gaap nodded in understanding.

However, what the Saintess didn't know was that Lux had already summoned his Soul Book and was currently mapping the Royal Castle.

Since only those that he had given permission to could see his Soul Book, it hovered in front of him, undetected by the Saintess that was leading the way.

Several minutes later and after many twists and turns, they finally arrived at a giant bronze gate, which was guarded by dozens of Royal Guards.

"Are those the two Highlanders you wrote about in your report, Your Excellency, Cleo?" a man wearing a Mithril Plate Armor asked, as he looked at the two people, who came from the Surface World

"Yes," Cleo replied. "Is His Majesty currently busy?"

The Guard Captain shook his head. "No. But he's not alone in the throne room. News has spread that you will be bringing in two Highlanders, so several High-Ranking 'Nosy' Nobles have come to see our uninvited guests."

Cleo smiled as she had already expected this outcome. For the most part, the Kingdom of Agartha was a peaceful place. Although there were conflicts between nobles here and there, they didn't escalate to skirmishes, and they simply tormented each other through trade and other means.

For them, having Highlanders in their Kingdom was a form of entertainment. Those who had plenty of time on their hands would definitely want to see how their king would handle these people, who had been brought to the capital city for judgment.

"Her Excellency, Lady Cleo has arrived!" the Guard Captain announced.

A moment later, a firm and cold voice passed through the closed gate.

"Enter."

After getting permission, the Guard Captain raised his hand.

"Open the gate," the Guard Captain ordered.

Immediately, four guards pushed the giant gate open, revealing the interior of the ancient throne room of a Kingdom that had existed since time immemorial.

The Half-Elf's gaze then landed on the man seated on the high throne, which was raised several meters high.

Anyone who entered the throne room would have no choice but look up to its king, and its king would look down upon those who entered his domain.

Lux was quite surprised because the King of Agartha looked like a man in his early thirties.

King Septimius Vi Agartha III.

He was the current King of Agartha, and the person who held absolute authority within the Ancient Kingdom that many people above ground didn't know existed.

"It is an honor to be in your presence, Your Majesty," Cleo said as she bowed respectfully to her King. "I pray that you are in good health?"

"My health is good, but my mood is not," King Septimius replied. "You have already interrogated these two trespassers, yes?"

"Yes, Your Majesty," Cleo answered. "Shall I make my report now?"

King Septimius made a gesture. "Go ahead. My nobles have traveled far and wide to hear the latest gossip in our circles. Make sure to make the story as entertaining as possible, so their journey will be worthwhile."

The High-Ranking Nobles all smiled, knowing that the reason why their King was in a bad mood was their arrival. They had come uninvited, but due to their rank, they were allowed to remain in the throne room and take part in the drama that was about to unfold.

Cleo, who had been given permission to tell the result of their interrogation, started her report.

"The red-headed Half-Elf's name is Lux Von Kaizer," Cleo reported. "The Halfling is his Master, and he goes by the name, Gaap. According to Lux's confession, they arrived at the Terrel Plains by means of..."

Cleo's report lasted for nearly fifteen minutes before she stopped talking.

Lux, on the other hand, could only shake his head helplessly, thinking that his answers shouldn't be considered as confessions. They were forced out of him against his own will!

A minute of silence passed before a soft chuckle was heard inside the throne room.

Everyone's gazes landed on a chubby man, who was wearing extravagant clothes that visually stated his standing as one of the High-Ranking Nobles of the Kingdom of Agartha.

"A Prince Charming from the Surface World has arrived to save the beauty in distress," the Chubby Noble commented. "The only question I have is whether this story will have a happy ending or not."

The other Nobles also smiled after learning why Lux came to Agartha. They looked at him like all the other young men and women who had become infatuated with this generation's Misfortune's Beloved, who had nearly brought the entire kingdom into a state of emergency.

While the nobles were looking at Lux with various gazes, the King of Agartha, Septimius narrowed his eyes and looked at the Half-Elf with a solemn gaze.

"I want to see this Key that allowed you to arrive in our Kingdom," King Septimius stated. "Show it to me."

Cleo then glanced at Lux, giving the Half-Elf the "what are you waiting for?" gaze.

The Half-Elf knew that there was nothing he could do but obey the King's orders, for any kind of resistance might end badly for him and his Master.

Lux took out the Key of Agartha from his storage ring and showed it to the King who was looking at him with a serious gaze.

King Septimius made a gesture and the key floated towards him.

The key stopped a meter away from his face, giving the King a good look at it.

However, when King Septimius tried to hold it, a red lightning bolt hit his hand, making him pull it back rather quickly.

Cleo and the other High-Ranking nobles who saw this were all surprised. None of them missed the brief look of pain that appeared on their King's face, which they had never seen before.

Although it only lasted for only a second or two, the fact remained that the strange key was able to hurt a Supreme, which was something that very few artifacts in the world could do.

Chapter 835: A Public Execution

"A soulbound artifact," King Septimius muttered as he gazed at the Key of Agartha that was hovering in front of him.

Unable to touch the key, he resorted to using his heightened senses to better understand its properties. He wanted to know just what kind of artifact it was.

As the King of Agartha, he could sense that it was an artifact that held great power, and not only that, it also possessed a small piece of the Core of Elysium, which greatly surprised him.

"You said that you got this as a reward after clearing a Dungeon," King Septimius said. "What is the name of that Dungeon?"

"The Sacred Dungeon," Lux replied.

King Septimius' expression stiffened after hearing Lux's reply.

"This Sacred Dungeon you speak about, does it have a restriction that allows only those of the Initiate Rank and below to enter it?" King Septimius asked. "Also, does it have five gates inside of it? Gates of Conquest, War, Famine, Death, and Apocalypse?"

This time, it was Lux's turn to be surprised, and his reaction was enough to confirm King Septimius' assumption, which made the King of Agartha sigh internally.

"Even with all the precautions we took, it was still not enough to prevent people like you from entering the Domain of the Fallen," King Septimius stated. "I don't know if I should be angry or amazed at how daring you Highlanders are.

"Tell me, there are supposed to be Argonaut and Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters inside the Dungeon that would serve as guards attacking those who dare to challenge the Domain. Mere Initiates should be unable to defeat them. How were you able to even reach the location of the Sacred Dungeon with so many Monsters guarding the place?"

Lux pondered for a bit before answering King Septimius' question. In the end, after careful consideration, he decided to give a safe answer.

"I got lucky," Lux replied.

The King of Agartha snorted. "So that explains it. It seems that our Predecessors have greatly underestimated the young men and women of this generation. Tell me, how many Gates have been conquered?"

"Four."

"...So, the Gate that still remains unconquered is the Gate of the Apocalypse."

The King of Agartha sneered after hearing Lux's reply. Since the foolish people from the Surface World wanted to see the secret that they had locked up inside the Gate of Apocalypse so badly, then so be it.

They would experience firsthand that there were some things that must be left untouched no matter what.

"Fools," King Septimius said. "All of you are fools."

The King of Agartha then flicked his hand, and the Key of Agartha flew back to Lux and landed on the palm of the Half-Elf's hand.

Since the Gates had already been opened, he decided to send a few of his agents to determine the status of the last Gate of the Apocalypse.

'There's no need to rush,' King Septimius thought. 'I'll order my people to do something about it after I deal with these two trespassers.'

King Septimius looked at the Half-Elf with an annoyed expression on his face.

However, although he was annoyed, he still admired the Half-Elf for being one of the individuals that managed to do the impossible.

It wasn't easy to conquer the Four Gates, which served as the Seals to prevent the Gate of the Apocalypse from opening.

Because of this, King Septimius had no choice but to acknowledge the red-headed teenager's strength.

"So you've come to see my daughter, Aurora," King Septimius stated. "And, what do you plan to do after you see her?"

"I plan to take her back to the Surface World with me," Lux replied.

"Hahaha! You plan to bring a walking Calamity to the Surface World?" King Septimius laughed out loud after hearing Lux's reply. "Good one, Half-Elf. For a minute, I was even tempted to give you my approval just to see the Surface World fall into ruin. Do you know about my Daughter's background?"

Lux nodded. "Misfortune's Beloved."

King Septimius sneered. "Right. Someone who had the power to give bad luck to the people around her. And yet, you wish to bring that girl to the Surface World. You sure have guts, boy."

The other High Ranking nobles and ministers of the King of Agarthia laughed as well. Just like their King, they wanted to see the chaos that would transpire once Aurora set foot in the realm above the ground.

The catastrophe she had caused in Agarthia still haunted all of them after so many years, and they were very tempted to see other people fall into ruin as well.

"Now, let's set aside my pitiful daughter for the time being," King Septimius stated. "Let's talk about what I should do with the two of you. Do you know the punishment for people who illegally enter Agarthia without my permission?"

"Saintess Cleo said that our memories will be erased before we are sent back to the Surface World," Lux replied.

"Indeed, that is how we dealt with those who tried to sneak inside Agarthia in the past," King Septimius nodded. "However, two days ago, when the High Council had heard that two Highlanders had managed to arrive in our Kingdom, they sent me a proposal.

"They said that erasing the memories of trespassers was too lenient a punishment. Do you want to know their proposal, boy?"

Lux nodded because there was nothing he could do aside from nodding his head.

"A Public Execution in the form of a Gladiator Match," King Septimius smiled. "Meaning, both of you will go to the Coliseum and fight the battle-hardened criminals of our kingdom in a death match. The person who is able to kill you will have their crimes lifted and be set free.

"This will not be a one-on-one battle, but a Battle Royale. Two verses hundreds of criminals," King Septimius stated. "At the very least, all of them will be C-Rankers and below. A D-Ranker, and a Grade-A Apostle won't be able to survive such a fate. Especially that Halfling, who is only an Apostle. So how about the two of you beg for your lives right now?"

Lux and Gaap didn't reply and remained silent. What King Septimius and the rest of his subordinates didn't know was that the Half-Elf and the Halfling were talking through their Guild Chat.

"Hahaha! Master, he looks down on you because you are just an Apostle," Lux gloated. "C-Rankers? They court death!"

"He will only send in C-Rankers? I guess they can serve as new Undead for your Army," Gaap commented. "Asmodeus has been telling me that he is in dire need of Ranker Corpses to be used for his experiments. This is a good time to collect some raw materials for his study."

King Septimius, his Ministers, and the High-Ranking Nobles, all thought that Lux's and Gaap's silence was due to the fact that they were quaking in fear after hearing that they would be sent into a Death Match.

What they didn't know was that the two Necromancers were giving King Septimius a thumbs up in their hearts, applauding him for being generous—unknowingly giving them hundreds of dead bodies that would help bolster the Half-Elf's Undead Legion.

However, they couldn't say this out loud, so Lux decided to take the Initiative to speak his mind.

"What if we survive this Death Match?" Lux asked. "Two of us against battle-hardened Criminals that are C-Rankers and below is a nearly impossible task. However, what if we succeed? Will we get anything in return?"

"Hoh? It seems that you believe that you have a chance of winning." King Septimius sneered.

"Since I have nothing to lose, isn't it best if I ask for something on the off chance that my Master and I actually manage to survive?" Lux smiled. "How about we regain our freedom and be given His Majesty's permission to explore Agartha to our heart's content? How does that sound?"

"Hah! You are very bold, Lux," Cleo, who had been listening silently, smiled. "If you manage to survive this hurdle, I don't mind becoming your subordinate for a year. Heck, you can even order me to call you Daddy if you want."

"Be careful what you wish for, Lady Cleo," Lux smiled back at the beautiful Saintess who didn't know what kind of trouble she was putting herself in. "It might just come true."

The other High-Ranking Nobles also thought that this was a very amusing situation, so they also imitated the Saint and offered Lux precious treasures as a reward for surviving the Death Match.

A few of them even declared that they would marry their daughters to him if he managed to last for half an hour in the battle.

The corner of King Septimius' lips rose slightly as he looked at the Half-Elf and the Halfling, who didn't seem too shaken about the punishment that he planned to give them.

Although he was doubtful that the two people would manage to succeed, a part of him wanted to see them overcome this situation and prove him wrong.

"Very well. In two days, the two of you will be sent to the Gladiator's Coliseum in order to fight for your freedom," King Septimius declared. "If you manage to win, I will allow the two of you to move unhindered in my Domain. How does that sound?"

"Sounds good," Lux replied, but deep in his heart, he was laughing non-stop.

If they were going to only fight C-Rankers, his Master, Gaap, was more than enough to annihilate hundreds of them with a single slap of Antero's gigantic hand.

Chapter 836.1: The Battle Royale Of The Century [Part 1]

"Have you heard?" a skinny man asked his friend, who was currently drinking with him inside a Tavern. "It seems that the two Highlanders will be fighting in the Gladiator's Coliseum in two days' time."

"How could I not hear about it?" the chubby man smiled. "The Nobles are spreading this news like wildfire. Even the Gambling Establishments have joined in the hype. They are even calling the battle 'The Deathmatch of the

Century.' Clearly, they wanted to rake in the big cash when the betting officially begins."

"Master, who do you think will win?" the skinny man asked the bartender who was busy wiping the glasses on his counter.

"Although I don't think that the Highlanders have a chance of winning, I'll still bet on them," the Tavern Master replied.

"Oh? And why?" the skinny man inquired.

"It's because they are Highlanders," the Tavern Master answered. "They might have Legendary or even Divine Items that can help them reverse this situation."

"Master, you know that you are going to lose money if you bet on them, right?" the Chubby man stated.

"It's fine," the Tavern Master said. "I will not bet a lot. The Gambling Houses are hyping this battle and even saying that the two Highlanders are Masters in the Surface World. However, when I asked about their ranks, they said that it was D-Ranker and a Grade-A Apostle."

"A D-Ranker and a Grade-A Apostle?" the Chubby Man laughed. "And you are still going to bet on them, Master?"

"Yes."

"Why?"

The Tavern Master put down the glass that he was wiping on top of the counter and smiled.

"Just gut intuition," the Tavern Master said. "I have a feeling that we will be watching the most entertaining match since the establishment of the Gladiator Coliseum."

The Skinny Man and the Chubby Man glanced at each other before laughing out loud. Since the Tavern Master wanted to waste his money, they would no longer pester him to change his mind.

For them, they would be betting their money on the Criminals, whom they believed would end the battle in less than five minutes.

It was not only them who thought that way. Most of those who decided to watch the Deathmatch in the Coliseum had the same opinion.

However, just like the Tavern Master, there were a few individuals who believed that the Highlanders stood a chance against the criminals, proving everyone wrong.

And for that simple reason, they decided to put their chips on the two people, who had arrived in their Kingdom for reasons that were only known to them.

"Hah, those two came here in order to see that sister of mine?" A handsome young man with blonde hair smirked. "Unfortunately, even though they still haven't laid their eyes on her, it seems that her bad luck has already affected them. Two days from now, two graves will be dug. I'll at least offer a flower to their tombs."

"But isn't it also romantic?" a beautiful young lady, who had long blonde hair, asked with a smile. "If I were in Aurora's shoes, I'd feel very flattered."

The two of them were Aurora's siblings but from a different mother.

King Septimius had three wives.

Five Princes and Four Princesses.

Aurora's mother was not one of the King's wives. Even now, no one had seen her face.

One day, the King just returned to Agartha holding a baby in his arms and declared her to be his daughter.

Aurora's siblings didn't really treat her like family due to the curse in her body. For them, she was a stain on their bloodline, and they couldn't wait to get rid of her, with the exception of one girl.

The youngest Princess of Agartha, Princess Shayna, truly cared for and loved Aurora.

Currently, the princess was under house arrest in the Royal Castle, undergoing the cleansing ceremony to lift the bad luck that she acquired after spending time with Misfortune's Beloved.

Even so, to this day, the young Princess, who was only twelve years old, still loved her sister, Aurora, and wished for her happiness, even in seclusion.

"So all of us will be going to the Coliseum to watch this match, right?" A handsome young man with silver hair said with a smile. "I already made a reservation. We will be watching the show from the best VIP room."

"Wonderful!" a pretty girl with reddish-brown hair exclaimed. "It has been a while since I watched something fun."

The Royal Children of Agarthia discussed the upcoming battle with great enthusiasm. None of them thought that Lux and Gaap had a chance of winning, and were merely going for the fun of it.

Meanwhile, in the Inner Palace of the Royal Castle...

"Princess, are you sure about this?" a maid asked anxiously.

"Yes," a young girl, who seemed to be only around twelve years old replied firmly. "I will ask my Father for permission. With the talismans on my body, I am sure that I will not inconvenience anyone."

"If that is your wish, then this humble one will obey," the maid bowed her head respectfully. "But, may I know the reason why you want to watch the battle? It will be a bloody one and not suitable for someone as young as you, Princess."

"Don't worry about me," the young girl stated. "As a member of the Royal Family, I will experience many things. Seeing violence, blood, and death is something I must learn to get used to at an early age. I'm sure that my Father will not reject my request to watch the battle."

The young girl then looked outside the window of her room. It had been a while since she had stepped outside the Royal Palace due to her house arrest. But now, she decided to leave in order to see the face of the Half-Elf, who had traveled all the way to Agarthia in order to see and free her sister from the dark prison that she was currently in.

'I don't know who you are, but please, save my sister.' Princess Shayna pressed her hands together in prayer. 'She doesn't deserve to be alone.'

Two days later...

The Grand Coliseum was filled to the brim with people.

The majority of them came due to curiosity. Since Highlanders were people that came from the Surface World, the Agarthians wanted to catch a glimpse of them in their last moments.

All of them believed that the two pitiful individuals were fated to die today, so the least they could do was see them off and memorize their faces before they died.

Inside the Arena's Waiting Room, Lux and Gaap sat leisurely as they waited for the battle to start.

The Saintess, Cleo, and two more Saints were ordered to look after them to ensure that neither of them would escape before the battle started.

"Have the two of you accepted your fate?" Cleo asked. "This is the only explanation I can think of to explain how calm both of you are."

"Something like that," Lux replied with a smile.

"We've only known each other for a short while, but it was still good meeting you, Lux." Cleo patted Lux's shoulder in a friendly manner. "I'll make sure to send a flower to your grave once a year."

"Instead of sending me flowers, you should start practicing calling me Daddy, Lady Cleo," Lux replied as he gave the Saintess a devilish smile on his face. "How about it? You can call me Daddy now if you want."

"Hahaha! That's the spirit. You can think of me before you die. I give you my permission."

"I also look forward to you calling me Daddy, Lady Cleo."

Lux and the Saintess smirked at each other. Both of them were certain that the other would lose, which made Gaap and the two other Saints inside the room smile.

Suddenly, a knock was heard on the door, and a guard came in.

"It's time," the Guard said. "Please escort the two of them to the arena."

Cleo and the two Saints nodded.

"Have you finished your prayer, Lux?" Cleo asked. "If not, you can do it now before the match starts."

Lux didn't reply and simply smiled as he followed behind the Guard, who was escorting him and his Master to the arena.

A few minutes later, they came out of the hallway. As soon as their silhouettes became visible, they were greeted by loud applause and cheer from the people in the stands.

The Agarthians had been waiting for this moment in order to gaze upon the two Highlanders, who were going to experience a deadly welcome from the most notorious criminals that had roamed the Kingdom of Agartha.

"Master, are you ready?" Lux asked.

"Of course," Gaap replied.

"How about you, Eiko?" Lux asked the Baby Slime that was perched on top of his head. "Are you ready?"

"Boom Boom Boom!" Eiko replied.

The Baby Slime was already holding two Blast Bombs, with a very sweet smile plastered on her face.

Perhaps, among the three of them, Eiko was the most excited of all for this Battle Royale.

She had been cooped up for so long, and because of this, she wanted to make things go Boom and laugh as she set the entire arena on fire.

Chapter 837.2: The Battle Royale Of The Century [Part 2]

The Gladiator Coliseum of Agartha was very spacious.

According to Lux's estimate, the Coliseum was the size of four football stadiums combined.

Clearly, the battles that were being waged here weren't so simple, allowing the Gladiators to fight to their heart's content.

Lux looked up at the clear blue sky above his head and smiled.

"It seems that today's weather is nice as well, Master," Lux said with a smile.

"Indeed," Gaap replied. "A good day to have a Death Match with criminals."

The Half-Elf and the Halfling stared at their opponents, who were standing at the far end of the Coliseum.

Both of them had been informed that the number of criminals that they would be facing today was 300.

300 Rankers versus a D-Ranker, an Apostle, and a Baby Slime.

For most people, the result of this match was already set in stone. However, Lux's and Gaap's titles as Highlanders made this seemingly one-sided battle a very interesting one.

The Coliseum was filled to the brim with people, and there were even people outside that were unable to get in due to the fact that all the tickets had been sold out.

Fortunately, they could still watch the battle in real-time through the projections that were installed outside of the arena.

Cleo, who had spent a few days with Lux and Gaap, sat in the VIP Room, right beside the King's personal room.

Truth be told, she was feeling sorry for the two. However, since the new law regarding dealing with trespassers had already been passed by the High Council and approved by the monarch, there was nothing she could do about it.

This was why she dared to jokingly make a bet with Lux that if by some chance a miracle happened, she would be willing to become his subordinate for a year.

Naturally, Cleo was certain that no matter what the Half-Elf and the Halfling did, their chances of survival were non-existent.

"It's really a shame," Cleo muttered. "Lux is still young, but now, he's about to die because a beauty appeared in his dreams."

The other two Saints, who had also served as Lux's and Gaap's guards, nodded their heads in agreement.

The three of them didn't hold any grudges against their captives, but the laws of their Kingdom must be upheld no matter what.

"Strange... the two of them don't look nervous," King Septimius commented as he eyed the Half-Elf and the Halfling, who were having a casual chat as they waited for the match to start. "Have they resigned themselves to their fate?"

A minute later, a High Ranker hovered above the center of the Stadium and greeted everyone with a smile on his face.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, good day to all of you! My name is Michael, and I am the organizer of today's Gladiator Battle!" the High-Ranker shouted. "As you may already know, today's battle is very special. On my left are 300 of the most notorious criminals of Agartha.

"On my right are the two Highlanders, who have come from the Surface World. Please take a good look at the two of them because this might be the last time that you see them alive."

The Agarthians cheered and gave Lux and Gaap a round of applause. As if humoring them, the Half-Elf bowed to the crowd like a performer, while Gaap smiled from the side.

Eiko, who was on top of Lux's head, stared at the Announcer while holding the two Blast Bombs in her hands.

She was very tempted to throw them at Michael because the latter was delaying the battle.

Lux had told the Baby Slime to be patient and wait a little longer, promising that he would allow her to go all out later. Because of this, Eiko behaved and waited for the signal to start the battle.

Michael, who had gotten the crowd's attention, was hyping things up as per the agreement he had with the Gambling Houses. He was promised a cut

from the profit they would gain after Lux and Gaap died under the criminals' hands.

Just like everyone else, only a few dozen betted on the Highlanders, who simply had no chance of winning in this Battle Royale.

After five minutes of introductions, Michael finally raised his hand.

"Are both sides ready?!" Michael asked.

""Ready!""

"Boom!"

"Are you ready to rumble?!" Michael shouted.

""Yes!""

"Boom Boom!"

Michael then rose high up in the air and slashed his hand downwards.

"Let the battle begin!"

As soon as Michael gave the signal to fight, the Criminals unleashed a barrage of spells, and long-distance attacks against the two Highlanders.

Clearly, they were racing to be the first ones to kill either of them, so they didn't even bother closing the distance, directly firing attacks from the other side of the arena.

Due to how intense the attacks were, the location where their spells landed created powerful explosions, creating a dust cloud that obscured everyone's vision.

"All that hype, and it ended in less than a minute." The handsome blonde prince of Agartha sneered.

"Well, what did you expect?" his Princess Sister replied. "The result of this match was decided before it even started."

The other Princes' and Princesses' of Agartha also commented about how lackluster the match was.

However, in the VIP Room right next to them, the youngest of them all, Princess Shayna, stared at the dust cloud with a determined look on her face.

She was probably the only one amongst the members of the Royal Family who wanted Lux and Gaap to survive this unfair battle, which had been agreed upon by her Father and the High Council of Agartha.

Her small hands were clenched tightly into fists, as she uttered a silent prayer in her heart, wishing for a miracle to happen.

The bombardment lasted for a full minute before the Criminals stopped attacking.

They deemed that their attacks were already more than enough to turn their opponents' bodies into ashes, leaving nothing behind.

King Septimius then waved his hand in order to blow the dust cloud away, allowing everyone to see the outcome of the bombardment.

When the smokescreen was lifted, they found a giant palm, standing straight and tall like a wall.

The corner of King Septimius' lips twitched when his gaze landed on the Half-Elf, and the Halfling, who were laying on top of beach benches, and drinking some type of tropical fruit juice in their hands.

"Um? Is it already over?" Lux asked after the dust cloud surrounding him disappeared.

"It is," Gaap replied as he unsummoned Antero's palm that blocked the attacks that came from the other side of the arena.

Antero was the Indestructible Golem of Destruction. Even an attack from thousands of Rankers wouldn't be enough to break past its defenses, let alone three hundred.

"Well then, it's now our turn, right?" Lux smirked. "Let's go Eik... Um? Where is Eiko?"

The Baby Slime that was originally perched on top of Lux's head had already left before he could even tell her that she could fight to her heart's content now.

"Fight!"

An adorable voice filled with fighting intent spread in the arena, making everyone look up in the air.

There, a little girl with long blue hair, wearing a princess dress, was smiling fearlessly.

Two butterfly wings flapped behind her back, making the ladies, who were watching the battle, look at the cute Fairy Princess with starry eyes.

"Eyah!" Eiko shouted and immediately, five identical clones appeared around her.

Eiko and her five clones all raised their hands at the same time.

A moment later, five Argonaut-Ranked World Boss Slimes appeared in the arena, answering their call.

Three of these slimes were Diabolical Acid Slimes, while the two other slimes were called Infernal Slimes.

As soon as they were summoned, the three Diabolical Acid Slimes unleashed an Acid Spray in the direction of the Prisoners, while the two Infernal Slimes began to spit Fireballs toward their opponents.

Eiko wasn't being idle either and threw bombs left and right with a fearless grin on her face.

The Acid Spray, the Fireballs, and Eiko's Blast Bombs combined together formed an infernal Molten Acid Lava that released a concentrated acid steam that was potent enough to burn the eyes of anyone exposed to it.

The Criminals were completely caught by surprise by this sudden counter-attack, and some of them shouted in pain as they were exposed to the large-scale attack from the Argonaut-Ranked World Bosses that appeared out of nowhere.

"Block their attacks!" a criminal with gray hair and eyes shouted. "Those who can use Earth Magic, create Earth Walls. Those who have Water and Wind Magic, create a storm to blow their attacks back at them!"

The gray-haired Criminal was the most notorious among the Gladiators that were in the arena.

His name was Leonidas, and he was the undefeated Gladiator in the C-Ranker Category and below.

His comrades didn't know that regardless of if he killed Lux or Gaap in this Death Match or not, all of his crimes would be lifted and he would gain freedom. The only condition was that Lux and Gaap were defeated, so he was more than happy to take up command and allow his fellow Gladiators to get the kill.

All the Gladiators in the Coliseum were battle-hardened, so after the initial surprise, all of them rallied together in order to push back Eiko's attack.

In just a span of a minute, the combined attack of the World Bosses had been neutralized.

However, over twenty of them who had failed to react right away suffered from second-degree burns. Even so, they gritted their teeth and endured the pain.

"Wow!" Eiko clapped her hands as if she was very impressed that her attack was dealt with right away.

This proved how strong her enemies were.

"Stand back!" Leonidas shouted as he pressed both of his palms on the ground. "Come out! Manticore!"

A five-meter-tall Manticore with the head of a lion, the wings of a bat, and the tail of a Scorpion roared.

This was one of Leonidas' strongest Trump Cards. The Manticore was at the peak of the Argonaut-Rank, making it a Pseudo-Dreadnaught Ranked World Boss.

Although the slimes were powerful, the Manticore was known for being an evil creature whose ferocity knew no bounds.

"Big kitty!" Eiko's eyes widened after the Manticore roared in her direction.

Suddenly, a smirk appeared on Eiko's face as if she had thought of a good idea.

"Summon!" Eiko and her five clones all shouted in unison.

A second later, six Manticores, who were a bit weaker and a meter shorter than the one that Leonidas had summoned, appeared in the arena.

Unlike the Manticore that Leonidas had summoned, which was a Pseudo Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss Monster, the Manticores that Eiko summoned were all Argonaut Ranked Alpha Monsters.

Even so, these six Manticores all roared towards Leonidas' Manticore at the same time, making the fearsome beast subconsciously take a step back.

"... M-Meow!" Leonidas' Manticore tried to roar in order to bolster its courage, but instead of a roar, only a meowing sound escaped its mouth.

This made the corner of Leonidas' lips twitch upon seeing his merciless Beast, who feared no one, act intimidated by the Six Manticores that now stood in front of it.

Chapter 838.3: The Battle Royale Of The Century [Part 3]

'I got to say, Eiko's Mimicry Ability is simply a cheat,' Gaap said through their Guild Chat. 'Copying the skills of any creature in her surroundings makes it a very versatile ability.'

'You're right, Master,' Lux replied. 'Even I feel that Eiko's ability is simply rulebreaking.'

The Half-Elf and the Halfling couldn't help but sigh in their hearts as the Fairy Princess showed her enemies what she was capable of.

What the two didn't know was that King Septimius' face had turned solemn the moment Eiko mimicked her opponent's ability.

Within the Kingdom of Agarthia, there was a Calamity-Ranked Monster who had the same ability.

It was none other than the Wicked Queen Slime, whose territory had been declared off-limits due to how dangerous it was. One of its signature skills was Mimicry, allowing it to copy whatever skills its target possessed.

With the said skill, it had killed countless High-Rankers and Saints who had attempted to get rid of it in the past.

King Septimius also didn't dare to personally attack this monster. Although he could defeat it if he wished, he opted not to.

The Wicked Queen Slime had a very powerful regenerative ability. Even if a tiny part of it survived, it would be able to regenerate and regain its former glory within a few years.

If he really went to exterminate it, the Queen Slime might carry a grudge and relentlessly attack the Cities of Agartha, claiming countless lives of his people

In the end, King Septimius was forced to compromise with it.

No one knew what conditions were entailed in their agreement, but after the King of Agartha had a talk with the Monster, it no longer took the initiative to attack the Human settlements.

'Is this Monster related to her?' King Septimius' frown deepened as he looked at the little girl who had summoned countless bombs and tossed them at the Gladiators who were dealing with Six Argonaut-Ranked World Bosses.

The Six Manticores that Eiko had summoned didn't hesitate to attack Leonidas' Manticore, which descended into a brawl, sending blood mist flying in every direction.

Eiko's Manticores used their scorpion tails to sting their target, and their razor-sharp teeth to bite into its flesh.

Even though Leonidas' Manticore was stronger and fought ferociously, it was unable to fend off the attacks that were coming from every direction.

Leonidas didn't stand in silence and watch his companion fight alone. He and a hundred Rankers engaged the Six Manticores, while the rest dealt with Eiko's Argonaut-Ranked Slime Monsters.

Eiko had to stop throwing bombs because she didn't want to hurt her own summons, who were now engaged in a deadly battle with the Rankers.

Slowly, but surely, Eiko and her subordinates were being pushed back, which made the Fairy Princess take drastic measures.

"Come!" Eiko ordered, calling out to her Terrorist Squad and Slime Brigade.

However, it didn't end there.

Hundreds of Doom Knight Gangbangers and Jade Golems appeared on the battlefield as Eiko copied her Papa's skills, increasing the number of her forces.

Doomsday Gargoyles flew in the sky, spreading poisonous smog on the criminals in the arena.

Revenant Liches cast Necrotic Curses and Spells at their Mistress' enemies, making the criminals curse out loud.

It had now truly become a Battle Royale, and in the center of this chaotic battlefield, Eiko and her clones were unleashing spells left and right in order to help her forces get the upper hand once again.

While this was happening, the spectators who were watching the battle couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"I-Is that really a Slime?" the handsome blonde Prince of Agarthia looked at Eiko in disbelief. "Or is it a Creature that is only pretending to be one?"

"Whatever it is, it is quite powerful," a Princess commented. "I want her. I wonder if Father will give her to me if I ask."

"No! I want her," another Princess exclaimed. "She will be mine!"

The Princesses then started to bicker with each other. All of them were awed by Eiko's outstanding might and wished to become her new Master.

A few of them even left the room in order to talk to their father and ask him to spare Eiko after Lux had died.

They knew that the Baby Slime was the Beast Companion of the Half-Elf and would remain his Beast Companion for as long as he was alive.

They were hoping to become Eiko's new Master once she had lost her Master, and the only way for that to happen was for their Father to capture her and give her to them so they could form a contract with her.

Lux, who was seated leisurely on his beach bench, glanced in the direction of the Princesses and sneered.

Since he shared Eiko's Mind Reader Ability, he had heard the thoughts of the spoiled Princesses of Agartha.

'Spoiled brats,' Lux thought. 'You're not stealing Eiko from me.'

The Half-Elf might seem like he was relaxing in the eyes of people. Little did they know, he and his summons were ready to spring up and help Eiko at any moment if she was in danger.

Gaap was also paying close attention to the battlefield

Suddenly, Lux's Corpse God materialized above him and blocked a spell that was aimed at his Master, with the shield in its hands.

"It seems like they changed their plans, Master," Lux stated as he put the tropical fruit juice down on the table beside his beach bench.

"Some of them have become too impatient while dealing with Eiko and her summons," Gaap commented as he gazed at the dozens of Rankers who had slipped past Eiko's battlefield and were now headed in their direction. "How about you deal with them, Lux? It's a good time to test the skills that you haven't tested before."

"Understood, Master," Lux said as he stood up and crossed his arms over his chest. "Come forth, Seraphina. It's time to make your debut. You have kept the readers waiting."

A beam of light descended from the sky and landed beside Lux.

There, Lux's Battle Angel, Seraphina, smiled as she looked at the Rankers that were aiming for her Master's life.

When Lux was undergoing his Ranker Trial and being judged by the Gods if he would be allowed to keep his skills, the God of Gamblers, Max, talked to him for a bit about his skill, Summon Battle Angel [SSR].

This skill was quite special because even if Lux used it, no Battle Angel would answer his call.

The reason?

Just as the name implied, he would be summoning a literal angel from the Divine Realm, and this was not something that could be done on a whim.

Lux had to make a pact with a Battle Angel first before the skill could be used.

Originally, Lux wanted the gorgeous angel, Himea, who had brought him to the Celestial Realm after he died, to become his Battle Angel.

However, Himea flatly refused him and told him that she couldn't become Lux's servant because she was already contracted to the God of Gamblers for three hundred years.

Only after the expiration of her contract would she become a Free Agent who could be contracted by others.

Perhaps, out of curiosity, Lux asked if she had a sister.

To his surprise, Himea answered with a yes, and she introduced the Half-Elf to her sister, Seraphina.

Seraphina was just as gorgeous as her sister, and the only difference was that she looked like a teenage version of Himea.

Seraphina was currently a Free Agent, and she had not received a contract before because she had only finished her Battle Angel training two years ago.

The majority of people who contracted Battle Angels always went for the ones with more experience on the battlefield.

Simply put, a fledgling like Seraphina was someone most people wouldn't choose to form a contract with.

The Half-Elf felt that those who hadn't contracted Seraphina needed to visit an Eye Specialist to have their eyes checked.

How could a beautiful angel like her not have a Master after graduating from the Battle Angel Academy?

Everyone's gaze, especially the boys in the Coliseum landed on Seraphina's figure.

Even the Princes' of Agarthia were mesmerized by her beauty, and they simply couldn't take their eyes off her.

"I'm going, Master," Seraphina said as she summoned two divine swords in each hand.

"Go ahead," Lux replied. "Get used to fighting mortals for the time being. You will be fighting more of them in the future."

Seraphina nodded and opened her angelic wings, which were like tendrils of light.

This scene reminded Lux of Aina's Angel Form when he fought against her during her breakthrough.

Seraphina then flew towards the Rankers that were aiming for her Master's life with a determined look on her face.

This was her first contract, and she definitely didn't want to leave a bad mark on her record for the sake of her future employment.

Seraphina's Rank would always be a rank higher than Lux, so she was currently a C-Ranker.

However, even if the majority of her powers were sealed, she was still a Battle Angel.

An Angel who was born to fight on the battlefield and smite the foes who dared to challenge her Master.

Chapter 839: Finger Of Death

"I think I'm in love," the Prince of Agarthia, Prince Kieron, said as he looked at Seraphina.

He was the third Prince of Agarthia and was closest to Lux's age.

However, he was not the only one who had become infatuated with the angelic beauty that Lux had summoned. The other Princes of Agarthia felt the same, and they all eyed the beauty on the battlefield with great interest.

Seraphina, who was not aware that she had captured the hearts of mortals around her, swung her blades left and right, successfully fending off the Rankers whom she had intercepted.

One of her tendril-like wings caught the foot of one of the Rankers and raised him high up in the air before slamming him against the ground. A moment later, she threw the criminal onto where the Manticores were duking it out with each other.

As to what fate fell upon that man, she didn't care. There were still over a dozen Rankers who were doing their best to reach her Master, so she had no time to spare to look at someone who'd probably be maimed to death.

"Out of fifteen, eight got past her," Gaap commented. "Your Battle Angel is good, but she is fighting opponents of the same rank as her. This is an expected result."

Lux nodded and eyed the eight Rankers that were looking at him and Gaap with bloodshot eyes.

If his Master summoned his Named Creatures, these eight Rankers would be easily subdued in no time. However, since Gaap had asked him to handle them himself, Lux decided that it was time to show off his abilities as well.

Just like Eiko, the first thing that Lux did was summon his Doppelgangers. After this skill was upgraded into the [SSR] Rank, it had become stronger than ever before.

"Bone Storm!"

The Five Clones said at the same time, and five tornadoes composed of pieces of jagged bones rose from the ground. These bones were as sharp as razors and could instantly rend pieces of flesh unless it was protected by strong armor.

These five tornadoes zigzagged across the battlefield, forcing the Eight Rankers to evade them with everything they had.

While his opponents were busy evading the tornadoes that were blocking their path, the Half-Elf smirked and used his skill, Death Ward [Epic].

A crimson flower bloomed at the center of the five tornadoes, and it unleashed a barrage of necrotic energy balls on the Rankers, acting like a magical turret.

The Rankers were already having a hard time dealing with the Bone Storms, and now, they had to evade the bombardment that was flying in their direction.

Due to how sudden the attack was, the Rankers were hit by the Death Ward's Necrotic Energy balls.

This pushed two of them within the suction area of the tornado, making them scream in fear and pain.

A moment later, a taint of red could be seen in one of the tornadoes that had pulled one of the Rankers within its deadly embrace.

One of the Rankers who specialized in the Earth Element was able to coat himself in a protective Dome of Earth, rendering the bone tornado's attack ineffective.

"I got you now!" One of the Rankers used a speed acceleration ability, allowing him to get close to Lux.

Without another word, he slashed at the Half-Elf with an evil grin on his face, for he was sure that after doing so, he would regain his freedom.

However, the moment his blade touched the Half-Elf's body, Lux turned into a Blood Mist, completely negating the attack.

A few seconds later, he appeared behind the Ranker that slashed him and pointed his finger directly at his enemy's back.

"Finger of Death!" Lux shouted.

A red-lightning bolt shot out of the Half-Elf's finger, hitting the enemy at point-blank range.

Although this skill couldn't instantly kill a Human and only worked on Monsters, it was still bound to give them enough pain that would make them wish that they had died instead.

A blood-curdling scream escaped the Ranker's lips as his body crashed towards the ground, creating a six-meter-wide crater. Of course, the Ranker wasn't dead but only suffering from great pain, which was enough to immobilize him for half a minute.

""Finger of Death!""

Lux's other clones also used this ability and hit three out of the five remaining targets.

The two other Rankers eyed each other before dashing toward the Half-Elf. One came from his left, and the other from the right.

Although there were other Clones on the battlefield, they had already locked down the original's position.

They had no intention of fighting clones because, by common sense, they knew that as long as they killed Lux, his replicas would disappear as well.

One of the Rankers threw a dagger at Lux, forcing the Half-Elf to dodge to the side. However, that attack was merely a diversion, and his real intention was to use the dagger to close the distance in order to deliver his killing blow.

When the dagger flew past the Half-Elf, the Ranker swapped locations with it, making him appear directly behind his target.

He then transformed his arm into a blade and swung it at Lux's neck, with the intention of chopping it off completely.

Just like he did earlier, Lux transformed into a blood mist, completely negating the attack. However, his opponent had already predicted this and followed up with a roundhouse kick in mid-air.

He had timed the kick properly to ensure that his attack would definitely hit his target.

Just like his arm, he had transformed his leg into a sharp blade, which cut the Half-Elf's body cleanly in half.

However, instead of seeing blood spray in every direction, the Half-Elf he killed turned into particles of light.

"That was close," Gaap muttered as he watched the battle from the ground. "Good thing he managed to swap with his clone on time. These criminals do have a few tricks in their sleeves."

All of the criminals that had been chosen to participate in the battle had killed countless people.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that they were perhaps Agarth's most seasoned fighters.

When Eiko launched her counterattack, some of them suffered injuries, but most of them reacted in time.

Even though most of them were injured, they didn't let their injury affect their performance and fought back against Eiko and her summoned army.

They weren't second-rate Rankers.

All of them were experienced, cold-blooded Killers.

"They will be a good addition to Master's fighting force," Asmodeus, who had appeared beside Gaap, commented. "We just have to kill them in order to make that happen."

"Can you?" Gaap asked back with amusement.

"Do you even need to ask?" Asmodeus chuckled. "Master hadn't given us any orders yet. Maybe he wants to try out all the skills he gained during his breakthrough, as well as the skills he hasn't used in the past. This is a perfect opportunity to test them against opponents that are stronger than him. I'm sure that he is thinking along those lines."

As his Lord's Equal, Asmodeus could tell what Lux was thinking most of the time. Because of this, none of his Named Creatures had moved in order to help their Master, who hadn't fought personally in a long while.

Usually, Lux would just let his Undead Minions and Covenant Members do the killing for him.

But, now he was a Ranker.

It was time to test how he would measure up against opponents who were almost the same Rank as him, without depending on his faithful Summons who were currently on the side, patiently waiting for his call.